WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department:

Department website: https://issg.columbia.edu/
Office location: 763 Schermerhorn Extension
Office contact: 212-854-3277, issg@columbia.edu
Director of Undergraduate Studies: Professor Elizabeth Povinelli, ep2122@columbia.edu

Undergraduate Program

Located within the Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender, and taught in cooperation with Barnard College’s Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the program in Women’s and Gender Studies provides students with a culturally and historically situated, theoretically diverse, and transnational understanding of feminist and queer scholarship as it engages multiple disciplines.

The program introduces students to key feminist and queer discourses on the cultural and historical representation of nature, power, and the social construction of difference. It encourages students to engage in the debates regarding the ethical and political issues of equality and justice that emerge in such discussion, and links the questions of gender and sexuality to those of racial, ethnic, and other kinds of social difference.

Through sequentially organized courses in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, as well as approved elective courses in a wide range of departments, the degree provides a thoroughly interdisciplinary framework, methodological training, and substantive guidance in specialized areas of research. Small classes taught by our core faculty members and mentored thesis writing give students an education that is both comprehensive and tailored to individual needs.

Graduates leave the program with critical reading, writing, and analytical skills, and gain the tools they need to analyze systems of power operating at personal, national, and international levels. While this prepares some for future scholarly work in the field of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality studies, others take these skills and apply them to careers and future training in a variety of fields, including: law, public policy, social work, community organizing, public health, film, journalism, medicine, and other professions where gender and sexuality are currently being reimagined and there is a need for critical and creative interdisciplinary thought.

Student Advising

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Professor Elizabeth Povinelli, ep2122@columbia.edu

Consulting Advisers

For advising inquiries, students should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Elizabeth Povinelli, at ep2122@columbia.edu to schedule an appointment.

To stay informed about departmental updates and events, students can sign up for the list-serv by emailing issg@columbia.edu. The list-serv releases a weekly newsletter every Thursday, providing information about course offerings, internship opportunities, research projects, and other relevant announcements.

ISSG hosts various events throughout the year, including an annual welcome party for students every fall semester. To view current and previous events, students can visit the ISSG Events Page.

Enrolling in Classes

Certain courses within the WGSS major may have prerequisite coursework that students are expected to have completed or pursue before enrolling. These prerequisites are designed to ensure students have the necessary background knowledge and skills to succeed in the course. Students should review the course descriptions and program requirements on the ISSG Courses page to determine if any prerequisite coursework applies to their desired courses.

Preparing for Graduate Study

For personalized guidance on preparing for graduate study in WGSS, schedule an appointment with the WGSS Director of Undergraduate Studies. They can offer tailored advice based on your academic and career aspirations, helping you navigate the path to advanced study in the field.

Coursework Taken Outside of Columbia

Coursework in fulfillment of a major or minor [or special program or concentration] must be taken at Columbia University unless explicitly noted here and/or expressly permitted by the Director of Undergraduate Studies of the program. Exceptions or substitutions permitted by the Director of Undergraduate Studies should be confirmed in writing by email to the student.

Barnard College Courses

All Barnard courses are treated as part of the available curriculum and accepted in the major/minor.

Transfer Courses

When students transfer to Columbia from other institutions, their coursework at their previous institution must first be considered by their school in order to be evaluated for degree credit (e.g., to confirm that the courses will count toward the 124 points of credit that every student is required to complete for the B.A. degree). Only after that degree credit is confirmed, departments may consider whether those courses can also be used to fulfill specific degree requirements toward a major or minor [or special program or concentration].

Transfer courses can be considered as transfer credit at the discretion of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Once degree credit has been confirmed by Columbia, students should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) to request a review of transfer credit. Please provide course syllabi for each transfer course you wish to apply toward your degree requirements to the DUS.

Study Abroad Courses

Courses taken abroad through Columbia-led programs (i.e., those administered by Columbia's Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement and taught by Columbia instructors) are treated as Columbia courses, equivalent to those taken on the Morningside Heights campus. If they are not explicitly listed by the department as fulfilling requirements in the major or minor [or special program or concentration], the DUS will need to confirm that they can be used toward requirements in the major/minor.
Classes taken abroad through other institutions and programs are treated as transfer credit to Columbia, and are subject to the same policies as other transfer courses. There will be a limit on the number of courses taken abroad that can be applied to the major/minor, and they must be approved by the DUS.

