WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

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wmsstud@barnard.edu
Department Chair: Janet Jakobsen
Department Administrative Assistant: Mark Nomadiou

Mission

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary department for students who wish to explore gender and its relation to other axes of power: race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. We use these concepts to analyze human experience in its bodily, political, economic and cultural dimensions. Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies covers a complex variety of theoretical and empirical scholarship both within traditional disciplines and in interdisciplinary frames in the humanities, in the social sciences and in the natural sciences as well as combinations of the three. The Department is committed to critical perspectives and bodies of knowledge that contribute to possibilities for transformation and change.

Early in their sophomore year, students interested in the major should consult the Department to plan their major. Students also have the option of electing a combined major and a minor. Areas of faculty research specialization include feminist and queer politics and ethics in U.S. public life; contemporary and historical social movements; gender and global political economy; sexuality and the state; sociology of the body, sex and gender; critical science studies of gender and sexuality; transnational feminisms; Asia-Pacific cultural studies; comparative literature and critical theory.

Complementing the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, the Barnard Center for Research on Women maintains an extensive and expanding resource collection on women's issues. Many of these resources, including BCRW’s own online journal, The Scholar & Feminist Online, are available on BCRW’s multi-media website. BCRW also sponsors a variety of events that are invaluable to students interested in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies participates in a Consortium with Africana Studies and American Studies that supports the development of intellectual and curricular projects across the three fields and offers a concentration and minor in studies of race and ethnicity, with an attention to global and diasporic contexts. We are particularly interested in relations between and among, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity and nation. The Consortium is working to create models for research and teaching that contribute to new ways of understanding processes of social differentiation and that help to create new possibilities for social relations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Major, students will be able to attain the following outcomes:

• Identify and denaturalize core assumptions that are attached to present-day systems of gender, race and sexuality;
• Understand the variability and complexity of social identities in multiple historical, social and cultural contexts;
• Demonstrate through oral and written presentations their understanding of gender, sexuality and race as mutually constituted and relatively autonomous categories of social difference;
• Develop an awareness of a broad range of historical and transnational contexts for studying gender in relation to other social relations of power;
• Develop a familiarity with major theoretical perspectives and concepts of feminist thought and practice;
• Distinguish between different kinds of feminist claims and critically assess their effects in the world;
• Understand and apply key social theory concepts and perspectives as these have been used in critical scholarly and activist engagements with contemporary issues and problems;
• Integrate gender, race and sexuality theoretical frameworks along with a critical awareness of the politics of knowledge production in the conception and writing of an original research paper.

Chair: Janet Jakobsen (Professor)

Professors: Elizabeth Castelli (Religion), Yvette Christianse (Africana Studies and English), Kim Hall (Africana Studies and English), Janet Jakobsen, Rebecca Jordan-Young, Laura Kay (Physics & Astronomy), Dorothy Ko (History), Lisa Tiersten (History), Deborah Valenze (History), Nancy Worman (Classics)

Associate Professors: Elizabeth Bernstein (Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Sociology), Kaliama Glover (Africana Studies and French), Nara Milanich (History), Premilla Nadasen (History), Celia Naylor (Africana Studies & History), Anupama Rao (History)

Assistant Professors: Deborah Coen (History)

Senior Lecturer: Timea Szell (English)

Requirements for the Major

The WGSS major requires a minimum of 11 core courses distributed as follows:

1) Introductory course: Select one course from any of three emphases (gender, ethnicity and race, or sexuality)

| WMST UN1001 | Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies | 3 |
| or SOCI UN3302 | Sociology of Gender | |
| WMST BC2150 | Practicing Intersectionality: The interdisciplinary study of race, gender, and ethnicity | 3 |
| or CSER UN1040 | Critical Approaches to the Study of Ethnicity and Race | |
| WMST BC3125 | Pleasures and Power: An Introduction to Sexuality Studies | |
| or SOCI V3318 | The Sociology of Sexuality | |

2) Four core foundation courses:

| WMST BC2140 | Critical Approaches | 3 |
| WMST UN3311 | Colloquium in Feminist Theory | 4 |
| WMST BC3514 | Historical Approaches to Feminist Questions | 4 |
| WMST UN3915 | Gender and Power in Transnational Perspective (OR other approved course in transnational gender/feminist studies, e.g. HIST BC4999 Transnational Feminism.) | 4 |

Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
6-10) Electives: Select five electives, at least two of these must be at an advanced level and require a research paper assignment; one of the advanced electives may be the Advanced Writing-Intensive Research Seminar (Honors Thesis).

