

Women's and Gender Studies Program
American University, College of Arts and Sciences
Spring 2009 Course Offerings

****If you have questions about declaring your major or minor, or about the WGS major/minor in general, please contact Professor Findlay or Professor Feder.**

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

WGST-150/150G: Women's Voices Through Time

Pearson, A

TF 3:35PM-4:50PM

The distinctive contributions of women to Western artistic and intellectual traditions. Significant articulations of human experience expressed by women through literature, art, and history; how such traditions became established and how women, despite obstacles, have produced lasting works of ideas and imagination.

WGST-225/225G Gender, Politics & Power

Osborne, L

TF 11:20AM-12:35PM

This course explores the ways in which the social and cultural construction of sexual difference influences the nature and practice of political life in a variety of countries. It examines the ways in which power is gendered and studies how gender has served as a basis for political organization and a critique of public life.

WGST-300 Feminist & Gender Theory

Pascale, C

W 05:30-8:00PM

Examines theories of gender as constructed or problematic, not natural or immutable. Surveys the historic development of theories of women's inequality and strategies for changes. Probes contemporary issues and conflicts within feminist and gender theory. Theorizes gender relations in students' own lives. Forges understandings across divisions of race, class, nationality, ability, sexualities, and sexual orientation. (*Meets with WGST 600 001*)

WGST-350 Interpreting Gender in Culture

001 Speaking About GLBT Issues

Bendoraitis, S

MTH 06:45PM 08:00PM

This course provides students with a broad knowledge of contemporary and historical gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) issues and prepares students to be able to speak publicly on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. Course material also acknowledges the diversity of GLBT communities, and the intersection of sexual orientation and gender identity with religious, racial, national, and other identities. Students enrolled in the course may choose to participate as part of the Rainbow Speakers Bureau and assist with campus conversations about sexual orientation and gender identity.

002 Women in Sport

Morris, B

T 05:30PM 08:00PM

This course explores the history of gender issues and policies in American sport and the politics of athletics and gender at universities and high schools and in cross-cultural perspective. It addresses questions such as: How do attitudes about male and female athletes reflect cultural biases? How are women and men trained to think about competing, performance and winning? What led to the passage of Title IX? What role do the media play in constructing expectations and stereotypes about winner/losers, masculinity/femininity?

WGST-490 Independent Study

Prerequisite: permission of instructor and program director. Varies by student. 1-6 credits.

WGST-491 Internship Women’s & Gender Studies

Prerequisite: WGST-125 and permission of instructor and program director. Varies by student. 1-6 credits.

WGST-498 Senior Honors Project in WGS

Young, G

Prerequisite: WGST-500. 3 credits

WGST-590 Independent Reading

Prerequisite: permission of instructor and program director. Varies by student. 1-6 credits.

AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST-334 Contemporary American Culture

001 Beauty Myths

Vester, K

W 02:10PM 04:50PM

Beauty pageants, reality TV shows, and superhero dolls not only deliver ideas about ideal body forms and the latest fashions, they also convey normative messages on how to enact race, class, gender and sexuality. Beauty ideals are neither inconspicuous nor apolitical but are organized along the lines of power relations in U.S. culture. This course analyzes a wide range of materials including beauty manuals from two centuries, men’s magazines, web sites, and movies to see how discourses constituting beauty ideals are homogenizing and heteronormative at the same time. Alleged resistance to bodily norms, such as tattooing, obesity, and piercing, or dominant

practices, such as cosmetic surgery, bodybuilding and dieting, are also analyzed to show how the body is regulated by complex cultural discourses.

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH-215/215G Sex, Gender & Culture

Gabiam, N

001 MTH 08:30AM 09:45AM

002 MTH 12:45PM 02:00PM

How economic systems, social structures, and values construct and redefine biological distinctions between women and men. Includes gender in egalitarian societies; origins and consequences of patriarchy; gay and lesbian cultures; gender, politics, and social change. Case studies from tribal, state-level, and post-colonial contexts.

ANTH-254 Language and Culture

Leap, W

MTH 12:45PM 02:00PM

Examines connections between language, culture and society. Includes grammars as systems of knowledge; language and cognition; structure of everyday discourse; language diversity; speech communities; language change; literacy and language planning.

