Gender and Women’s Studies

PROFESSOR: LeeRay Costa (director, anthropology and gender and women’s studies)

AFFILIATED FACULTY: Thomas J. Anderson (English), Kelly Derrick (adjunct, religious studies), Amy Gerber-Stroh (film), Michael Gettings (philosophy), Cathryn Hankla (English), Genevieve Hendricks (art history), Lori Joseph (communication studies), Pauline Kaldas (English), Andrew Matzner (adjunct, gender and women’s studies), Rachel Nelson (adjunct, theatre), Kathleen Nolan (art), Rachel Nuñez (history), Julie Pfeiffer (English), Elizabeth Poliner (English), Christina Salowey (classical studies), Darla Schumm (John P. Wheeler Professor of Religious Studies)

VISITING LECTURERS: Courtney Chennette, Konal Dhillon-Jamerson

Gender and women’s studies is an interdisciplinary program that examines how systems of oppression/resistance and privilege operate. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of the importance of gender as a category of analysis, as it intersects with race/ethnicity, class, age, sexual identity, citizenship, and (dis)ability. People’s lives today are increasingly shaped by global transformations in work, technology, politics, and popular culture resulting in profound changes in gender roles and expectations. Gender and women’s studies explores these issues in both national and global contexts.

The gender and women’s studies faculty is dedicated to creating an environment that fosters critical thinking, supports student activism, and emphasizes faculty/student and peer mentoring. Students are encouraged to question conventional wisdom and to participate actively in their education.

Gender and women’s studies helps prepare students for a variety of careers. Students interested in law, education, politics, business, and the arts will be well prepared by the gender and women’s studies major. Understanding the importance of gender in society helps students to have successful careers and lives and to promote social justice and gender equity.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES:

10 courses (40 credits)

Working closely with an advisor from the gender and women’s studies program, each major will complete four core courses in gender and women’s studies, supplemented by six additional courses from the list of gender and women’s studies courses. At least three of these courses should be at the 200 level or above, and an additional course at the 300 level or above. Each major will complete at least one internship in gender and women’s studies, and this internship may be completed during the Short Term.

CORE COURSES IN GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES (16):

- GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies (4)
- One course from the following:
  - GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
  - GWS 213: Globalization and Poverty (4)
  - GWS 223: Women in Buddhism (4)
  - GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
- GWS 338: Survey of Feminist Thought (4)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women’s Studies (4)

SIX ADDITIONAL COURSES (24):

- Six additional courses from the list of gender and women’s studies courses

GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES COURSES

- GWS 117: Childbirth and Women’s Writing (4)
- GWS 125 African American Women’s Political Activism (4)
- GWS 174: International Women’s Voices (4)
- GWS 197F: bell hooks: rage, love and creating beloved community (4)
- GWS 197F: The Mystery of Billie Holiday (4)
- GWS 203: Women and The Law (4)
- GWS 209: Feminist Philosophies (4)
- GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
- GWS 213: Globalization and Poverty (4)
- GWS 215: Constructing Gender (4)
• GWS 216: Women in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (4)
• GWS 217: Rhetorical Theory (4)
• GWS 219: Food, Culture, and Social Justice (4)
• GWS 222: Women in Ancient and Medieval Europe (4)
• GWS 223: Women in Buddhism (4)
• GWS 225: Gender and Women’s History in Early Modern Europe (4)
• GWS 226: Gender and Women’s History in Modern Europe (4)
• GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
• GWS 250: Whiteness: Race, Power, and Privilege (4)
• GWS 252: Gender and Globalization (4)
• GWS 260: Race, Class, Gender
• GWS 290: Independent Study (2, 4)
• GWS 310: The Body and Sexuality in European History (4)
• GWS 312: Women and Social Movements Across the Globe (4)
• GWS 314: Women and Art (4)
• GWS 317: Dress, Gender, and Social Identity (4)
• GWS 318: Sexual Ethics (4)
• GWS 324: Feminism and Contemporary Art (4)
• GWS 334: Sex and Race in the Age of Empire (4)
• GWS 338: Survey of Feminist Thought (4)
• GWS 342: Advanced Studies in Children’s Literature: American Girls’ Fiction (4)
• GWS 345: Arab Women Writers (4)
• GWS 354: Marriage, Childbirth, and Death in the Italian Renaissance (4)
• GWS 362: Spiritual Activism (4)
• GWS 372: Images of Women in Film (4)
• GWS 379: Feminist Theory (4)
• GWS 390: Independent Study (2, 4)
• GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women’s Studies (4)
• GWS 480, 490: Senior Thesis (4-8) or (4/4, 4)