11) Sr. Seminar:

WMST UN3525 Senior Seminar: Knowledge, Practice, Power 4

Notes:

- Electives – WGSS majors are required to take 5 electives; at least of two of these electives must be advanced seminars (4 credits) and require a research paper assignment. One of the advanced electives may be the Advanced Writing-Intensive Research Seminar (Senior Seminar II: Honors Thesis).

- WMST BC 3903 Senior Seminar I: Knowledge, Practice, Power – offered in the fall; restricted to WGSS Seniors

Requirements for the Combined Major

The Combined Major Requirements Eight Courses, distributed as follows:

1) One Introductory Course (choose one out of three theoretical emphases): gender, race & ethnicity, or sexuality:

WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies 3
or SOCI S3302Q Sociology of Gender

WMST BC2150 Practicing Intersectionality: The interdisciplinary study of race, gender, and ethnicity 3
or CSER UN1040 Critical Approaches to the Study of Ethnicity and Race

WMST BC3125 Pleasures and Power: An Introduction to Sexuality Studies 3
or SOCI V3318 The Sociology of Sexuality

WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies 3

2-5) WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches 3
WMST UN3311 Colloquium in Feminist Theory 4
WMST BC3514 Historical Approaches to Feminist Questions 4
WMST UN3915 Gender and Power in Transnational Perspective (OR One other approved course in transnational gender/feminist studies (e.g. HIST BC4999 Transnational Feminism)) 4

4-5. Two WGSS electives (from the same list that applies to WGSS majors)

WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies. 3 points.
An interdisciplinary introduction to key concepts and analytical categories in women’s and gender studies. This course grapples with gender in its complex intersection with other systems of power and inequality, including: sexuality, race and ethnicity, class and nation. Topics include: feminisms, feminist and queer theory, commodity culture, violence, science and technology, visual cultures, work, and family.

WMST BC1050 Women and Health. 3 points.

Interdisciplinary introduction emphasizing interaction of biological and sociocultural influences on women’s health, and exploring health disparities among women as well as between women and men. Current biomedical knowledge presented with empirical critiques of research and medical practice in specific areas such as occupational health, cardiology, sexuality, infectious diseases, reproduction, etc.

Fall 2020: WMST BC1050

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*NOTE: Students combining WGSS with Human Rights must complete the FULL WGSS major (11 courses); use the ‘WGSS Major Checklist’ instead.

Students combining WGSS with Africana Studies must either complete the FULL WGSS major OR the FULL Africana Studies major. If the student chooses to complete the full Africana Studies major, you may use this checklist. Students choosing the ‘combined major’ option for Africana Studies (7 Af Studies courses) must use the ‘WGSS Major Checklist’ instead, and complete 11 WGSS courses.
WMST UN3125 Introduction to Sexuality Studies. 3 points.
This course is designed to introduce major theories sexuality, desire and identity. We will be considering the relations between the history of sexuality and the politics of gender. We will read some primary texts in gender theory, and in the study of sexuality, desire, and embodiment. This course also provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary examination of human sexual and erotic desires, orientations, and identities. We will study how desires are constructed, how they vary and remain the same in different places and times, and how they interact with other social and cultural phenomena such as government, family, popular culture, scientific inquiry, and, especially, race and class.

WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches. 3.00 points.
Introduction to key concepts from social theory as they are appropriated in critical studies of gender, race, sexuality, class and nation. We will explore how these concepts are taken up from different perspectives to address particular social problems, and the effects of these appropriations in the world

WMST BC2530 Global South Women Film Directors. 4 points.
BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Cultures in Comparison (CUL).
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: Students registering for this course are required to attend the screening and commentary on Tuesdays 6:10-9:00 pm, and lecture and discussion section on Thursdays 9:10-10:50 am. Enrollment limited to 25 students.

