WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

SPRING 2014 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 Spring 2014 semester begins on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 and runs through Friday, November 15, 2013. 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
WGS 260/AAS 280 Women of Africana Descent in Global Perspective

Section II: Women & Gender Studies Options

Five additional WGS courses.

• Elementary Education and Early Childhood majors must choose:
  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 398 AN 311 Women & Migration

WGS Minor Requirements

• WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society
• Four additional WGS courses

Concentrations in Women’s & Gender Studies

View the Women’s and Gender Studies website for details about possible concentrations: http://www.tcnj.edu/~wgsst/
WGS 200 - Women, Culture, and Society (LL: Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspective; Gender)

Women, Culture and Society serves as the primary course to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. It will provide students with an introduction to the field and the historical evolution of the discipline, as well as an understanding of how scholars and 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 210 - Women and Health: Power, Politics, & Change (LL: Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives, Gender)

This course concerns the domains of women’s bodies and the on-going struggle for sovereignty therein. Students will examine how in addition to pathophysiology, women’s health is impacted by social constructs, specifically history, politics, economics, and research. As a result of this exploration, students will enhance their ability to care for themselves and for others, to use and understand power and empowerment of self and others, and to advocate and be an activist for themselves and for others.

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 consumes. The course will focus on social, cultural, and political commentary in advertisements, magazines, television, film, cyber-space, books, and sports. By ready to watch TV, go to the movies, and listen to music as a scholar of gender.

WGS 225 - Gender and Literature: Culture and Power (LL: Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives, 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 restricts 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 stories for young children and pre-teens.

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 241- Introduction to Sexuality Studies (LL: Gender; Behavioral, Cultural or Social Perspective)

This course serves as an introduction to sexuality from a social perspective. In this way, we will engage in critical analysis of the existing organization and social meaning of sexuality, sexual identities, and sexual practices (as opposed to discussing merely descriptive accounts of doing sexes). Sexuality Studies brings together a variety of intellectual perspectives from the humanities and social sciences; thus, our exploration of “the social construction of sexuality” will draw from scholarly fields as diverse as literature, history, religion, anthropology, law, sociology, psychology, and education, in addition to feminism, queer, and media studies. Topics covered will also be diverse and include: sexual bodies and behavior; intimacy; sexual identities; sexual institutions and sexual commerce; sexual culture; sexual regulations and inequalities; and global and transnational sexualities, among other topics.

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

The political nature of sexual life is a central critical concept of Women’s and Gender Studies. Politics of Sexuality introduces students to implications of the 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 real lives, governing choices they may have in the context of personal, private, and individual. They learn to articulate what it is at stake in these issues from a variety of standpoints as preparation for making their own informed judgments.

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

African 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. Students will compare/contrast 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 context, art, cultural artifacts, cultural restraints, and self-concept.

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 general aspects of the general lives of women and their political, social, cultural, and family relationships.

WGS 306/CIS 325 Sex and Gender in Greco-Roman Antiquity (LL: Gender)

As familiar and contemporary as many aspects of ancient Greece and Rome seem to us today, a significant difference with our own culture marks their dual perspectives toward sex and gender. Ancient constructions of sexual categories, and the social and political roles of these catego-
ries, provide both an important window onto crucial relationships and an opportunity to investigate critically the ways in which we construct these catego-
ries today. This course examines the topic of ancient sexuality both for its own sake, as historical knowledge, and as it relates to our own attitudes, values, and practices, as a sort of dialogue between past and present. Topics to be covered include the concept of sex and gender as social and politi-
cal divisions and constructs of identity and patriarchy; the legal and political status of both sexes; medical, scientific notions of the body; the gendering of space; and attitudes toward family and social networks.

WGS 320/LIT 315 - Men and Masculinities: Literatueary 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 as well. Some of the issues we will be focusing on include: the construction of many different models of masculinity, 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 - Feminist Theories (Prerequisite: at least one WGS course) (LL: World View; Gender)

This course explores the diversity 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 342— LGBTQ Issues in K-12 Education (LL: Gender, Behavioral, Cultural or Social Perspective)

This course examines LGBTQ issues within the context and concerns of K-12 schooling/education. Specifically, we will focus on several themes: heterosexism in schools; homophobic and transphobic forms of bullying and violence; the history of LGBTQ educational struggles; emerging legal rights of LGBTQ students and teachers; the coming out process in high school; LGBTQ and teacher education; queer pedagogies; the politics of gay-straight alliances; the politics of queer youth (sub)cultures and online media; and LGBTQ activism in schools.

WGS 370-01 Topics in WGS: Gender and Peace Building (LL: Gender; Behavioral, Cultural or Social Perspective)

This course offers a critical examination of the messages and “knowledge” that popular culture employs, disseminates and consumes. The course will focus on social, cultural, and political commentary in advertisements, magazines, television, film, cyber-space, books, and sports. By ready to watch TV, go to the movies, and listen to music as a scholar of gender.