**Summer Courses**

Summer courses at Columbia are offered through the School of Professional Studies. Courses taken in a Summer Term may be used toward requirements for the major/minor only as articulated in department/institute/center guidelines or by permission of the Director(s) of Undergraduate Studies. More general policies about Summer coursework can be found in the Academic Regulations section of this Bulletin.

**Undergraduate Research and Senior Thesis**

**Undergraduate Research in Courses**

Building a strong foundation in research questions and methods is integral to advancing one’s understanding of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). Through coursework, students have the opportunity to develop critical research skills while exploring key topics in the field. Here are some courses that introduce students to research methods and their significance:

- **WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies (or WMST UN3125 Introduction to Sexuality Studies)** provides an overview of key concepts, theories, and methodologies in WGSS. Students engage with interdisciplinary approaches to studying gender, sexuality, and identity, laying the groundwork for future research endeavors.

- **WMST UN3311 Feminist Theory** delves into the complexities of feminist thought and theory, equipping students with analytical tools to critically evaluate and conduct research within feminist frameworks. Through readings, discussions, and assignments, students explore various feminist perspectives and methodologies.

**Senior Thesis Coursework and Requirements**

The senior thesis is an independent research project conducted under the guidance of a faculty advisor. It allows students to delve deeply into a specific area of interest within WGSS, applying the research skills and methodologies acquired throughout their undergraduate studies to produce an original scholarly work.

Senior thesis students must be WGSS majors and should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) to ensure they fulfill all requirements before graduation. Eligible students typically begin working on their thesis in the fall of their senior year in WMST UN3521 Senior Seminar I.

For WGSS students awarded honors, participation in WMST UN3522 Senior Seminar II in the spring of their senior year provides an opportunity to further develop their thesis research and writing under faculty guidance.

**Department Honors and Prizes**

**Undergraduate Honors**

Typically, honors in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies will be awarded to students with (1) a grade point average of at least 3.6 or higher in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies or related courses, (2) a senior thesis that has been recommended for honors by the professor of the senior seminar and the student’s faculty advisor, and (3) approval by the College.

A limited number of students are granted this standing, and final approval originates from the Dean’s Office. However, the Undergraduate Director, in consultation with the senior seminar professor and the student’s faculty advisor, may propose honors for an extraordinary academic performance, with final approval resting with the College.

**Undergraduate Awards & Prizes**

ISSG honors undergraduates with three annual prizes recognizing outstanding intellectual achievement: the Queer Studies Award, the Women’s and Gender Studies Award, and the Feminist to the Core Essay Prize.

The Queer Studies Award, inaugurated in 1994, honors an undergraduate for excellence in research and writing in Queer Studies. Winning submissions demonstrate clarity, originality, ambition, and are informed by or engaged in critical issues in Queer Studies.

The Women’s and Gender Studies Award, inaugurated in 2007, honors an undergraduate for excellence in research and writing in the fields of Women’s and Gender Studies. Winning submissions demonstrate clarity, originality, ambition, and are informed by or engaged in critical issues in Women’s and Gender Studies.

The Feminist to the Core Essay Prize, inaugurated in 2017, is awarded annually to the undergraduate who is judged by the ISSG prize committee to have written the best essay on any topic in Feminist or Queer Studies in one of the following Core courses:

- Literature Humanities
- Contemporary Civilization
- Art Humanities
- Music Humanities

Undergraduates are invited to compete for all three awards in a given year, but may not submit the same essay for consideration for multiple awards. Prize applications can be accessed on the ISSG Undergraduate Awards and Prizes page.

Additional questions? Contact us at 212.854.3277 or by email at issg@columbia.edu

Other Important Information

**FORMS AND RELATED RESOURCES**

**Major Milestone Form**

**Why WGSS?**

**WGSS Library Resources at Butler**

**Guidance for Undergraduate Students in the Department**

**Program Planning for all Students**

Students who entered Columbia (as first-year students or as transfer students) in or after Fall 2024 may select from a curriculum of a major. The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, and role of majors...
and minors in those requirements, can be found in the Academic Requirements section of the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student matriculated at Columbia and the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student was a sophomore and declared programs of study.

Students who entered Columbia in or before the 2023-2024 academic year may select from a curriculum of majors and minors and concentrations. The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, and the role of majors and minors in those requirements, can be found in the Academic Requirements section of the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student matriculated at Columbia and the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student was a sophomore and declared programs of study.

