

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

## FALL 2015 REGISTRATION/ADVISING NEWSLETTER

*We urge you to please see your advisor prior to registration. It is especially important that you receive appropriate advisement and that we keep your records updated. WGS faculty will be posting sign-up sheets outside their offices. Be sure to sign up!*

- \* Registration for the Fall 2015 semester begins on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 and runs through Friday, April, 17, 2015. You can find the date and time at which you become eligible to register on PAWS. If you have yet to do so, please familiarize yourself with the PAWS system.
- \* If you don't know who your advisor is, then find out. Your advisor should be listed on your PAWS account. If your advisor is not listed, please call the Women's and Gender Studies Department office at 609-771-2539.
- \* Prior to your advisement appointment, retrieve all the necessary information you will need.
- \* Review the WGS Department Advising Syllabus at: <http://wgs.pages.tcnj.edu/for-students/advising/>
- \* Review the requirements for your program. Check the courses offered. Devise a tentative schedule for the Fall including back-up courses. Put desired courses in your PAWS shopping cart.
- \* Bring your updated Academic Requirement Report to your advisement meeting.
- \* If you are a double major with the School of Education as your first major, you must also make an appointment to see your Education advisor.

### WGS MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

#### **Section I: Five Core courses**

WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society  
 WGS 325 Feminist Theories  
 WGS 398 Field Study in Women's Studies  
 WGS 495 or 496 Senior Seminar  
 Gender in Global Perspectives - choose from:  
 WGS 260/AAS 280 Women of African Descent in Global Perspective  
 WGS 360/LIT 334 Lit by Latinas and Latin American Women\*  
 WGS 375 Transnational Feminisms  
 WGS 376/LIT 316 Global Women Writers \*  
 WGS 380/HON 338 Gender & Democracy  
 WGS 381/ANT 311 Woman & Migration

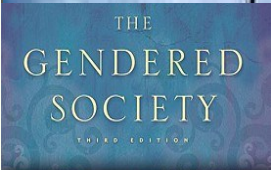
\* Elementary Education and Early Childhood majors must choose:  
 WGS 376/LIT 316 Global Women Writers or  
 WGS360/LIT 334 Lit by Latinas and Latin American Women

#### **Section II: Women's & Gender Studies Options** Five additional WGS courses. \*

\* Elementary Education and Early Childhood majors must choose:  
 WGS 225 Gender and Children's Literature  
 Three WGS/HIS courses  
 One additional WGS/English courses

#### **Section III:**

Five courses of the ten in the major must be at a level of 300 or above.



### WGS MINOR REQUIREMENTS

- \* WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society
- \* Four additional WGS courses

### CONCENTRATIONS IN WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

*See the Women's and Gender Studies website for details about possible concentrations:  
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~wgst/>*

#### **Women and Gender**

**Core:** WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society  
**Options:** Take 4 additional WGS courses as described on the Women's and Gender Studies website.

#### **Gender, Nation Democracy**

**Core:** Choose at least 1 from the following:  
 WGS 380/HON 338 Gender and Democracy  
 WGS 375 Transnational Feminisms  
 WGS 310/HON 337/HIS 324 Women in Eastern Europe: 1848-present  
**Options:** Take 4 additional WGS courses as described on the Women's and Gender Studies website.

#### **Sexualities**

**Core:** WGS 250 Politics of Sexuality  
**Options:** Take 4 additional WGS courses as described on the Women's and Gender Studies website.

#### **Women in Learning and Leadership**

**Core:** WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society – Leadership section  
**Options:** Take 4 additional WGS courses as described on the Women's and Gender Studies website.

#### **Gender and Violence**

**Core:** WGS 235 Gender and Violence & Internship (see website)  
**Options:** Four additional WGS courses – 2 in Arts and Humanities and 2 in Social Sciences and History. See website for complete list of options.

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES – FALL 2015

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **WGS 200 - Women, Culture, and Society (LL: Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives; Gender)**

Women, Culture and Society serves as the preliminary course to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. It will provide students with an introduction to the literature and the historical evolution of the discipline, as well as an understanding of how scholars and students in the field analyze women, gender, and feminist theories. It will use an interdisciplinary approach to do this. This introductory course encourages students to rethink and reevaluate much of what they have experienced and learned and to gain the critical vocabulary and analytic skills to question the gendered world in which they live.

### **WGS 220 – Gender and Popular Culture (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender)**

This course offers a critical examination of the messages and “knowledge” that popular culture employs, disseminates and constructs about men and women, masculinity and femininity. We will take our objects of study from a wide range of sources including advertisements, magazines, television, film, cyberspace, hip hop, and sports. Be ready to watch TV, go to the movies, and listen to music as a scholar of gender.

