Women's and Gender Studies

Program Office: 763 Schermerhorn Extension; 212-854-3277; 212-854-7466 (fax)
https://issg.columbia.edu/

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Lila Abu-Lughod, 756 Schermerhorn Extension; la310@columbia.edu

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.

Major in Women's and Gender Studies

The requirements for this program were modified on September 22, 2014. Students who declared this program before this date should contact the director of undergraduate studies for the department in order to confirm their correct course of study.

Students should plan their course of study with the undergraduate director as early in their academic careers as possible. The requirements for the major are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST UN1001</td>
<td>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or WMST UN3125</td>
<td>Introduction to Sexuality Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST UN3311</td>
<td>FEMINIST THEORY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST UN3514</td>
<td>Historical Approaches to Feminist Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST UN3521</td>
<td>Senior Seminar I</td>
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<td>WMST UN3915</td>
<td>GENDER # POWER IN GLOBAL PERSP</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 healthy, 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.

Concentration in Women's and Gender Studies

The requirements for this program were modified on September 22, 2014. Students who declared this program before this date should contact the director of undergraduate studies for the department in order to confirm their correct course of study.

The same requirements as for the major, with the exception of WMST UN3521 Senior Seminar I.

Special Concentration for Those Majoring in Another Department

The requirements for this program were modified on September 22, 2014. Students who declared this program before this date should contact the director of undergraduate studies for the department in order to confirm their correct course of study.

WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies; plus four additional approved elective courses on gender.
Fall 2022

WMST UN3311 FEMINIST THEORY. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: LIMITED TO 20 BY INSTRUC PERM; ATTEND FIRST CLASS
This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to key themes in contemporary feminist thought. Attention will be devoted to how the intersections of race, gender, class, nation and sexuality, as well as the politics of deviance, shape feminist theory. This course aims to introduce students to key theoretical contributions of feminist thought. The course emphasizes an understanding of feminist theories through the political, historical and cultural contexts in which they developed. Topics covered will include the production of racialized, gendered, and sexualized bodies through cultural productions, public policies and technology; Marxist Feminism; postcolonial feminism; transnational and diasporic practices; politics of representation and queer theory. Prerequisite: Either one introductory WGSS course or Critical Approaches to Social and Cultural Theory or Permission of the Instructor

WMST UN3521 Senior Seminar I. 4 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.

WMST GU4235 Indigenous Feminisms. 4 points.
Indigenous women, queers, trans- and Two Spirit people have been at the forefront of activism and resistance to state incursion into Indigenous lands and waters. This was evident most recently at Mauna Kea, a mountain sacred to Kanaka Maoli in Hawaii as women, trans and queer formed the first line of resistance and occupation against the construction of a 1000-meter telescope on the site. This is not unique, their voices, along with indigenous queer and feminist scholars, have been working to address issues as far-ranging as mascots, settler appropriation of indigenous cultures, missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, and the violence against indigenous urban youth. This seminar will consider how those indigenous feminist, queer, and Two Spirit scholars have theorized gender, sexuality, race, and colonialism, alongside issues of land, water and sovereignty. We will read works that consider how indigeneity challenges how gender and sexuality are expressed in the context of settler colonialism and racial capitalism.

WMST GU4305 Decolonization and Feminist Critique. 4.00 points.
This advanced seminar examines historical, social, cultural, and theoretical propositions for decolonizing praxis and their complex relations to feminist critique. How do we understand Western European colonialism and coloniality as modes, conditions, and institutions of power, dispossession, subjugation, and subjection continuing into the present? What are the methods, practices, and vision enacted and proposed by the colonized for undoing and radically transforming the determinate logics, instruments, and structures of colonialism as these persist in the present moment? We will consider how gender and sexuality as well as race – as technologies of social organization, codes of valuation, and modes of survival – shape colonialism and the struggles against it. We will inquire into their significance to projects of decolonization. How might decolonization envision and make possible other ways of life?

WMST GU4322 Planetary Questions. 4.00 points.
This advanced seminar examines important approaches, issues, perspectives, and themes related to planetary concerns of environmental crisis, climate change, life sustainability, and multi-species flourishing, with a focus on feminist, postcolonial, anti-racist, and queer perspectives. Topics for discussion and study include the global pandemic, histories of colonialism, slavery, and capitalism. Prerequisites: BOTH 1 WMST Intro course PLUS any WGSS 'Foundation' course, OR instructor permission.