Course Numbering Structure
Our course numbering system is designed to indicate the level of specialization and prerequisites associated with each course:

- **1000-level Courses**: Introductory, providing foundational knowledge for students new to the subject.
- **2000-level Courses**: Intermediate, building upon foundational concepts and delving deeper into specific topics.
- **3000-level Courses**: Intermediate to Advanced, typically seminars, most requiring prerequisite coursework or prior knowledge and exploring complex themes and methodologies.
- **4000-level Courses**: Advanced undergraduate and first year graduate courses. Typically taken by graduate students; advanced students (juniors and seniors) or those with extensive background.

Guidance for First-Year Students
Consider enrolling in either WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies or WMST UN3125 Introduction to Sexuality Studies. These courses provide a comprehensive introduction to key concepts and theories in the field.

Check course availability and prerequisites when registering for classes. Be sure to plan your schedule accordingly, keeping introductory courses in mind.

Schedule an appointment with the WGSS Director of Undergraduate Studies for personalized advice tailored to your interests and goals. They can help you plan your academic trajectory and navigate your first year effectively.

Guidance for Transfer Students
Consider starting with either WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies or WMST UN3125 Introduction to Sexuality Studies. These courses provide a comprehensive introduction to key concepts and theories in the field. Prioritize classes that match your interests and degree requirements.

Transfer Credit Evaluation: After Columbia confirms degree credit, contact the DUS to review transfer courses and submit syllabi for evaluation.

You may need to complete your degree in a compressed timeline. Work closely with the DUS to ensure timely graduation.

Undergraduate Programs of Study

### Major in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Total Number of Courses in Major:** 11

**Total Points for Major:** 37-43 points

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>WMST UN1001</td>
<td>INTRO-WOMEN # GENDER STUDIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>or WMST UN3125</td>
<td>INTRO TO SEXUALITY STUDIES</td>
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<td>WMST UN3311</td>
<td>FEMINIST THEORY</td>
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<td>WMST UN3514</td>
<td>HIST APPROACHES TO FEM QUESTNS</td>
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<td>WMST UN3521</td>
<td>SENIOR SEMINAR I</td>
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<td>WMST UN3915</td>
<td>GENDER, SEXUALITY &amp; POWER IN TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES</td>
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* Six approved Elective Courses on women, gender, and/or sexuality in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.*

* Electives will be selected in coordination with the director of undergraduate studies to best suit students’ specific interests and to provide them with the appropriate range of courses, whether their focus is ethnic studies, pre-med, pre-law, sociology, public health, queer studies, visual culture, literature, or another area of interest. Students are encouraged to take a broad interdisciplinary approach. The director of undergraduate studies will help students fine-tune their academic program in conjunction with IRWGS courses, cross-listed courses, and other courses offered at Columbia.

For students who entered Columbia in or before the 2023-24 academic year

Concentrations are available to students who entered Columbia in or before the 2023-2024 academic year. The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, and the role of the concentration in those requirements, can be found in the Academic Requirements section of the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student matriculated at Columbia and the Bulletin dated the academic year when the student was a sophomore and declared programs of study.

Concentrations are not available to students who entered Columbia in or after Fall 2024.

### Concentration in Women’s and Gender Studies

The same requirements as for the major, with the exception of WMST UN3521 SENIOR SEMINAR I.

### Special Program for Those Majoring in Another Department

WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies or WMST UN3125 Introduction to Sexuality Studies; plus four additional approved elective courses on gender.
Fall 2024

WMST BC1006 Introduction to Environmental Humanities. 3.00 points.

COURSE DESCRIPTION This course introduces students to key concepts and texts in environmental humanities, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary studies of race, gender, sexuality, capital, nation, and globalization. The course examines the conceptual foundations that support humanistic analyses of environmental issues, climate crisis, and the ethics of justice and care. In turn, this critical analysis can serve as the basis for responding to the urgency of calls for environmental action.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES Students will learn what difference humanistic studies make to understanding environmental issues and climate crisis. The course will prepare students to: Identify humanistic methods and how they contribute to understanding the world; Demonstrate critical approaches to reading and representing environments; Engage ethical questions related to the environment; and Apply concepts from the course to synthesize the student's use of humanistic approaches to address urgent environmental questions.

WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches in Social and Cultural Theory. 3.00 points.