WMST BC3117 Film and Feminism: Transnational Perspectives. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: Students registering for this course are required to attend the screening on Tuesdays 6:10-9:00 pm, and lecture and discussion section on Thursdays 9:00-10:50 am. Enrollment limited to 25 students.

WMST BC3121 Black Women in America. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: Students must attend first day of class and admission will be decided then. Enrollment limited to 20 students.
Examines roles of black women in the U.S. as thinkers, activists and creators during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Focusing on the intellectual work, social activism and cultural expression of African American women, we examine how they understood their lives, resisted oppression and struggled to change society. We will also discuss theoretical frameworks (such as ‘double jeopardy,’ or ‘intersectionality’) developed for the study of black women. The seminar will encourage students to pay particular attention to the diversity of black women and critical issues facing Black women today. This course is the same as AFRS BC3121 Black Women in America.

WMST BC3122 Contemporary American-Jewish Women Writers: 1990 to the Present. 4 points.
BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Reason and Value (REA).
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Explores the international character of the Jewish people through the experiences of Jewish women in various historical periods and contexts. Identifies issues and concerns, past and present, articulated by contemporary Jewish feminists: perspectives of secularists, observant traditional women, heterosexuals, lesbians, feminists, and activists committed to diverse political ideologies.
WMST BC3125 Pleasures and Power: An Introduction to Sexuality Studies. 3 points.

BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Social Analysis (SOC I).

This introduction to sexuality studies is an examination of the historical origins, social functions, and conceptual limitations of the notion of "sexuality" as a domain of human experience and a field of power relations. Sexuality is often taken to be a natural and unchanging element of individual life. In this course, we seek to examine the ways in which sex is both social and political. We will consider how sexuality has been socially constructed, paying careful attention to the ways these ideas relate to other social forces such as gender, race, and class.

WMST BC3131 Women and Science. 4 points.

Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 18 students. History and politics of women's involvement with science. Women's contributions to scientific discovery in various fields, accounts by women scientists, engineers, and physicians, issues of science education. Feminist critiques of biological research and of the institution of science.

WMST BC3132 Gendered Controversies: Women's Bodies and Global Conflicts. 4 points.

Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 18 students. How do such conflicts constitute women, and what do they tell us about societies, cultures, and politics? - D. Ko

WMST BC3134 Unheard Voices: African Women's Literature. 4 points.

BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Literature (LIT).

Not offered during 2020-2021 academic year.

Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 14 students. How does one talk of women in Africa without thinking of Africa as a "mythic unity"? We will consider the political, racial, social and other contexts in which African women write and are written about in the context of their located lives in Africa and in the African Diaspora. This course is the same as AFRS BC3134 Unheard Voices: African Women's Literature.

WMST BC3138 Affect and Activism. 4 points.

Course Description

From love to anger to disappointment to hope, political activism mobilizes emotions towards certain ends but also generates new affective states and feelings along the way. This advanced seminar will familiarize students with feminist, anti-racist and queer scholarship on affect, feelings and emotion as intrinsic to politics and as crucial for understanding how political thought and action unfold in contingent and often unexpected ways. Mixing theoretical and cultural texts with case studies, we will look at how affect permeates structures of power and domination, embodiment and identity, and collective activist projects concerned with gender and sexual liberation. Students will have an opportunity to read theories of affect as well as to "read" activist movements for affect by working with archival documents (such as zines, manifestos, and movement ephemera) and other primary sources (such as memoir, photography and documentary film).

WMST UN3311 Colloquium in Feminist Theory. 4 points.

Prerequisites: LIMITED TO 20 BY INSTRUC PERM; ATTEND FIRST CLASS

An exploration of the relationship between new feminist theory and feminist practice, both within the academy and in the realm of political organizing.

WMST UN3312 Theorizing Activism. 4 points.

Prerequisites: Critical Approaches or Feminist Theory or permission of instructor.

Helps students develop and apply useful theoretical models to feminist organizing on local and international levels. It involves reading, presentations, and seminar reports. Students use first-hand knowledge of the practices of specific women's activist organizations for theoretical work.

WMST BC3506 Memory, Childhood and Dictatorship. 4 points.

Not offered during 2020-2021 academic year.

