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 Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST UN1001</td>
<td>INTRO-WOMEN # GENDER STUDIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or WMST UN3125</td>
<td>INTO TO SEXUALITY STUDIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST UN3311</td>
<td>FEMINIST THEORY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST UN3514</td>
<td>HIST APPROACHES TO FEM QUESTNS</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST UN3521</td>
<td>SENIOR SEMINAR I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST UN3915</td>
<td>GENDER, SEXUALITY # POWER IN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES</td>
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</table>

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 INTRO-WOMEN # GENDER STUDIES; plus four additional
approved elective courses on gender.

Fall 2023

WMST UN3125 INTRO TO SEXUALITY STUDIES. 3.00 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 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 report 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.

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
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<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 3521</td>
<td>001/11745</td>
<td>W 12:10pm - 2:00pm 754 Ext Schemerhorn Hall</td>
<td>Jack Halberstam</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>8/10</td>
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</table>

### 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.

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<tr>
<td>WMST 4000</td>
<td>001/11746</td>
<td>T 10:10am - 12:00pm 754 Ext Schemerhorn Hall</td>
<td>Julia Bryan-Wilson</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>8/18</td>
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</table>

### 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 make to understanding environmental issues and climate crisis.

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<td>WMST 2140</td>
<td>001/00763</td>
<td>T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm 1302 Milstein Center</td>
<td>Janet Jakobson</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>67/70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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).

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>WMST 2140</td>
<td>001/00135</td>
<td>M 2:10pm - 4:00pm 324 Milbank Hall</td>
<td>Alexander Pittman</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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### WMST BC2150 INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISMS. 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.

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<td>WMST 2150</td>
<td>001/00764</td>
<td>T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 405 Milbank Hall</td>
<td>Marisa Solomon</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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### WMST BC3131 WOMEN AND SCIENCE. 4.00 points.
**Prerequisites:** Enrollment limited to 18 students. Students must complete WMST BC2150. 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.

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<tr>
<td>WMST 2150</td>
<td>001/00022</td>
<td>T Th 10:10am - 11:25am 504 Diana Center</td>
<td>Manijeh Moradian</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0/60</td>
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</table>
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 may seek to transform.

Spring 2024
WMST UN3311
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 3311 001/11762 Th 10:10am - 12:00pm 754 Ext Schermerhorn Hall Rachel Aumiller 4.00 17/22

Fall 2024
WMST UN3311
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 3311 001/00575 T 12:10pm - 2:00pm 214 Milbank Hall Rebecca Jordan-Young 4.00 8/18

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
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 3525 001/00576 Th 12:10pm - 2:00pm 202 Milbank Hall Manijeh Moradian 4.00 8/20

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 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

Spring 2024
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 in 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 754 Ext Schermerhorn Hall Salonee Bhaman 4.00 24/24
Women’s and Gender Studies

WMST UN3915 GENDER, SEXUALITY & POWER IN TRANSTATIONAL 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

WMST GR8880 FEMINIST THEORIES OF REPRESENTATION. 4.00 points.
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

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)

WMST BC2150 INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISMS. 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 BC2950 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.

Spring 2024: WMST BC2950
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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>WMST 2950</td>
<td>001/00765</td>
<td>T Th 6:10pm - 7:25pm</td>
<td>Jacqueline Orr</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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WMST BC313B 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 BC313B
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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>001/00766</td>
<td>W 12:10pm - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Manijeh Moradian</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>12/15</td>
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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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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>001/00767</td>
<td>M 2:10pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Alexander Pittman</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18/20</td>
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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 in 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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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>WMST 3813</td>
<td>001/00769</td>
<td>M 4:10pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Sandra</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>12/20</td>
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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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<th>Course Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 3526</td>
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<td>W 4:10pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bernstein</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3/15</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 a 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
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<td>WMST 4210</td>
<td>001/00770</td>
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<td>Marisa Solomon</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>14/16</td>
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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

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