INTERNSHIPS
An experiential component will also be required of each major. This consists of an internship or service project (two or more credits each, or one Short Term) carried out in the junior or senior year. The experiential component is an integral part of the program. Students will work under the sponsorship of a faculty member of the gender and women’s studies program to design an experience that will augment their course work and provide valuable experience that may lead to further career or educational opportunities. Short Term interns may also be expected to participate in a biweekly discussion group with other gender and women’s studies interns. At the end of the placement, the student will submit a written summary and interpretation of her field experience.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES:
6 courses (24 credits) and an internship

• GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies (4)
• One of the following:
  GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
  GWS 213: Globalization and Poverty (4)
  GWS 223: Women in Buddhism (4)
  GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
  GWS 338: Survey of Feminist Thought (4)
• Three additional courses from the list of gender and women’s studies courses
• An internship in gender and women’s studies

In designing their programs, minors work closely with an advisor in gender and women’s studies to select elective courses (12 credits) from the list in the catalog, which allow them to develop critical perspective in one area of interest without losing the interdisciplinary focus of the program. Minors are also strongly encouraged to enroll in GWS 470 (4).
COURSES IN GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES:

GWS 117: CHILDBIRTH AND WOMEN’S WRITING (4)  Pfeiffer
Also listed and described as ENG 117. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (f, w, x)

GWS 125: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN’S POLITICAL ACTIVISM (4)  Department
Also listed and described as POLS 125. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19.

GWS 141: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES (4)  Dhillon-Jamerson, Joseph
This course includes topics such as origins of patriarchy, history of women’s rights movements, theories of women’s oppression, the social construction of gender, literary representations of women, women and industrialization, family and sexuality, feminist approaches to science, and the female experience as a force for social change. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered both terms. (DIV)

GWS 174: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S VOICES (4)  Kaldas
Also listed and described as ENG 174. Offered Term 2. (f, w, x, AES, GLO)

GWS 197F: BELL HOOKS: RAGE, LOVE, AND CREATING BELOVED COMMUNITY (4)  Costa
This course explores the life and work of feminist author, cultural critic, public intellectual, and social justice activist bell hooks. From Ain’t I a Woman: Black women and feminism, written when hooks was 19, to Writing Beyond Race: living theory and practice, hooks has published nearly 40 books that speak to the pressing issues of our times: race, white supremacy, sexism, intersectionality, homophobia, capitalism, and spirituality in movements for social justice. Students will participate in an inclusive, feminist classroom that challenges each of us to think deeply about and to practice social justice and beloved community in our everyday lives. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (o, r, DIV)

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR – THE MYSTERY OF BILLIE HOLIDAY (4)  Anderson
This course explores the life and work of Eleanora Fagan (1915-1959), better known as Billie Holiday. Holiday became an iconic jazz musician and singer-songwriter. The course examines black celebrity and its function within a racially and economically segregated America. We will observe the role that race, gender, class, and substance abuse played in creating the myth of Billie Holiday through poems, films, memoirs, photographs, recordings, etc. to discover the complexity of Eleanora Fagan and her transformation to Billie Holiday. Also listed as GWS 197F. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (f, w, x, AES, GLO)

GWS 203: WOMEN AND THE LAW (4)  Department
This course examines how women have been treated by wielders of the power of the law. Using constitutional and statutory case law, the course investigates women’s reproductive rights, sexuality and family law, equal employment, woman battering, pornography, hate speech, and sexual exploitation. Also listed as POLS 203. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (DIV)

GWS 206: THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (4)  Nelson
Also listed and described as THEA 206. Open to first-years. No Prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

GWS 208: GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND CLASS (4)  Department
Also listed and described as POLS 208. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 209: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES (4)  Gettings
Also listed and described as PHIL 208. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2018-19.