Prerequisites: Limited to 20 students. 'What is a 'normal' childhood under a dictatorship? Focusing on the last Argentine military dictatorship (1976 – 83), the seminar examines the memory of childhood experience in sociocultural, historiographic and cinematographic approaches. Topics include childhood as political subject, public policy aimed at children, children of the disappeared and everyday life.
Our primary desires with respect to non-human animals? How do we relate to them? How do we account for our animal nature while reconciling our cultural aspirations? What are non-human animals? How do we account for the cultures and contents of Western science. We will consider how knowledge is produced by particular bodies in particular spaces and times.

**WMST BC3510 Interpreting Bodies: Engendering the Black Body. 4 points.** Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Prerequisites: Students must attend first day of class and admission will be decided then. Enrollment limited to 20 students. This course examines how the body functions as an analytic model and a process of embodiment by focusing on the black female body in particular. Looking at feminist theorizing of the black body, it explores how the black female body has been marked in particular ways and with profound effects.

**WMST BC3512 Art/Work: Sex, Aesthetics, and Capitalism. 4 points.**

Prerequisites: none

How can performances, theatrical texts, and other art/media objects illuminate the operations of gender, sexuality, and race in global capitalism? Drawing from a range of artistic media and critical traditions, we explore how aesthetic thought can help us analyze the sexual, racial, and national character of contemporary labor and life.

Spring 2020: WMST BC3512

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**WMST BC3513 Critical Animal Studies. 4 points.**

"This course collaborates between students and professor, humans and animals, subjects and objects, to investigate the Animal Problem. What are non-human animals? How do we relate to them? How do we account for our animal nature while reconciling our cultural aspirations? What are our primary desires with respect to non-human animals?"

**WMST BC3514 Historical Approaches to Feminist Questions. 4 points.**

This course will provide students with a comparative perspective on gender, race, and sexuality by illuminating historically specific and culturally distinct conditions in which these systems of power have operated across time and space. In particular, the course seeks to show how gender has not always been a binary or primary category system. Such approach is also useful in understanding the workings of race and sexuality as mechanisms of differentiation. In making these inquiries, the course will pay attention to the intersectional nature of race, gender, and sexuality and to strategic performances of identity by marginalized groups.

Spring 2020: WMST BC3514

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Fall 2020: WMST BC3514

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**WMST BC3518 Studies in U.S. Imperialism. 4 points.**

BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Social Analysis (SOC I).

Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 20 students.

Historical, comparative study of the cultural effects and social experiences of U.S. imperialism, with attention to race, gender and sexuality in practices of political, economic, and cultural domination and struggle. Material includes studies of US Imperialism in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam, and Cuba and US foreign involvements in the developing world since World War II.

Fall 2020: WMST BC3518

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**WMST BC3519 Sex Work and Sex Trafficking: Empowerment, Exploitation, and the Politics of Sex. 4 points.**

Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 15 students.

This course explores the history, politics, and social meaning of sex work. Focusing particularly but not exclusively upon prostitution, we will pay careful attention to the diverse range of social experiences which form sex work, as well as the way in which prostitution is utilized as a governing metaphor within sexual relations more generally. Some questions the course will consider: How has sex work changed over time, and what do these changes tell us about both the nature of sex work and about the broader society? In what ways is sex work similar to or different from other forms of service labor or other types of intimate relationship? How do questions of race, class, sexuality and gender alter the meaning and experience of sex work? What sorts of desires and expectations do clients bring to interactions with sex workers, and in what ways have these shifted over time? Recent controversies concerning sex trafficking and underage prostitution will also be addressed, as will the effects of various regulatory schemes which have been developed around the world.
WMST UN3525 Senior Seminar: Knowledge, Practice, Power. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to senior majors.
The Senior Seminar in WGSS offers you the opportunity to develop a capstone research project during the first semester of your senior year. The capstone project may be freestanding, or, with permission of the instructor, may be continued during the spring semester as a Senior Thesis. The capstone project must be based on original research and involve an interdisciplinary approach to the study of women, sexuality, and/or gender. You must work with an individual advisor who has expertise in the area of your project and who can advise you on the specifics of method and content. Your grade for the semester will be determined by the Senior Seminar instructor in consultation with your advisor.

