Gender and Women’s Studies

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

AFFILIATED FACULTY: Courtney Chenette (political science), Kelly Derrick (adjunct, religious studies), Amy Gerber-Stroh (film), Michael Gettings (philosophy), 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), Rebecca Rosen (English), Darla Schumm (John P. Wheeler Professor of Religious Studies), Jennifer Turner (Sociology)

VISITING LECTURER: 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 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 174: International Women’s Voices (4)
- GWS 197F: bell hooks: rage, love and creating beloved community (4)
- GWS 197F: Supreme!
- GWS 197F: Contemporary American Women Writers: Reckoning with the Past (4)
- GWS 203: Gender and The Law (4)
- GWS 209: Feminist Philosophies (4)
- GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
- GWS 215: Constructing Gender (4)
- GWS 216: Women in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (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 233: The Horror Film (4)
• GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
• GWS 243: Children’s Literature (4)
• GWS 250: Mental Health & Social Justice (4)
• GWS 250: Black Feminist Thought (4)
• GWS 250: Reproductive Justice (4)
• GWS 250: Reading Narratives in Medicine
• 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 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 328: 19th Century Women Writers (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 347: Girlhood Studies
• GWS 350: Sociology of Gender (4)
• GWS 350: The Seduction Narrative in the Atlantic World (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 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 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 2019-20. (f, w, x)

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 1. (f, w, x, AES, GLO)

GWS 197F: FIREST YEAR SEMINAR: 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: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS: RECKONING WITH THE PAST (4)  Rosen
Ghosts, memories, recoveries: these are the subjects and objects of contemporary Native American and African American women writers who wrestle with the past. In this class, we will explore how these writers reflect on the ways that gender, race, and identity have shaped their histories, and how they employ a variety of rhetorical strategies and literary techniques. Throughout the semester, we will practice close reading by analyzing texts produced across many genres, including poetry, short stories, the novel, literary criticism, oratory, autobiography, and creative nonfiction. Students will refine their critical thinking skills through writing assignments that ask them to make argumentative claims. Also listed and described as ENG 197F. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (f, r, w, x, AES)

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR –SUPREME! (4)  Chenette
Notorious RBG to signature Scalia snark, Supreme Court justices interrupted and disrupted, crafted and reflected the country, pushed one another to the brink and even lived together just like college! This seminar explores the fundamental structure, judicial and political philosophies, intersectional identities, and bold personalities that make and continue to shape the top of the judicial branch. Students examine this government institution through founding documents, significant opinions, oral arguments, and films. Also listed as POLS 197F. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (r)

GWS 203: GENDER AND THE LAW (4)  Chenette
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. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

GWS 206: THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (4)  Nelson
Also listed and described as THEA 206. Open to first-years. No Prerequisite. Not offered in 2019-20. (DIV)

GWS 209: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES (4)  Gettings
Also listed and described as PHIL 208. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2019-20.
GWS 211: MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS (4)  Kaldas
Also listed and described as ENG 211. Offered Term 2. (w, x, AES, DIV)

GWS 215: CONSTRUCTING GENDER (4)  Joseph
Also listed and described as COMM 215. Not offered in 2019-20. (r, DIV, MOD)

GWS 216: WOMEN IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM (4)  Derrick
Also listed and described as REL 215. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2019-20. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 217: RHETORICAL THEORY - FROM ANCIENT GREECE TO THE RENAISSANCE (4)  Presswood
Also listed and described as COMM 217. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Offered Term 2. (o, r, PRE)

GWS 219: FOOD, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)  Costa
Also listed and described as ANTH/ES 219. Not offered in 2019-20. (DIV)

GWS 220: LIFE HISTORIES/SELF-NARRATIVES (4)  Costa
Also listed and described as ANTH 220. Prerequisite: ANTH 145, GWS 141 or SOC 110. Not offered in 2019-20. (r, DIV)

GWS 222: WOMEN IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE (4)  Nuñez
Also listed and described as HIST 222. Not offered in 2019-20. (w, x, PRE)

GWS 223: WOMEN IN BUDDHISM (4)  Schumm
Also listed and described as REL 223. Not offered in 2019-20. (r, GLO)

GWS 225: WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE - WITCHES, QUEENS, AND COURTESANS (4)  Nuñez
Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 225. Offered Term 1. (w, x, PRE)

GWS 226: WOMEN AND GENDER IN MODERN EUROPE (4)  Nuñez
Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 226S. Offered Term 2 (w, x, r, MOD)

GWS 233: HORROR FILMS (4)  Ingle
Also listed and described as FILM 233. Offered Term 1.