This course examines the conceptual foundations that support feminist and queers analyses of racial capitalism, security and incarceration, the politics of life and health, and colonial and postcolonial studies, among others. Open to all students; required for the major in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) and the Interdisciplinary Concentration or Minor in Race and Ethnicity (ICORE/MORE). The course explores nonbinary perspectives through four units: Lineages, Institutions, Culture, and Politics. The first unit will take students through a historically grounded study of where and why we might look for nonbinary in the past, how the existence of a binary and challenges to it have each shaped genealogies of feminist, queer, and trans thought in the past, and how binary and nonbinary figures have been central to the medicine, psychology, and science of sex. The second unit will allow students to examine the interactions between nonbinary gender and institutional structures such as the state, the prison system, academic knowledge, and the built environment, asking whether nonbinary reconceptualizations of institutions can provide new insight on how to live in relation to them. The third unit will trace the emergence of nonbinary through popular culture, personal experience, and the intersections of race and globalization, asking critical questions about how the rapid flow of culture laid the groundwork for nonbinary's emergence at the same time as it ensured its potentially uneven distribution. The final unit will encourage students to engage with political stakes of nonbinary, investigating the backlashes against its emergence and exploring what forms of collective politics nonbinary gender might enable. Throughout, students will be asked to actively theorize nonbinary gender and its role in 21st century life and the interdisciplinary study of gender and sexuality.

Spring 2024: WMST BC2150 INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISMS. 3.00 points.

Enrollment for this class is by instructor approval and an application is required. Please fill out the form here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FtpQslD77cC2KlK83iZu2DExE784gLafDhxx9T_e7XPTvAN0pITSSQ/viewform?pli=1

WMST BC3000 NONBINARY PERSPECTIVES. 4.00 points.

The course explores nonbinary perspectives through four units: Lineages, Institutions, Culture, and Politics. The first unit will take students through a historically grounded study of where and why we might look for nonbinary in the past, how the existence of a binary and challenges to it have each shaped genealogies of feminist, queer, and trans thought in the past, and how binary and nonbinary figures have been central to the medicine, psychology, and science of sex. The second unit will allow students to examine the interactions between nonbinary gender and institutional structures such as the state, the prison system, academic knowledge, and the built environment, asking whether nonbinary reconceptualizations of institutions can provide new insight on how to live in relation to them. The third unit will trace the emergence of nonbinary through popular culture, personal experience, and the intersections of race and globalization, asking critical questions about how the rapid flow of culture laid the groundwork for nonbinary's emergence at the same time as it ensured its potentially uneven distribution. The final unit will encourage students to engage with political stakes of nonbinary, investigating the backlashes against its emergence and exploring what forms of collective politics nonbinary gender might enable. Throughout, students will be asked to actively theorize nonbinary gender and its role in 21st century life and the interdisciplinary study of gender and sexuality.
WMST BC3132 GENDERED CONTROVERSIES. 4.00 points.
Love and sex have long been studied as historical constructs influenced by social, political, and economic dimensions. This course aims to expand this discourse by incorporating the often-overlooked lens of technological mediation. Beginning with the premise that Romantic love is deeply shaped by the affordances of the technology of the time, a critical awareness of technological mediation in romance—especially of digital technologies, i.e., online dating, social media, or cybersex—allows for a deeper understanding of how social categories such as gender, race, class, ability, or sexuality are technologically-mediated, thereby informing our societal and cultural perceptions of love, dating, and sex. Sandra Moyano-Ariza is Term Assistant Professor of WGSS and Research Director at BCRW. Her research works at the intersection of pop culture, philosophy, and digital technologies, with interests in the fields of media studies and digital scholarship, contemporary feminist theory, critical race theory, posthumanism, and affect theory.

Fall 2024: WMST UN3152

WMST UN3152 Queer/Trans Holocaust History. 4.00 points.
The Holocaust is one of the most researched horrors of the Modern past. Yet, the study of queer and trans Holocaust histories is relatively new. This upper-level course covers the key analytics that the Holocaust has generated within the historical discipline, but from the position of queer and trans scholarship. It attends to the varying and uneven experiences of queer and trans people under Nazism, but equally fronts new methods and conclusions about the Holocaust, state and individual violence, social hygiene practices, the role of sex within society, identity formations, and the relationship of the present to the past.