GWS 211: MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS (4)  Kaldas
Also listed and described as ENG 211. Offered Term 1. (w, x, AES, DIV)

GWS 213: GLOBALIZATION AND POVERTY (4)  Department
This course is an introduction to the current debates about poverty and inequality within and between countries in this age of globalization. It looks at the causes and consequences of globalization, for example, the losses by women, children, and men in status, freedom, safety, education, and their diminished access to the basic needs of food, housing, and health care. We also examine how and why wealthy nations have failed to notice, let alone assist, the millions of people trapped in absolute poverty. How do nations, and individuals in them, justify their belief that
they have no moral responsibility to help people in poverty? Also listed as POLS 213. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2018-19. (GLO)

**GWS 215: CONSTRUCTING GENDER (4)**
Also listed and described as COMM 215. Offered Term 2. (r, DIV, MOD)

**GWS 216: WOMEN IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM (4)**
Also listed and described as REL 215. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (DIV, MOD)

**GWS 217: RHETORICAL THEORY - FROM ANCIENT GREECE TO THE RENAISSANCE (4)**
Department
Also listed and described as COMM 217. Not offered in 2018-19. (o, r, PRE)

**GWS 218: GLOBAL GAYZ - THE LESBIAN AND GAY MOVEMENT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (4)**
Department
This course examines the global movement for lesbian and gay civil rights. It introduces students to an interdisciplinary body of research, which focuses on contemporary sites of contention, for example the right of lesbians and gays to define what counts as a marriage or family. Other topics include: legal status of lesbians and gays around the globe, the extent of state-sponsored homophobia and heterosexism in the world, the differences among gay and lesbian movements in both form and objectives, and existing protections against hate crimes. Also listed as POLS 218. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (GLO)

**GWS 219: FOOD, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)**
Also listed and described as ANTH/ES 219. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

**GWS 220: LIFE HISTORIES/SELF-NARRATIVES (4)**
Also listed and described as ANTH 220. Prerequisite: ANTH 145, GWS 141 or SOC 110. Not offered in 2018-19. (r, DIV)

**GWS 222: WOMEN IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE (4)**
Also listed and described as HIST 222. Not offered in 2018-19. (w, x, PRE)

**GWS 223: WOMEN IN BUDDHISM (4)**
Also listed and described as REL 223. Not offered in 2018-19. (r, GLO)

**GWS 225: WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE - WITCHES, QUEENS, AND COURTESANS (4)**
Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 225. Not offered in 2018-19. (w, x, PRE)

**GWS 226: GENDER AND WOMEN'S HISTORY IN MODERN EUROPE (4)**
Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 226S. Not offered in 2018-19. (w, x, r, MOD)

**GWS 233: HORROR FILMS (4)**
Also listed and described as FILM 233. Not offered in 2018-19.

**GWS 242: ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY (4)**
Also listed and described as ANTH 242. Not offered in 2018-19. (DIV)

**GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: RACE, CLASS, GENDER AND THE LAW (4)**
This course explores the power of law to construct and deconstruct intersectional identities of race, sex, gender, sexual identity, class, nationality, ability, religion, age, and marital status. We will consider the law's impact on performance and prohibition of these identities, from classroom to boardroom, bathroom to bedroom. To do so, we will analyze primary sources: judicial opinions, statutes, proposed legislation, administrative orders, and constitutional language. We will critically examine structures of power and privilege created, reinforced, and dismantled by these sources of law, in our country, community, and self. Not open to first-years. Also listed as POLS 250. Offered Term 1.

**GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: WHITENESS: RACE, POWER, AND PRIVILEGE (4)**
What does it mean to be white? In this course, we will examine the construction of whiteness as both an identity category that attaches to privilege and as a system of racial power in the context of the United States. We will explore issues such as white supremacy, white fragility, white guilt, and the intersection of whiteness with gender, class, and sexuality. Students will reflect on their own experiences of and with whiteness, and consider the potentialities of ethical whiteness and anti-racism. Not open to first-years. Also listed as SOC 250. Offered Term 1.
GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: RACE, GENDER, AND POSTCOLONIALISM (4)  
Dhillon-Jamerson
This course investigates historical, contemporary, and conceptual frameworks for understanding postcolonial experiences of women using theory, research, and practical application. We will explore various women’s and gender issues from a multitude of perspectives, including race, religion, politics, and geography. We will also examine critical topics that will introduce students to gender in styles of communication, aesthetics, media, worldviews, and values. Also listed as SOC 250. Offered Term 2.

GWS 260: RACE, CLASS, GENDER: A REFLEXIVE APPROACH (4)  
Department
Also listed and described as SOC 260. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 281: RELIGION AND DISABILITY (4)  
Schumm
This course explores the powerful intersections between religion and disability in sacred texts, religious doctrine, popular culture, and lived experience. We will probe questions such as: What does it mean to be human? Why are some bodies deemed more worthy than others? How are ideas of normal and abnormal constructed and reinforced? Does religion promote or hinder disability justice? Also listed and described as REL 281. Not offered in 2018-19. (w, x, MOD, DIV)

GWS 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)  
Department
Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

GWS 310: THE BODY AND SEXUALITY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY (4)  
Nuñez
Also listed and described as HIST 310. Not offered in 2018-19. (w, x, MOD)