WMST BC3530 Feminist Media Theory. 4 points.
The integration of contemporary media and social practices of all types is intensifying. This seminar examines media theory and various media platforms including Language, Photography, Film, Television, Radio, Digital Video, and Computing as treated by feminists, critical race and queer theorists, and other scholars and artists working from the margins.

WMST BC3599 Independent Research. 3-4 points.
Prerequisites: HUMA UN1123
Feminist Listening: Critical and Intersectional Approaches to Popular Music develops modes of feminist listening to a variety of examples in popular music including hip-hop, pop, rock, R&B, country music, and crossover/experimental music. By examining the sonic, textual, and visual components of popular music in relation to gender, sexuality, the body, race, ethnicity, economics, and nation, students will develop a critical vocabulary for discussing and analyzing the effects and meanings of popular music as filtered by twenty-first century listeners. Through close listening, discussion of assigned readings and pieces, and analytical writing on recorded and live performances, the course will encourage students to examine a wide repertory of popular music by using a variety of intersectional analytical “sieves,” refining and enriching their experience of popular music as critically astute listeners and writers. This course is designed for students who are interested in sharpening their listening practices but does not assume previous formal study of music. The course 1) introduces the fundamental of music through exercises in listening and writing, 2) focuses on a selection of current literature on listening, theoretical approaches to music analysis, and feminist/queer criticism; 3) attunes students to the various indices of musical structure (melody, form, harmony, rhythm & meter, words, flow & groove, performance); 4) brings together these parts of music into feminist/queer, alternative hearings of specific works. COURSE

WMST UN3813 Colloquium on Feminist Inquiry. 4 points.
Prerequisites: WMST V1007 and the instructor’s permission.
A survey of research methods from the social sciences and interpretive models from the humanities, inviting students to examine the tension between the production and interpretation of data. Students receive firsthand experience practicing various research methods and interpretive strategies, while considering larger questions about how we know what we know.

WMST UN3915 Gender and Power in Transnational Perspective. 4 points.
Enrollment limited to 15.
Prerequisites: Instructor approval required
Considers formations of gender, sexuality, and power as they circulate transnationally, as well as transnational feminist movements that have emerged to address contemporary gendered inequalities. Topics include political economy, global care chains, sexuality, sex work and trafficking, feminist politics, and human rights.

If it is a small world after all, how do forces of globalization shape and redefine both men’s and women’s positions as as workers and political subjects? And, if power swirls everywhere, how are transnational power dynamics reinscribed in gendered bodies? How is the body represented in discussions of the political economy of globalization? These questions will frame this course by highlighting how gender and power coalesce to impact the lives of individuals in various spaces including workplaces, the home, religious institutions, refugee camps, the government, and civil society, and human rights organizations. We will use specific sociological and anthropological case studies, to look at how various regimes of power operate to constrain individuals as well as give them new spaces for agency. This course will enable us to think transnationally, historically, and dynamically, using gender as a lens through which to critique relations of power and the ways that power informs our everyday lives and identities.

WMST W3916 Historical Approaches to Feminist Questions. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Historical Approaches to Feminist Questions examines issues of gender and sexuality across time and space. We explore how feminist analyses may reorient how we think about the past. We also ask how historical perspectives can bring the contingent and contextual nature of ideas about gender and sexuality into relief. We will consult both primary and secondary historical sources as well as key theoretical texts on the politics of women’s history and the history of sexuality in intersection with other forms of identity and inequality.
WMST W4301 Early Jewish Women Immigrant Writers: 1900-1939. 4 points.
BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Literature (LIT).
Enrollment limited to 15.
Prerequisites: students must attend first day of class and admission will be decided then.
Covers significant pre-Holocaust texts (including Yiddish fiction in translation) by U.S. Ashkenazi women and analyzes the tensions between upholding Jewish identity and the necessity and/or inevitability of integration and assimilation. It also examines women's quests to realize their full potential in Jewish and non-Jewish communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

WMST GU4302 The Second Wave and Jewish Women’s Artistic Responses: 1939-1990. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to 13 students. A study of Jewish women’s fiction, memoirs, and film in response to the feminist/gender issues raised by the Second Wave. The seminar includes analysis of the writings and artwork of Jo Sinclair, Tillie Olsen, Judy Chicago, Helene Aylon, Elana Dykewomon, Rebecca Goldstein, E.M. Broner and others.