Fall 2024: WMST UN3152

WMST UN3311 FEMINIST THEORY. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: LIMITED TO 20 BY INSTRUC PERM; ATTEND FIRST CLASS. This course explores the formation of desire, sexuality, and subjectivity through the frameworks of feminist epistemologies (the question of what we can know) and feminist ethics (the question of how to be responsible within our relationships and local and global communities). We will reflect on the tension between the limits of what we can know about ourselves and others and the imperative to care for each other and remain accountable for our individual and collective actions and inaction. We will investigate how our deepest emotions, intimate encounters, and secret fantasies are formed by larger social and political contexts. In turn, we will also question how these intimate relationships with ourselves and our companions may be seen as feminist acts of resistance, disruption, and creation. Objective I: to closely engage diverse feminist perspectives in late-twentieth- and twenty-first-century phenomenology, existentialism, Marxism, queer theory, critical race theory, and psychoanalysis. Objective II: to begin to locate your own feminist perspective within the intersection of your unique experiences and the larger historical and social contexts that form you and which you seek to transform.

Spring 2024: WMST UN3311

WMST UN3521 SENIOR SEMINAR I. 4.00 points.
The Senior Seminar in Women’s Studies offers you the opportunity to develop a capstone research paper by the end of the first semester of your senior year. Senior seminar essays take the form of a 25-page paper based on original research and characterized by 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 thesis and who can advise you on the specifics of method and content. Your grade for the semester will be determined by the instructor and the advisor. Students receiving a grade of B or higher in Senior Seminar I will be invited to register for Senior Seminar II by the Instructor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Senior Seminar II students will complete a senior thesis of 40-60 pages. Please note, the seminar is restricted to Columbia College and GS senior majors.

Fall 2024: WMST UN3521

WMST UN3525 Senior Seminar I (Barnard). 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to senior majors. Student-designed capstone research projects offer practical lessons about how knowledge is produced, the relationship between knowledge and power, and the application of interdisciplinary feminist methodologies.

Fall 2024: WMST UN3525
WMST UN3915 GENDER, SEXUALITY & POWER IN TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES. 4.00 points.

Enrollment limited to 15.

Prerequisites: Instructor approval required
This course considers formations of gender, sexuality, and power as they circulate transnationally, as well as transnational feminist and queer movements that have emerged to address contemporary gendered and sexual inequalities. Topics include political economy, global care chains, sexuality, sex work and trafficking, feminist and queer politics, and human rights. If it is a small world after all, how do forces of globalization shape and redefine the relationship between gender, sexuality, and powerful institutions like the state? And, if power swirls everywhere, how are transnational power dynamics reinscribed in gendered bodies? How is the body represented in discussions of nationalism and in the political economy of globalization? These questions will frame this course by highlighting how gender, sexuality, and power coalesce to impact the lives of individuals in various spaces including workplaces, the academy, the home, religious institutions, the government, and civil society, and human rights organizations. This course will enable us to think transnationally, historically, and dynamically, using gender and sexuality as lenses through which to critique relations of power and the ways that power informs our everyday lives and subjectivities.

Spring 2024: WMST UN3915

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<td>Sonia Ahsan</td>
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Fall 2024: WMST UN3915

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<td>Tara Gonsalves</td>
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WMST GU4000 GENEALOGIES OF FEMINISM. 4.00 points.

Genealogies of Feminism: Course focuses on the development of a particular topic or issue in feminist, queer, and/or WGSS scholarship. Open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates, though priority will be given to students completing the ISSG graduate certificate. Topics differ by semester offered, and are reflected in the course subtitle. For a description of the current offering, please visit the link in the Class Notes.

Fall 2024: WMST GU4000

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<td>Julia Bryan-Wilson</td>
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WMST W4308 SEXUALITY AND SCIENCE. 4.00 points.

Fall 2024: WMST W4308

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<td>Rebecca Jordan-Young</td>
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WMST GU4336 GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN YIDDISH LITERATURE. 4.00 points.

Early publications in Yiddish, a.k.a. the mame loshn, "mother tongue," were addressed to "women and men who are like women," while famed Yiddish writer, Sholem Aleichem, created a myth of "three founding fathers" of modern Yiddish literature, which eliminated the existence of Yiddish women writers. These examples indicate, gender has played a significant role in Yiddish literary power dynamics. This course will explore representation of gender and sexuality in modern Yiddish literature and film in works created by Sholem Aleichem, Sholem Asch, Fradl Shtok, Sh. An-sky, Malka Lee, Anna Margolin, Celia Dropkin, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Kadya Molodowsky, Troim Katz Handler, and Irena Klepfisz. You will also acquire skills in academic research and digital presentation of the findings as part of the Mapping Yiddish New York project that is being created at Columbia. No knowledge of Yiddish required.