GWS 242: ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY (4)  Costa
Also listed and described as ANTH 242. Not offered in 2019-20. (DIV)

GWS 243: INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (4)  De Groot
Also listed and described as ENG 242. Prerequisite: one semester of college work or permission. Not offered 2019-20. (w, x, AES)

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)  Matzner
Our lives are deeply affected by our mental health. But what exactly does it mean to be “mentally healthy”? Indeed, what is “pathological”? What is “normal”? And who gets to decide? Utilizing an intersectional, interdisciplinary perspective, this class examines power and oppression within the field of mental health, while also critically exploring societal aspects of mental illness. Offered Term 1.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: BLACK FEMINIST THOUGHT (4)  Turner
Also listed and described as SOC 250. Offered Term 2.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE (4)  Turner
Also listed and described as SOC 250. Offered Term 2.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: READING NARRATIVES IN MEDICINE (4)  Rosen
Also listed and described as ENG 250. Offered Term 2. (w, x)
GWS 260: RACE, CLASS, GENDER: A REFLEXIVE APPROACH (4)
Also listed and described as SOC 260. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 281: RELIGION AND DISABILITY (4)
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. Offered Term 1. (w, x, MOD, DIV)

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

GWS 291: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)
Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

GWS 292: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2)
Independent study conducted at 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)
Also listed and described as HIST 310. Not offered in 2019-20. (w, x, MOD)

GWS 314: WOMEN AND ART (4)
Also listed and described as ART 314. Not offered in 2019-20. (w, x, AES)

GWS 317: DRESS, GENDER, AND SOCIAL IDENTITY (4)
Also listed and described as ART 317. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2019-20. (AES, GLO)

GWS 318: SEXUAL ETHICS (4)
Also listed and described as REL 318. Offered Term 2. (o, DIV)

GWS 324: FEMINISM AND CONTEMPORARY ART (4)
Also listed and described as ART 324. Prerequisites: one art history or history course or permission. Offered Term 2. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 328: 19TH-CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS (4)
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. Offered Term 1. (w, x, AES)

GWS 334: SEX AND RACE IN THE AGE OF EMPIRE (4)
Also listed and described as HIST 334. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2019-20. (w, x, GLO, MOD)

GWS 338: SURVEY OF FEMINIST THOUGHT (4)
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)
Also listed and described as ENG 342. Offered Term 2. (w, x, AES, MOD)

GWS 345: ARAB WOMEN WRITERS (4)
Also listed and described as ENG 345. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2019-20. (AES, GLO)

GWS 347: GIRLHOOD STUDIES (4)
This course will explore the interdisciplinary field of girlhood studies. We will consider the cultural representations and productions of girls and girl cultures, both academic and popular. Themes of investigation may include: gender socialization, racialization, sexuality, self-esteem, identity formation, media, consumption, international development, empowerment, agency & activism. Discussions will be grounded in feminist intersectional approaches that investigate the diversities and commonalities of girls’ experiences as well as the larger structures of power that shape girls experiences. Students will have the opportunity to learn about girls’ experiences and organizations at the local, national, and global levels. Offered Term 2.
GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER (4)  
Also listed and described as SOC 350. Offered Term 1.

GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: THE SEDUCTION NARRATIVE IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD (4)  
Also listed and described as ENG 350. Offered Term 2. (x, w)

GWS 354: MARRIAGE, CHILDBIRTH AND DEATH IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (4)  
Also listed and described as ART 354. Not offered in 2019-20. (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. Offered Term 1. (DIV)

GWS 372: IMAGES OF WOMEN IN FILM (4)  
Gerber-Stroh  
Also listed and described as FILM 372. Prerequisite: prior film course or permission. Offered Term 2. (AES, MOD)

GWS 379: FEMINIST THEORY (4)  
Department  
Also listed and described as ENG 379. Not offered in 2019-20.

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.