WMST BC4303 Gender, Globalization, and Empire. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 20 students.
Study of the role of gender in economic structures and social processes comprising globalization and in political practices of contemporary U.S. empire. This seminar focuses on the ways in which transformations in global political and economic structures over the last few decades including recent political developments in the U.S. have been shaped by gender, race, sexuality, religion and social movements.

WMST W4304 Gender and HIV/AIDS. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to 15 students. An interdisciplinary exploration of feminist approaches to HIV/AIDS with emphasis on the nexus of science and social justice.

WMST W4305 Feminist Postcolonial Theory. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Critical Approaches and/or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to 20 students.
Examines important concerns, concepts and methodological approaches of postcolonial theory, with a focus on feminist perspectives on and strategies for the decolonization of Eurocentric knowledge-formations and practices of Western colonialism. Topics for discussion and study include orientalism, colonialism, nationalism and gender, the politics of cultural representations, subjectivity and subalternity, history, religion, and contemporary global relations of domination.

WMST W4307 Sexuality and the Law. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: Because this seminar emphasizes weekly discussion and examination of the readings, enrollment is strictly limited to 20 students. Please read and follow the updated instructions: 1) Interested students must write a 50-100 word essay answering the following question: ‘What background, experience or expertise do you bring to the discussion of Sexuality and the Law that will help inform and challenge the other 19 students in the class?’; 2) Include the following: your name, institution you are graduating from, year of graduation, declared major, and whether you are working towards a Women’s Studies major or minor; 3) Send your information and essay through email with the subject line ‘Barnard Sexuality & the Law’; 4) Send your email to Riya Ortiz, WS Department Assistant, at sortiz@barnard.edu no later than Wednesday, September 1, 2010. The final list of students who are registered for the course will be announced on Friday, September 3, 12 pm. Classes start on Monday, September 13. (Note: Students who have registered for the course must also submit the essay to guarantee their registration).
Explores how sexuality is defined and contested in various domains of law (Constitutional, Federal, State), how scientific theories intersect with legal discourse, and takes up considerations of these issues in family law, the military, questions of speech, citizenship rights, and at the workplace.

WMST W4308 Sexuality and Science. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Examines scientific research on human sexuality, from early sexology through contemporary studies of biology and sexual orientation, surveys of sexual behavior, and the development and testing of Viagra. How does such research incorporate, reflect, and reshape cultural ideas about sexuality? How is it useful, and for whom?

WMST W4309 Sex, Gender and Transgender Queries. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 20 students.
Sex, sexual identity, and the body are produced in and through time. “Trans” – as an identity, a set of practices, a question, a site, or as a verb of change and connection – is a relatively new term which this course will situate in theory, time, discipline, and through the study of representation.

WMST W4320 Queer Theories and Histories. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Enrollment limited to 20. The course will cover a range of (mostly U.S. and mostly 20th-Century) materials that thematize gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender experience and identity. We will study fiction and autobiographical texts, historical, psychoanalytic, and sociological materials, queer theory, and films, focusing on modes of representing sexuality and on the intersections between sexuality and race, ethnicity, class, gender, and nationality. We will also investigate connections between the history of LGBT activism and current events. Authors will include Foucault, Freud, Butler, Sedgwick, Anzaldua, Moraga, Smith. Students will present, and then write up, research projects of their own choosing.
WMST GU4325 Embodiment and Bodily Difference. 4 points.

At once material and symbolic, our bodies exist at the intersection of multiple competing discourses, including the juridical, the techno-scientific, and the biopolitical. In this course, we will draw upon a variety of critical interdisciplinary literatures—including feminist and queer studies, science and technology studies, and disability studies—to consider some of the ways in which the body is constituted by such discourses, and itself serves as the substratum for social relations. Among the key questions we will consider are the following: What is natural about the body? How are distinctions made between presumptively normal and pathological bodies, and between psychic and somatic experiences? How do historical and political-economic forces shape the perception and meaning of bodily difference? And most crucially: how do bodies that are multiply constituted by competing logics of gender, race, nation, and ability offer up resistance to these and other categorizations?