Fall 2024: WMST GU4336

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Spring 2024

WMST UN3311 FEMINIST THEORY. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: LIMITED TO 20 BY INSTRUC PERM; ATTEND FIRST CLASS
This course explores the formation of desire, sexuality, and subjectivity through the frameworks of feminist epistemologies (the question of what we can know) and feminist ethics (the question of how to be responsible within our relationships and local and global communities). We will reflect on the tension between the limits of what we can know about ourselves and others and the imperative to care for each other and remain accountable for our individual and collective actions and inaction.
We will investigate how our deepest emotions, intimate encounters, and secret fantasies are formed by larger social and political contexts. In turn, we will also question how these intimate relationships with ourselves and our companions may be seen as feminist acts of resistance, disruption, and creation. Objective I: to closely engage diverse feminist perspectives in late-twentieth- and twenty-firstcentury phenomenology, existentialism, Marxism, queer theory, critical race theory, and psychoanalysis. Objective II: to begin to locate your own feminist perspective within the intersection of your unique experiences and the larger historical and social contexts that form you and which you may seek to transform.

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WMST UN3514 HIST APPROACHES TO FEM QUESTNS. 4.00 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. Beginning in the early modern period, the course seeks to
destabilize contemporary notions of gender and sexuality and instead
probe how race, sexuality, and gender have functioned as mechanisms
of differentiation embedded in historically contingent processes. Moving
from “Caliban to Comstock,” students will probe historical methods for
investigating and critically evaluating claims about the past. 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. This semester, we will engage research by
historians of sexuality, gender, and capitalism to critically reflect on
the relationship between critical studies of the past and debates about
reproductive justice, bodily autonomy, and gay and lesbian rights in our
contemporary moment

Spring 2024: WMST UN3514
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 3514  001/12162  W 2:10pm - 4:00pm 794 Ext Schermerhorn Hall  Salomee Bhaman  4.00  24/24

WMST UN3915 GENDER, SEXUALITY & POWER IN TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES. 4.00 points.
Enrollment limited to 15.

Prerequisites: Instructor approval required
This course considers formations of gender, sexuality, and power as
they circulate transnationally, as well as transnational feminist and queer
movements that have emerged to address contemporary gendered and
sexual inequalities. Topics include political economy, global care chains,
sexuality, sex work and trafficking, feminist and queer politics, and human
rights. If it is a small world after all, how do forces of globalization shape
and redefine the relationship between gender, sexuality, and powerful
institutions like the state? And, if power swirls everywhere, how are
transnational power dynamics inscribed in gendered bodies? How is
the body represented in discussions of nationalism and in the political
economy of globalization? These questions will frame this course by
highlighting how gender, sexuality, and power coalesce to impact the lives
of individuals in various spaces including workplaces, the academy, the
home, religious institutions, the government, and civil society, and human
rights organizations. This course will enable us to think transnationally,
historically, and dynamically, using gender and sexuality as lenses
through which to critique relations of power and the ways that power
informs our everyday lives and subjectivities

Spring 2024: WMST UN3915
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 3915  001/11763  F 12:10pm - 2:00pm 794 Ext Schermerhorn Hall  Sonia Ahsan  4.00  14/20

Fall 2024: WMST UN3915
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 3915  001/13512  W 2:10pm - 4:00pm 794 Ext Schermerhorn Hall  Tara Gonsalves  4.00  15/18

WMST GR6001 THEORETICAL PARADIGMS. 4.00 points.
Theoretical Paradigms in Feminist Scholarship: Course focuses on the
current theoretical debates of a particular topic or issue in feminist, queer,
and/or WGSS scholarship. Open to graduate students, with preference
given to students completing the ISSG graduate certificate. Topics
differ by semester offered, and are reflected in the course subtitle. For a
description of the current offering, please visit the link in the Class Notes

WMST GR8001 GRAD STUDENT # FACULTY COLLOQ. 1.00 point.
This is a course oriented to graduate students who are thinking about
issues in teaching in the near and distant future and want to explore
forms of pedagogy. The course will ask what it means to teach “as a
feminist” and will explore how to create a classroom receptive to feminist
and queer methodologies and theories regardless of course theme/
content. Topics include: participatory pedagogy, the role of political
engagement, the gender dynamics of the classroom, modes of critical
thought and disagreement. Discussions will be oriented around student
interest. The course will meet 4-5 times per SEMESTER (dates TBD) and
the final assignment is to develop and workshop a syllabus for a new
gender/sexuality course in your field. Because this course is required for
graduate students choosing to fulfill Option 2 for the Graduate Certificate
in Feminist Studies at IRWGS, priority will be given to graduate students
completing the certificate