GWS 312: WOMEN AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE (4)  
Costa
In this course we examine voluntary forms of collective action known as social movements from an interdisciplinary perspective. Our emphasis is on women and the ways they have organized on their own and together with men at the local, national, regional, and global levels, both within and across difference. We look at movements organized around human rights, peace and war, race and ethnicity, sexuality, the environment, and development and capitalism in a variety of locales. Also listed as ANTH 312. Prerequisites: ANTH 145 or GWS 141 or SOC 110 and junior or senior standing. Offered Term 1. (o, GLO)

GWS 314: WOMEN AND ART (4)  
Nolan
Also listed and described as ART 314. Offered Term 2. (w, x, AES)

GWS 317: DRESS, GENDER, AND SOCIAL IDENTITY (4)  
Nolan
Also listed and described as ART 317. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (AES, GLO)

GWS 318: SEXUAL ETHICS (4)  
Schumm
Also listed and described as REL 318. Not offered in 2018-19. (o, DIV)

GWS 324: FEMINISM AND CONTEMPORARY ART (4)  
Department
Also listed and described as ART 324. Prerequisites: one art history or history course or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 328: 19TH-CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS (4)  
Pfeiffer
Also listed and described as ENG 328. Prerequisite: sophomore standing; English majors must have completed at least one 100-level or 200-level literature course in English. Not offered in 2018-19. (AES)

GWS 334: SEX AND RACE IN THE AGE OF EMPIRE (4)  
Nuñez
Also listed and described as HIST 334. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered Term 1. (w, x, GLO, MOD)

GWS 338: SURVEY OF FEMINIST THOUGHT (4)  
Costa
This course provides an intensive study of the various theories which form the conceptual base for feminism (among these are liberal, radical, Marxist, and postmodern—to name a few). It provides a critique of traditional intellectual and research frameworks that have omitted women’s perspectives and experiences and looks in detail at the intersections of gender with race, class, sexuality, and culture. Prerequisite: GWS 141 and one other 200-level gender and women’s studies course. Offered Term 2. (o, DIV)
GWS 342: ADVANCED STUDIES IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE: AMERICAN GIRLS FICTION (4)  Pfeiffer
Also listed and described as ENG 342. Not offered in 2018-19. (w, x, AES, MOD)

GWS 345: ARAB WOMEN WRITERS (4)  Kaldas
Also listed and described as ENG 345. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (AES, GLO)

GWS 354: MARRIAGE, CHILDBIRTH AND DEATH IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (4)  Nolan
Also listed and described as ART 354. Offered Term 1. (AES, PRE)

GWS 362: SPIRITUAL ACTIVISM (4)  Costa
This course explores the role of spirituality for individuals and collectivities engaged in transformative social justice work. In particular, we focus on the work of contemporary feminist, womanist and women of color scholars and activists such as Gloria Anzaldúa, Audre Lorde, Layli Maparyan, Jaqui Alexander, and AnaLouise Keating. We also explore the writings and practices of contemplatives from a range of spiritual traditions. Students in this special topics seminar will be expected to engage in experiential learning, leading class discussion, sustained personal reflection, cultural analysis and critique, and rethinking epistemology and social change. Also listed as REL 362. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (DIV)

GWS 372: IMAGES OF WOMEN IN FILM (4)  Gerber-Stroh
Also listed and described as FILM 372. Prerequisite: prior film course or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (AES, MOD)

GWS 379: FEMINIST THEORY (4)  Department
Also listed and described as ENG 379. Not offered in 2018-19.

GWS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)  Department
Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

GWS 399: INTERNSHIP (2 or 4)  Department
Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed any term.

GWS 470: SEMINAR IN GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES (4)  Costa
“Feminist journeys” is the theme of this capstone course. Students examine feminism as a journey, both historically and politically, and in their own lives as feminists and gender and women’s studies majors/minors through the method of autoethnography. The course goal is to integrate the personal and political in innovative and creative ways. Students play a significant role in shaping the class and complete a major final creative project in the medium of their choice. Prerequisites: GWS 141, GWS 338, and senior standing. Offered Term 2.

GWS 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)  Department
A research paper based upon inquiry into a specific issue within gender and women’s studies. Students must consult with GWS advisor in the spring semester of junior year. Research begins during Fall Term and ends Short Term.

GWS 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)  Department
Offered to qualified gender and women’s studies majors. Students must consult with GWS advisor in the spring semester of junior year. Research is completed over Fall, Short, and Spring Terms.