Fall 2022: WMST GU4322
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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WMST 4322 | 001/00693 | W 12:00pm - 1:50pm 119 Milstein Center | Neferti Tadiar | 4 | 15/15

Fall 2022: WMST GU4305
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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WMST 4305 | 001/00702 | Th 12:00pm - 1:50pm 119 Milstein Center | Neferti Tadiar | 4 | 20/18

Fall 2022: WMST GU4325
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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WMST 4235 | 001/11772 | T 4:10pm - 6:00pm 754 Ext Schermerhorn Hall | Manu Karuka, Audra Simpson | 4 | 17/15

Fall 2022: WMST UN3311
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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WMST 3311 | 001/00398 | W 4:10pm - 6:00pm 111 Milstein Center | Marisa Solomon | 4.00 | 22/20

Fall 2022: WMST UN3521
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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WMST 3521 | 001/11769 | M 2:10pm - 4:00pm 754 Ext Schermerhorn Hall | Lila Abu-Lughod | 4 | 4/10

Spring 2022: WMST UN3311
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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WMST 3311 | 001/00096 | Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm 306 Milbank Hall | Marisa Solomon | 4.00 | 17/16

WMST UN3521 Senior Seminar I. 4 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.
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 6001
Number 001/12322
Course Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 6001 T 2:10pm - 4:00pm 754 E. Schermerhorn Hall Lila Abu-Lughod 4.00 10/20

WMST GR6100 Queer Feminist Theories of Art. 4.00 points.
What happens when we understand art as an active producer of theory, rather than as an object to which theory might be "applied"? This seminar proposes that recent art has catalyzed and shaped advanced feminist and queer thought, and asks how visual art practices have been engines of theoretical propositions about the entanglements of genders, sexualities, racialization, desire, state power, archives, migration, utopias/dystopias, loss, anger, visibility/opacity, world-making, etc. We will focus our speculations around a series of case studies from around the world to think about how insistently intersectional feminist, trans, and queer knowledge is embodied, generated, and performed within works, acts, and objects themselves. Modeling more horizontal methods of learning in alignment with queer feminist pedagogies, students will participate in building our reading list and will collaboratively lead discussions. Artists/artist's groups might include Asco, Sadie Barnette, fierce pussy, Jeffrey Gibson, Félix González-Torres, Glenn Ligon, Candice Lin, Julie Mehretu, Yasumasa Morimura, Zanele Muholi, Senga Nengudi, Cecilia Vicuña, and Martin Wong.

WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches in Social and Cultural Theory. 3.00 points.
This course examines the conceptual foundations that support feministic 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 2022: WMST BC2140
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 2140 001/00397 T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 328 Milbank Hall Janet Jakobsen 3.00 41/58

Fall 2022: WMST BC2140
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 2140 001/00694 T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 504 Diana Center Marisa Solomon 3.00 70/70

WMST BC2150 PRACTICING INTERSECTIONALITY. 3.00 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, 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 2022: WMST BC2150
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 2150 001/00179 T W 8:40am - 9:55am L002 Milstein Center Rebecca Jordan-Young, Marisa Solomon 3.00 77/95

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.

Fall 2022: WMST BC3131
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 3131 001/00696 W 4:10pm - 6:00pm L016 Milstein Center Laura Kay 4 20/18

WMST BC3132 Gendered Controversies: Women's Bodies and Global Conflicts. 4 points.
BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Social Analysis (SOC I).
Investigates the significance of contemporary and historical issues of social, political, and cultural conflicts centered on women's bodies. How do such conflicts constitute women, and what do they tell us about societies, cultures, and politics? - D. Ko

Fall 2022: WMST BC3132
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 3132 001/00697 W 2:10pm - 4:00pm 501 Diana Center Janet Jakobsen 4 25/30

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?"
Assimilation, mainstreaming, globalization and pink capitalism. Representation and activism and we will ask difficult questions about lives. We will trace the intersection of histories of labor, medicine, particular attention to how sex, gender, race, class, sexuality, sexual desire, race, objects, relationality, being, knowing and becoming. We will consider sexuality, desire and gender not as a discrete set of bodily articulations, nor as natural expressions of coherent identities so much as part off the formulation of self that Avery Gordon names “complex personhood.” Beginning with a recent film from the UK that rereads queerness back through a history or labor and ending with a recent film made entirely on the iPhone and that stages queerness as part of an articulation of Hollywood, we will explore new and old theories of queer desire.

Through the readings, discussions, and assignments, you will develop critical analytical skills to consider social change movements with particular attention to how sex, gender, race, class, sexuality, sexual orientation, and other systems of power shape people’s everyday lives. We will trace the intersection of histories of labor, medicine, representation and activism and we will ask difficult questions about assimilation, mainstreaming, globalization and pink capitalism.