WMST 2140 CRITICAL APPROACHES IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL THEORY. 3.00 points.
This course examines the conceptual foundations that support feminist
and queer analyses of racial capitalism, security and incarceration, the
politics of life and health, and colonial and postcolonial studies, among
others. Open to all students; required for the major in Women's, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) and the Interdisciplinary Concentration or
Minor in Race and Ethnicity (ICORE/MORE)

Spring 2024: WMST BC2140
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 2140  001/00763  T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm  L002 Milstein Center  Liana Spahn  3.00  86/90

Spring 2024: WMST BC1050 WOMEN AND HEALTH. 3.00 points.
Combines critical feminist and anti-racist analyses of medicine with
current research in epidemiology and biomedicine to understand health
and health disparities as co-produced by social systems and biology

Spring 2024: WMST BC1050
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 1050  001/00733  T Th 10:10am - 11:25am  L002 Milstein Center  Cecelia Lie-Spaahn  3.00  66/70

WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches in Social and Cultural Theory. 3.00 points.
This course examines the conceptual foundations that support feminist
and queer analyses of racial capitalism, security and incarceration, the
politics of life and health, and colonial and postcolonial studies, among
others. Open to all students; required for the major in Women's, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) and the Interdisciplinary Concentration or
Minor in Race and Ethnicity (ICORE/MORE)

Spring 2024: WMST BC2140
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 2140  001/00763  T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm  L002 Milstein Center  Janet Jakobsen  3.00  66/70

Fall 2024: WMST BC2140
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 2140  001/00135  M 2:10pm - 4:00pm 324 Milbank Hall  Alexander Pittman  3.00  35/35
WMST BC2150 INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISMS. 3.00 points.
Enrollment for this class is by instructor approval and an application is required. Please fill out the form here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLsd7cC2KL_K83siu2DxEx784GLaFdyxv9T_e7XPtvAN0fp7TSQ/viewform?pli=1 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, the professor 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.

Spring 2024: WMST BC2150
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Fall 2024: WMST BC2150
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WMST BC2950 Science, Technology, Power. 3.00 points.
This course explores the entanglements of technology, science, bodies, culture, and power, with a focus on post-World War II U.S. society. In this lecture course, we will draw on history, feminist thought, anthropology, sociology, science fiction, and visual/digital art to investigate the historical and cultural contexts shaping the dreams, practices, and products of technoscience. We will explore technologies and sciences as sites of power, complex pleasures, and embodied transformations in our own everyday lives.

Spring 2024: WMST BC2950
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WMST BC3138 AFFECT AND ACTIVISM. 4.00 points.
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).

Spring 2024: WMST BC3138
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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 2024: WMST BC3512
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WMST UN3813 Knowledge, Practice, Power. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: WMST V1001 and the instructor’s permission.
Knowledge, Practice, Power is a practical and multi-disciplinary exploration of research methods and interpretive strategies used in feminist scholarship, focusing on larger questions about how we know what we know, and who and what knowledge is for. Open to non-majors, but sophomore and junior majors in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) are encouraged to enroll in this course as preparation for Senior Seminar I. This course is required for students pursuing the concentration or minor in Feminist/Intersectional Science and Technology Studies. Prerequisite: Either one introductory WGSS course or Critical Approaches to Social and Cultural Theory or Permission of the Instructor.

Spring 2024: WMST UN3813
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WMST UN3526 SENIOR SEMINAR II. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to senior majors.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to senior majors. Individual research in Womens Studies conducted in consultation with the instructor. The result of each research project is submitted in the form of the senior essay and presented to the seminar.