WMST BC2150 Practicing Intersectionality: The interdisciplinary study of race, gender, and ethnicity. 3 points.


This introductory course for the Interdisciplinary Concentration or Minor in Race and Ethnicity (ICORE/MORE) is open to all students. We focus on the critical study of social difference as an interdisciplinary practice, using texts with diverse modes of argumentation and evidence to analyze social differences as fundamentally entangled and co-produced. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of this course, Professor Jordan-Young will frequently be joined by other faculty from the Consortium for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies (CCIS), who bring distinct disciplinary and subject matter expertise. Some keywords for this course include hybridity, diaspora, borderlands, migration, and intersectionality.

Cross-Listed Courses

Africana Studies (Barnard)

AFRS BC3134 Unheard Voices: African Women's Literature. 4 points.

How does one talk of women in Africa without thinking of Africa as a 'mythic unity'? We will consider the political, racial, social and other contexts in which African women write and are written about in the context of their located lives in Africa and in the African Diaspora.

AFRS BC3562 Caribbean Sexualities. 4 points.

The seminar offers an interdisciplinary study of sexualities in the Caribbean from the conquest to the contemporary moment. The principal focus will be on how sexualities intersect with questions of gender, race, nation, and diaspora in the Anglophone, Francophone and Spanish-speaking Caribbean. We will approach the study of Caribbean sexualities from various disciplines and areas of study, including history, anthropology, sociology, ethnomusicology, performance studies, literary studies, gender studies, cultural studies, and postcolonial theory. The first part of the seminar addresses Caribbean sexuality in the context of conquest, colonization and slavery, and then national independence. The remainder of the course addresses areas that have drawn particularly intense scholarly debates, including Caribbean family formation, masculinities, and same-sex desire, as well as sex tourism, and the gender and sexual politics of Caribbean popular music and dance.

Anthropology

Art History (Barnard)
Classics
Classics (Barnard)
Comparative Literature (Barnard)
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race
Dance (Barnard)
East Asian Languages and Cultures
Economics (Barnard)
Economics
English (Barnard)
French (Barnard)
History
History (Barnard)

HIST BC3870 Gender and Migration: A Global Perspective. 4 points.


Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor. Enrollment limited to 15. Preregistration required. Sophomore Standing. Explores migration as a gendered process and what factors account for migratory differences by gender across place and time; including labor markets, education demographic and family structure, gender ideologies, religion, government regulations and legal status, and intrinsic aspects of the migratory flow itself.
Music
Psychology (Barnard)
Religion (Barnard)
Sociology (Barnard)

SOCI BC3920 Advanced Topics in Gender and Sexuality. 4 points.
This research and writing-intensive seminar is designed for senior majors with a background and interest in the sociology of gender and sexuality. The goal of the seminar is to facilitate completion of the senior requirement (a 25-30 page paper) based on “hands on” research with original qualitative data. Since the seminar will be restricted to students with prior academic training in the subfield, students will be able to receive intensive research training and guidance through every step of the research process, from choosing a research question to conducting original ethnographic and interview-based research, to analyzing and interpreting one’s findings. The final goal of the course will be the production of an original paper of standard journal-article length. Students who choose to pursue their projects over the course of a second semester will have the option of revisiting their articles further for submission and publications.

Fall 2020: SOCI BC3920

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<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<td>SOCI 3920</td>
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SOCI BC3935 Gender and Organizations. 4 points.
This course examines the sociological features of organizations through a gender lens. We will analyze how gender, race, class, and sexuality matter for individuals and groups within a variety of organizational contexts. The course is grounded in the sociological literatures on gender and organizations.

Spanish and Latin American Cultures (Barnard)
Theatre (Barnard)

THTR UN3140 Performing Women. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 16 students. This course examines the category of ‘woman’ as it is mobilized in performance, considering both a variety of contemporary performances chosen from a wide range of genres and a diversity of critical/theoretical perspectives. Course may fill either the Theory requirement, or one (of two) required courses in dramatic literature/theatre studies/performance studies for Theatre/Drama and Theatre Arts major, but not both.

Fall 2020: THTR UN3140

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