Spring 2022

WMST BC3530 Feminist Media Theory. 4.00 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. Prerequisite: Either one introductory WGSS course or Critical Approaches to Social and Cultural Theory or Permission of the Instructor

WMST BC3530
Course Number: 3530
Section/Call Number: 001/00177
Times/Location: M 2:10pm - 4:00pm
306 Milbank Hall
Instructor: Jonathan Beller
Points: 4.00
Enrollment: 13/20

WMST UN3311 Feminist Theory. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: LIMITED TO 20 BY INSTRUC PERM; ATTEND FIRST CLASS
This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to key themes in contemporary feminist thought. Attention will be devoted to how the intersections of race, gender, class, nation and sexuality, as well as the politics of deviance, shape feminist theory. This course aims to introduce students to key theoretical contributions of feminist thought. The course emphasizes an understanding of feminist theories through the political, historical and cultural contexts in which they developed. Topics covered will include the production of racialized, gendered, and sexualized bodies through cultural productions, public polices and technology; Marxist feminism; postcolonial feminism; transnational and diasporic practices; politics of representation and queer theory. Prerequisite: Either one introductory WGSS course or Critical Approaches to Social and Cultural Theory or Permission of the Instructor

WMST UN3311
Course Number: 3311
Section/Call Number: 001/00398
Times/Location: W 4:10pm - 6:00pm
306 Milbank Hall
Instructor: Jonathan Beller
Points: 4.00
Enrollment: 17/18

WMST UN3311
Course Number: 3311
Section/Call Number: 002/00811
Times/Location: W 4:10pm - 6:00pm
407 Barnard Hall
Instructor: Lila Abu-Lughod
Points: 4.00
Enrollment: 20/20

WMST UN3655 Gender and Public Health: Disparities, Pathways, and Policies. 3.00 points.
This seminar provides an intensive introduction to critical thinking about gender in relation to public health. We begin with a rapid immersion in social scientific approaches to thinking about gender in relation to health, and then examine diverse areas in which gendered relations of power—primarily between men and women, but also between cis- and queer individuals—shape health behaviors and health outcomes. We engage with multiple examples of how gendered social processes, in combination with other dimensions of social stratification, shape health at the population level. The overarching goal of this class is to provide a context for reading, discussion, and critical analysis to help students learn to think about gender—and, by extension, about any form of social stratification—as a driver of patterns in population health. We also attend consistently to how public health as a field is itself a domain in which gender is reproduced or contested

WMST UN3655
Course Number: 3655
Section/Call Number: 001/12312
Times/Location: W 8:10am - 10:00am
511 Kent Hall
Instructor: Jennifer Hirsch
Points: 3.00
Enrollment: 13/13
Prerequisites: Instructor approval required
This seminar 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, colonialism/postcoloniality, war, refugees, global care chains, sexuality, sex and care work. Required for the major in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS), but open to non-majors, space permitting. Prerequisite: Either one introductory WGSS course or Critical Approaches to Social and Cultural Theory or Permission of the Instructor

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)

WMST 2150 PRACTICING INTERSECTIONALITY. 3.00 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, 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

WMST 2950 Science, Technology, Power. 3.00 points.
This course explores the intimate 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
Women's and Gender Studies

WMST V3312 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.

Spring 2022: WMST V3312
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 3312  001/00403  F 10:10am - 12:00pm  Kimberly Springer  4  15/20

WMST UN3526 Senior Seminar II. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to senior majors.
Individual research in Women's 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 2022: WMST UN3526
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 3526  001/00424  Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm  Janet Jakobsen  4  3/99

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 2022: WMST UN3813
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 3813  001/00406  Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm  Rebecca Jordan-Young  4.00  7/20

WMST GU4310 CONTAM 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 2022: WMST GU4310
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
WMST 4310  001/00175  T 4:10pm - 6:00pm  Agnieszka Legutko  4.00  14/20

WMST BC3814 ACTIVISM # INQUIRY LAB A. 1.00 point.
This lab course is an optional addition to the WGSS junior colloquia courses “Theorizing Feminist Activisms” and “Feminist Inquiry”; students must take one of those courses simultaneously with this lab. The lab gives students an opportunity to gain practical experience with one or more qualitative research methods that are frequently used in feminist and gender studies. It will be particularly valuable as groundwork for senior thesis research, but all students enrolled in Theorizing Activisms or Feminist Inquiry are encouraged to take the lab to deepen their understanding of practical and ethical issues in conducting research in support of social change.

Spring 2022: WMST BC3814
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor
WMST 3814  001/00406  Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm  Rebecca Jordan-Young
318 Milbank Hall