Spring 2024: WMST UN3526
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<td>WMST 3526</td>
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WMST GU4210 BLACK GEOGRAPHIES. 4.00 points.
Far from obvious renderings of place, maps are spatial arguments about who belongs where and how living should be defined. This course approaches place as something that is contested daily in the U.S. through the struggle of who gets to lay claim to a way of life. From the landscapes of dispossession to the alternative ways marginalized people work with and against traditional geographies, this course centers Black place-making practices as political struggle. This class will look at how power and domination become a landed project. We will critically examine how ideas about “nature” are bound up with notions of race, and the way “race” naturalizes the proper place for humans and non-human others. We will interrogate settler colonialism’s relationships to mapping who is and isn’t human, the transatlantic slave trade as a project of terraforming environments for capital, and land use as a science for determining who “owns” the earth. Centered on Black feminist, queer and trans thinkers, we will encounter space not as something given by maps, but as a struggle over definitions of the human, geography, sovereignty, and alternative worlds. To this end, we will read from a variety of disciplines, such as Critical Black Studies, Feminist and Intersectional Science Studies, Black Geographies and Ecologies, Urban Studies and Afrofuturist literature. (Note: this class will count as an elective for the CCIS minors/concentrations in F/ISTS, ICORE/MORE, and Environmental Humanities.)

Spring 2024: WMST GU4210
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 4210 001/00770 Th 12:10pm - 2:00pm 227 Milbank Hall Marisa Solomon 4.00 14/16

WMST GU4310 CONTEM AMER JEWISH WOMEN’S LIT. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 15 students. Sophomore standing. The seminar will focus on trends that have emerged over the past three decades in Jewish American women’s writing in the fields of memoirs, fiction and Jewish history: the representation and exploration through fictive narratives of women’s experiences in American Jewish orthodox communities; reinterpretation of Jewish history through gender analysis; the recording of migration and exile by Jewish women immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Morocco, Iran, and Egypt; and gender transformations. Texts will be analyzed in terms of genre structures, narrative strategies, the role of gender in shaping content and Jewish identity, and the political, cultural and social contexts in which the works were created. The course aims for students to discuss and critically engage with texts in order to develop the skills of analytical and abstract thinking, as well as the ability to express that critical thinking in writing. Prerequisites: Both one introductory WGSS course and Critical Approaches to Social and Cultural Theory, or Permission of the Instructor.

Spring 2024: WMST GU4310
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 4310 001/00771 T 4:10pm - 6:00pm 225 Milbank Hall Agnieszka Legutko 4.00 14/20

WMST GU4330 SWANA Diasporas: Culture, Politics and Identity Formation in a Time of War. 4.00 points.
In this class we will study South-West Asian and North African (SWANA) diasporic populations, social movements and cultural production that have responded to the multi-faceted ramifications of the 21st century war on terror. We will focus on diverse Arab, Iranian, and Afghan diasporas in the United States, where 19th and 20th century legacies of racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and Orientalism combined in new ways to target these groups after the September 11th, 2001 attacks. Drawing on an interdisciplinary array of texts, including ethnography, fiction, feminist and queer theory, social movement theory, and visual and performance art, we will look at how the “war on terror” has shaped the subjectivities and self-representation of SWANA communities. Crucially, we will examine the gender and sexual politics of Islamophobia and racism and study how scholars, activists and artists have sought to intervene in dominant narratives of deviance, threat, and backwardness attributed to Muslim and other SWANA populations. This course takes up the politics of naming, situating the formation of “SWANA” as part of an anti-colonial genealogy that rejects imperial geographies such as “Middle East.” We will ask how new geographies and affiliations come into being in the context of open-ended war, and what new political identities and forms of cultural production then become possible.

Spring 2024: WMST GU4330
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 4330 001/00772 T 12:10pm - 2:00pm 113 Milstein Center Manijeh Moradian 4.00 14/20

WMST GU4336 GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN YIDDISH LITERATURE. 4.00 points.
Early publications in Yiddish, a.k.a. the mame loshn, ‘mother tongue,’ were addressed to “women and men who are like women,” while famous Yiddish writer, Sholem Aleichem, created a myth of “three founding fathers” of modern Yiddish literature, which eliminated the existence of Yiddish women writers. As these examples indicate, gender has played a significant role in Yiddish literary power dynamics. This course will explore representation of gender and sexuality in modern Yiddish literature and film in works created by Sholem Aleichem, Sholem Asch, Fradl Shток, Sh. An-sky, Malka Lee, Anna Margolin, Celia Dropkin, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Kadya Molodowsky, Troim Katz Handler, and Irena Klepfisz. You will also acquire skills in academic research and digital presentation of the findings as part of the Mapping Yiddish New York project that is being created at Columbia. No knowledge of Yiddish required.

Fall 2024: WMST GU4336
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 4336 001/00556 T 4:10pm - 6:00pm 306 Milbank Hall Agnieszka Legutko 4.00 9/20