ANTH-635 Race, Gender & Social Justice

Watkins, R

T 06:45PM 09:20PM

This seminar explores the disjunction between biological myths of race and gender and their social construction as credible institutions; the historical, economic, and political roots of inequalities; the institutions and ideologies that buttress and challenge power relations; and the implications of social science teaching and research for understanding social class, race, and gender discrimination. Issues of advocacy for social changes are also explored.

COMMUNICATIONS

COMM-516 Topics in Film and Media Arts

005 Gay and Lesbian Documentary

Connelly, R

W 8:10 pm – 10:40pm

This course follows the evolution of gay and lesbian-themed documentary within the historical context of the gay and lesbian movement. Students examine the emerging voice of the gay documentarian, and discuss the topics of these films as they advance through themes of oppression, activism, and diversity in the gay and lesbian community.

ECONOMICS

ECON-575 Gender Persp Econ Anlys: Macro

Grown, C

TH 05:30PM 08:00PM

This course provides an introduction to gender analysis in macroeconomics and public finance. It explores feminist theories of economic growth, gender-aware macroeconomic models, gender and recession/crisis; gender analysis of public finance including fiscal policy and the practice of gender budgets; gender, trade, and investment; gender and credit markets; and gender-aware macroeconomic, trade, and investment policies.

GENERAL EDUCATION

GNED-220 G2:2 General Education

Area 2 Topic

001 Sexualities Studies

Vidal-Ortiz,S

MTH 03:35PM 04:50PM

Framing sexuality as a subject of study, this course shows the disciplines/areas that helped develop sexuality studies, especially centering feminist and women's and gender

studies. Designed to reveal assumptions in our social worlds about sexuality, it includes the range of sexual identities, various sexual experiences, and the relationship of gender to sexuality.

GOVERNMENT

GOVT-296 Selected Topics:Non-Recurring

001 Intro to Women and Politics

(1 credit)

SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM

02/07/09 02/08/09

Open only to students in the Undergraduate Certificate in Women, Policy, and Political Leadership program.

This weekend course is an introduction to current policy and political issues as they relate to women. It includes speakers from major women's organizations, political campaigns, and think tanks as well as representatives from Capitol Hill who discuss women's political participation, representation, and leadership in the United States and across the globe. Open only to students in the Undergraduate Certificate in Women, Policy, and Political Leadership programs.

GOVT-483 Women, Politics & Public Pol

M 05:30PM 08:00PM

(Meets with GOVT 683 001)

A wide variety of issues of concern to women, including healthcare, welfare, educational equity, employment discrimination, and reproductive rights are examined through the lens of the formal policy-making process.

GOVT-485 Topics in Women and Politics

001 Women, Law & Litigtnng Soc Chng

MTWTHF 09:00AM 05:00PM

(Meets with GOVT 685 001). (1 credit)

Since the 1860s, women's rights groups have resorted to the courts when efforts to achieve rights through legislation have failed. Today, although a variety of laws including the Equal Pay Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, among others prohibit discrimination, discrimination continues and many women (and men) have filed suit to redress legal wrongs. This class focuses on issues of gender equality through the legal process. Students participate in mock trials where the judges are attorneys who argued important cases or representatives from groups who lobbied for gender equity. The class also visits the Supreme Court and major litigators' offices to learn about legal strategy.

002 Women and Communication

SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM

(Meets with GOVT 685 002) 1 credit

History's most oft quoted speakers including Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, and Martin Luther King, Jr. have one thing in common: testosterone. Why don't women make quotable speeches? This course explores gender differences in communication; studies women speakers: the good, the bad and the ugly; and gives students practical skills on being an effective communicator.

003 Women, Media & 2008 Campaign

SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM

(Meets with GOVT 685 003) 1 credit

This course examines the media coverage and portrayal of the high profile women in the 2008 campaign with the reporters,

producers, and editors who covered them. The class further explores how viewers and voters responded to the women and to how they were covered.

004 Politics/Pol Sex Trafficking

SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM

(Meets with GOVT 685 004) 1 credit

This course explores the sex trade and the history and current industry of sex trafficking around the world. Recent attention to sex slavery in the United States and the increased prevalence of sex tourism are also be explored. Speakers include policy advocates working to hold nations accountable for their sex industries.

GOVT-584 Gender & Politics in Mid-East

Singerman,D

T 02:10PM 04:50PM

This course explores the ways in which social, political, and cultural constructions of sexual differences influence the nature and practice of political life in the Middle East. It examines both theoretically and empirically the ways in which power is gendered and how gender has served as a basis for political organization, the distribution of power, and the boundaries of public life.