### **WGS 225 – Gender and Children's Literature (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender)**

Our purpose in this course will be to develop a critical appreciation of the roles of children's literature in the social construction of gender--not only how it prescribes or resists normative gender roles, but how it represents the subjective experience of growing up gendered. With a grounding in gender theory and critical texts, we will explore the early beginnings of children's literature in collections of folklore and fairy tales, then move on to modern classics and contemporary favorites, limiting our scope to works for young children and pre-teens.

### **WGS 235 – Gender and Violence (LL: Social or Cultural Perspectives, Gender)**

This course explores the relationship between gender and violence. It is comprised of theoretical perspectives as well as the study of specific forms of violence. Topics include: domestic and intimate partner violence; sexual violence; child abuse; socially institutionalized forms of violence against women; attitudes and reactions to violence; national and global contexts of violence; the gendered character of violence in patriarchal societies; the intersections between violence, race, class and sexuality; men and violence.

### **WGS 240 – Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Studies (LL: Gender; Behavioral, Cultural or Social Perspective)**

Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Studies provides students with an introduction to a quickly evolving field of study that is focused on gay and lesbian identity, politics, culture. Although focused primarily on the categories of “gay” and “lesbian,” this course situates its titular focus within a larger exploration of queer studies, gender analysis, and sexuality studies.

**WGS 252/AAS 252—Gendering the Harlem Renaissance: Black Paris** - Harlem Renaissance 252 focuses on the International section of Harlem Renaissance, the resonance of which was particularly important in Paris during after the First World War. We will interrogate how the social matrices of competing definitions of black identity are reflected in and through writing produced by (and in some case about) blacks in America as well as in the international context. The kinds of questions we will explore include the relationship between literature and social politics, history, community and representation. The courses will also offer students an in-depth exploration of the diverse ways that persons of African descent, and others, articulated and analyzed the key issues of the time.

### **WGS 250 - Politics of Sexuality (LL: Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives; Gender; Community Engagement)**

The political nature of personal life is a central critical concept of Women's and Gender Studies. Politics of Sexuality introduces students to implications of this concept through the study of contested topics concerning sexuality, such as gendered sexual socialization, sexual violence, family structures, poverty and welfare, sexual identities, transgenderism, commodification, risky sexual behaviors, AIDS, sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution, and the traffic in women. Students learn how social norms, political currents, economic practices, and state policies construct their lived realities, governing choices they may have considered natural, private, and individual. They learn to articulate what is at stake in these issues from a variety of standpoints as preparation for making their own informed judgments.

### **WGS 260/AAS 280 - Africana Women in Historical Perspective (LL: Gender; Race & Ethnicity; Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives)**

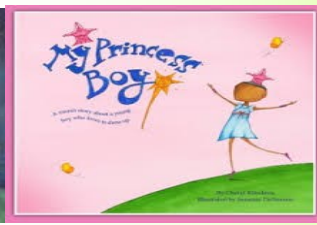
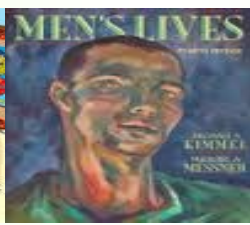
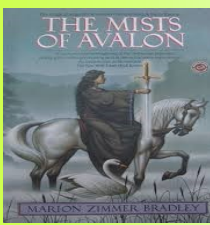
Africana Women in Historical Perspective is a global, cross-cultural survey of the lives and contributions of women of African ancestry. Emphasis will be placed upon shared elements of African culture that, when impacted by colonialism and/or the Atlantic slave trade, resulted in similar types of resistance to oppression, and analogous cultural expression among the women of four locales- Africa, South America and The Caribbean, North America and Europe. Theoretical methodologies, historical narrative, literature, demographic data, material culture, representations of self, and representations by others will be explored to illuminate/explain the: history, cultural artifacts, cultural retentions, and self-concept.

### **WGS 270 –Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (LL: Gender; Behavioral, Social and Cultural Perspectives)**

**Gender and Humor** - Humor is an omnipresent social phenomenon and a situated discursive practice, containing an essential gender dimension. This is very obvious in prevalent (hetero-)sexualized jokes about women and homosexuals, but also with regard to the more subtle use of humor in social interactions to signal communicative authority or humorous stakes as strategic resistance practices against social stigmatization and discrimination, for instance in feminist contexts. The particular emphasis of the class is on social and psychosocial functions of humor in our everyday life. We will take an inter-disciplinary approach that brings together social psychological, sociological, and literary perspectives on the topic.

### **WGS 303/HIS 384 Women in the 20th Century US (LL: Social Change in Historical Perspective; Gender)**

An examination of the history of women in the United States in the 20th century with special emphasis on their roles in political and social movements. The course will focus more on the aspects of the general experiences of women and their political, social, cultural, and familial relationships.



