

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

SPRING 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 Spring 2015 semester begins on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 and runs through Friday, November 14, 2104. 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 Spring 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

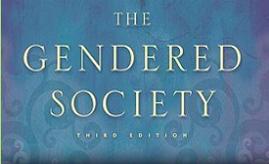
* Elementary Education and Early Childhood majors must choose:
 WGS 376/LIT 316 Global Women Writers or
 WGS360/LIT 334 Lit by Latinas and Latin American Women

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 – SPRING 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 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 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 270 Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (LL: Gender; Behavioral, Cultural or Social Perspective)

Section 02 - Gender and Humor—

Section 03 - Girlhood Studies - (LL: Gender)

Girlhood occupies a precarious place in American culture. Girls are often transformed into symbols, sites of anxiety, and a gauge for national morality. Moreover, in current girlhood studies, the teenage girl presents a conundrum. Many scholars show the overwhelming ills of girls vexed by low self-esteem, growing violent or ‘mean girl’ behaviors, eating disorders, and bad sexual decision-making. But, in light of these many problems, scholars have also taken up the popular mantra of “girl power” to celebrate the agency of girls and their ability to combat normative femininity, misogyny, racism, and sexism. In this class we will consider these approaches to girlhood by focusing specifically on American girlhood, with some attention paid to cross-cultural constructions of girlhood. We will also explore the class, race, ethnic, and sexual differences of girls.

WGS 271/WLC 271 Gender and Language (LL: Gender and Global)

Since its inception in the 1970's, the field of gender and language has grown to encompass a broad range of disciplines (sociolinguistics, anthropology, psychology, communication studies, literature, women's studies, etc.) and theoretical interests. This course will provide an overview of key themes in gender and language research, including what kinds of distinctions in languages are made between men and women; what these differences (if they indeed exist) mean for the lives of men and women in various societies; and how gender is related to power, socio-economic class, and ethnicity in different societies with regard to language use.

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

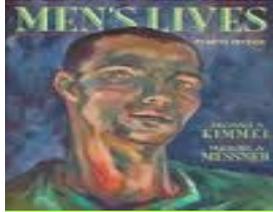
An examination of the history of women in the United States in the 20th century with special emphasis on their roles in political and social movements. The course will focus more on the aspects of the general experiences of women and their political, social, cultural, and familial relationships.

WGS 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 - Feminist Theories/WGST 510– Graduate Section (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 342 LGBTQ Issues in K—12 Education: (LL: Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Perspectives; Gender)

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 360 Lit by Latinas and Latin American Women: (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender; R & E)

A comparative study of Latina and Latin-American women's literature in English. Open to a wide range of literary traditions, nations, time periods, and genres, including those specific to non-Western and post-Colonial cultures.

WGS 361/HIS 365/AAS 376 - African American Women's History (LL: Gender, Social Change in Historical 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 370-01 - Women, Gender, and Peacekeeping (Same has HGS 370-01) (LL: Gender & Global)

Peace activities tend to be gendered: top-level negotiations following a conflict tend to be dominated by the same masculinist values that fuelled the conflict, while grassroots peace action calls on the feminized values of care and community. This course explores the trend in current scholarship and international policy to mainstream gender awareness in studying and planning the transformation of conflicts. We will reconstruct important moments in the history of women's peace work, analyze 21st century efforts to increase women's voices in peace making, and seek the implications for peace action of current scholarship on masculinities, patriarchy, and queerness.

WGS 373/REL 373 - Women and Spirituality (LL: Gender, World Views/Ways of Knowing)

This course examines the concept of a gender-specific way of experiencing spirituality. We will examine the idea of "women's spirituality" and explore questions of: whether the spirituality of women differs from that of men; how women connect to, critique, remember, and transform spiritual experience across cultures.

WGS 374 - Ecofeminism (LL: Gender; World Views/Ways of Knowing)

Building on the core precept that the domination of women and the domination of nature are fundamentally connected, ecofeminism offers a distinctive, interdisciplinary lens on the world, drawing on not only feminism and ecology, but also historical analysis, philosophy of science, cultural study, the arts, community development, spirituality, and a commitment to challenging oppression in all its forms. Through readings in the various disciplinary threads that inform ecofeminism, we will explore ways in which systemic social inequalities shape human relationships to the natural environment; challenge common abuses of the environment and offer alternatives; and study current movements globally.

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.

WGS 496 - Women's Leadership and Social Change (Prerequisite: WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society and WGS 325 Feminist Theories) (LL: Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspective, Community Engagement, Gender)

In this W.I.L.L. capstone seminar course, students will experience the interfaces between empirical knowledge and social policies through selecting, organizing, and implementing a class activism project. This course is the culmination of the W.I.L.L. Program in which students will expand and enhance their leadership skills using acquired strategies and tactics to influence social, political, or economic change.

GRADUATE COURSES FOR THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GENDER STUDIES THAT CAN ALSO COUNT TOWARD ENGLISH MA:

WGST 500 - Gender, Culture and Society

This course serves as an introduction to Gender Studies at the graduate level. It provides an overview of the major questions raised by the interdisciplinary study of gender and sexuality and the challenges it presents to traditional divisions of knowledge. We will privilege dialogue and process while assessing trends in the often tense, but overlapping, areas of feminist, LGBT and queer inquiry. Special attention is given to intersectional and international issues across a range of disciplines, including history, anthropology, psychoanalysis, sexology, critical theory, economics, law, cultural studies, literature, art and film.