HONORS

HNRS 302- Honors Colloquium in Social Science

014H Women & Pol through TV/Film

O'Connor,K

M 08:10PM 10:40PM

This course examines the role of television and film media on the political status of women in the United States. The class views old, classic films as well as examining how

the current media treats women through the lens of the way Hillary Rodham Clinton was portrayed. The driving question the course seeks to answer is how do the media affect women's political status as office holders, candidates, and voters.

HEALTH FITNESS

HFIT 323- Issues in Women's Health

Rose,M

W 02:10PM 04:50PM

Provides basic understanding of gynecologic anatomy and physiology as well as female health conditions. Emphasis placed on current health research areas such as female cancers, menopause, infertility, lesbian health, minority health, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, and sexual dysfunctions. Students develop a personal health plan based upon an extensive family history and personal lifestyle.

HISTORY

HIST-220/220G Women in America

Lichtman,A

MTH 02:10PM 03:25PM

Incorporating a multidisciplinary perspective; both primary and secondary readings, this course examines change and continuity in the experience of American women from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Focuses on social and political movements of special concern to women, including suffrage, birth control, women's liberation, and contemporary antifeminism.

HIST-242 Latin America since Independence

Findlay,E

MTH 09:55AM 11:10AM

Problems in creating nations; militarism, dictatorship, and democracy; sources of underdevelopment; reform and revolution in the twentieth century.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

SIS-496 Selected Topics

011 Victims of Violence

Kyrou,C

T 02:10PM 04:50PM

(Meets with SIS 619 011)

This course focuses on looking closely at who the victims of violence are, what efforts are being made to address their needs, and how victims themselves become agents of change. More than three-fourths of the refugees and displaced persons of conflicts are women and children. These victims are often sidelined, ignored, or dealt with quantitatively. This course explores the need for the whole of society to work together to halt the cycle of violence and examines different groups of victims of violence including refugees, women, children, and soldiers, as well as the environment.

SIS-517 Gender, Human Rights, and Conflict

Mertus, J

W 02:10PM 04:50PM

This seminar examines the gender dimensions of human wrongs associated with violent conflict. Students are encouraged to ask questions about the complexity of human rights problems and consider aspects of human rights problems made invisible to the outside world by silencing or obscuring the victims. Students also explore how each aspect of conflict is

gendered. Of primary concern is gendered forms of resistance to and cooperation with agents of war and peace, the role gender plays in the militaries and militarization, the impact of militarization on the lives of men and women in both war and peace time, and recent legal and political attempts to address gender-based violence in human rights.

JUSTICE, LAW, AND SOCIETY

JLS-526 Domestic Violence (3 credits)

Viano, E

SSU 10:00AM 05:00PM 01/24/09 01/25/09

SSU 10:00AM 05:00PM 02/28/09 03/01/09

SSU 10:00AM 05:00PM 04/04/09 04/05/09

A survey of domestic violence; spouse, sibling, and elder abuse; and sexual or other violence among intimates in its broader context and from a multidisciplinary perspective. Policies, laws, court decisions, and short and long term intervention strategies are considered.

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC-545 Psych of Sex Simlrities & Diff

Mance,G

W 08:30AM 11:10AM

Examines the ways that the behavior of males and females are comparable by examining the psychological literature to understand what biological and social-cultural factors influence these behaviors. Considers what conclusions can be drawn from the existing data and what types of research should be done to further knowledge of gender issues.

SOCIOLOGY

SOCY-205/205G The Family

MTH 02:10PM 03:25PM

The family as a social institution in a changing society. Social inequalities of class, race, ethnicity, and gender as key factors in shaping diverse forms and experiences in family life. Theoretical and actual alternatives to family patterns as well as the future of the American family.

SOCY-235/235G Women in the Third World

TF 03:35PM 04:50PM

Focusing on Third World women and social change in different cultural contexts and in the global political-economic system, this course emphasizes the centrality of women in the rapidly changing world, particularly in terms of work, distributive justice, development policy, democratization, and the environment.

SOCY-352 Women, Men & Social Change

Brantley, J

W 11:20AM 02:00PM

Focuses on gender as a basic organizational principle of social life in order to study the social construction of gender and how gender relationships are transformed in the process of social change. The course examines how race, class, and gender interact with culture in shaping the lives, social positions and relationships of diverse kinds of women and men in a changing world.