### **WGS 317/LIT 317 Witch in Literature (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender)**

The witch has been a figure in literary history since the beginning of time. Who is she, and what does she embody? Who creates her, and to what end? This course will explore the socio-historical constructions of this figure and trace her through a wide spectrum of literary texts, including legal and historical treatises, fair tales, short stories, drama, film, children's literature, poetry, and even cartoons. Ultimately, we will analyze the literary cultures which have persisted in creating, recreating, and reviving this timeless, powerful, and equally feared character throughout the ages.

### **WGS 320/LIT 315 - Men and Masculinities: Literary Perspectives (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts,; Gender)**

This course focuses on representations of men and masculinity in literary texts, although we may also look at film, video, television, advertising, and music. Some of the issues we will be thinking about include: the construction of modern male identities, the diversity of men's lives, the complex dynamics of men's relationships, and questions of power and social justice within the contemporary gender order.

### **WGS 325 /WGST 510 - Feminist Theories (Prerequisite: at least one WGS course) (LL: World View; Gender)**

This course explores the diverse ways in which feminist theorists conceptualize women's status in society, systems of inequality and the category of "woman" itself. Students will gain an understanding of evolving ideas and debates in feminist theory, relate those to feminist practices, and develop their own theoretical abilities. The course will address the social construction of gender, the relation between feminist theory and activism, and how feminists have responded to issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality in current feminist thinking, as well as the classic feminist texts.

### **WGS 343 Queer Studies (LL: Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Perspectives; Gender)**

This course serves as an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of queer studies, a critical approach to thinking about sexuality that emerged in academic and activist contexts in the early 1990's as a critique of normative models of sex, gender, and sexuality. This course will survey a cross section of queer thought, ranging from some of its earliest expressions by writers such as Foucault, Sedgwick and Butler to some of its contemporary manifestations and innovations (e.g., J.Jack Halberstam's *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender, and the End of Normal*).

Note: While this course has no prerequisites, it is highly suggested that students have advanced writing and analytical abilities and a foundational WGS course.

### **WGS 350/WGST 520 Gender Equity in the Classroom (LL: Gender and Behavioral, Social and Cultural Perspectives)**

This seminar examines theoretical writings on feminist pedagogy and also addresses practical issues related to teaching Women's and Gender Studies. Participants will develop familiarity with feminist pedagogies and their significance for the field of Women's and Gender Studies; interpret their own educational experiences within the context of feminist reflections on education; formulate their own philosophies of education; and develop and test pedagogical strategies for developing critical consciousness about social inequalities.

### **WGS 361/HIS 365/AAS 376 - African American Women's History (LL: Gender, Social Change in Hist. Perspective, Race & Ethnicity)**

African American Women's History examines the lives of women of African descent in the U.S. The Course explores the experiences and contributions of African American women to the development and growth of the United States. Students will learn about African American women's roles in the church, social movements, and social reproduction, and the legacy of forced migration and slavery, and will be able to understand the relationship between African American women and the institutions, movements, individuals, ideas and values of the major eras of U.S. history.

### **WGS 376/LIT 316 - Global Women Writers (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender; Global Perspectives)**

This course will explore various literatures from around the world, encouraging students to examine the politics of gender, culture, and nation as well as the intersections of those systems of power. The explorations will cover a large range of topics, from arranged marriages to women in war in a variety of geographical areas around the world, particularly focusing on non-Western literatures. Common themes include feminist politics, post and neo/colonialisms, reproductive rights, translation, globalization, and activism.

### **WGS 398 - Feminism in the Workplace: Field Study in Women's and Gender Studies (Prerequisite: Two WGS courses. Non-majors should consult Instructor) (LL: Gender; Community Engagement)**

This internship course is a chance for students to consolidate and enrich their undergraduate learning while building the transition to life beyond college. A WGS education trains students to think critically and act strategically on issues of social inequity, particularly relating to gender and sexuality. Feminism in the Workplace therefore focuses not on the nature and demands of particular worksites, but on work itself and organizational practices that arise from feminist theory and scholarship. The course is designed for students of junior or senior standing who are WGS majors or minors, as well as for WILL students.

### **WGS 495 – Senior Seminar: Methods and Theories (LL: Gender) Prerequisite: WGS 325**

This course is the capstone courses for the Women's and Gender Studies major. Students are expected to use expertise gained from their previous WGS courses to research and write their senior theses. Drawing on the methodologies and theories learned in previously taken courses, students work in a small focused seminar that emphasis not only their own work, but also critiquing the work of their peers. Students will produce a research paper applying feminist theories and methodologies. In addition, they will share their work with other students, providing analysis and critiques of one another's papers in progress.

