

# Women's and Gender Studies

## Fall 2018 Undergraduate Courses

118Himes Hall • 578-4807 • wgs@lsu.edu • lsu.edu/wgs

To earn a **B.A in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in WGS** (36 credit hours), you have to take WGS 2500, 2900, 3150, and 6 credit hours of WGS 4500; you must also take an approved cross-cultural course (3 credit hours) and also complete 18 additional hours of electives (WGS approved social sciences/humanities of which 9 credit hours must be 3000 level or above).

To be a **WGS Minor** (18 credit hours), you have to take WGS 2500 and 4500 and complete 12 hours of electives, at least 9 hours of which must be at the 3000 level or above. The minor electives must be chosen from at least two of the following areas:

Literature: ENGL 3593, 4593, FREN 4090, 4095, SPAN 4100 .

Culture & Society: ENGL 4493, CLST 2080, HIST 4079, REL 3300, SOCL 4413, 4521, CMST 3115.

Theory: ENGL4593; PHIL 4015; WGS 3150

### WGS COURSE OFFERINGS

#### WGS 2200

##### Gender and Pop Culture

Popular culture forms from a women's and gender studies perspective. Analyzes the intersections of gender, race, class, sexual orientation and age in media such as popular literature, film, television, advertisements, digital media and the Internet.

Peter Cava T/Th 3:00pm-4:20pm

#### WGS 2500

##### Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to how ideas about gender and sexuality affect our lives as women and men, family-members and co-workers, students and citizens. Questions of identity, ethics, economics, education, and social change are explored in a gendered frame. This course meets general education course requirements for Humanities.

Section 1: Dana Berkowitz	100% Web Based
Section 2: Sarah Becker	100% Web Based
Section 3:	MWF 10:30am – 11:20am
Section 4:	MWF 11:30am – 12:20pm
Section 5:	MWF 12:30pm – 1:20pm
Section 6: Peter Cava	T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am
Section 7: Summer Steib	T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am
Section 8: Peter Cava	T/Th 10:30am- 11:50am

Section 9:  
Eric Mayer-Garcia T/Th 12:00pm- 1:20pm

Section 10:  
Peter Cava T/Th 1:30pm- 2:50pm

Section 11:  
Eric Mayer-Garcia T/Th 3:00pm- 4:20pm

Section 12:  
T/Th 9:00am- 10:20am

#### WGS 2900

##### Gender, Race and Nation

This course explores differing gendered experiences across racial, ethnic, cultural, and class divides. In the course, students will explore the question: What does it mean to think "globally" about the experiences of women? We will explore the similarities and differences among women's experiences across a variety of topics. Some of the topics considered in the course include body image across cultures, women's political participation across nations, women's experiences of war and conflict, women and economics, and women's activism across national and international contexts. This course meets general education course requirements for Social Sciences.

Section 1:  
Challen Nicklen MWF 11:30am – 12:20pm

Section 2:  
Challen Nicklen MWF 12:30am-1:20pm

#### WGS 3150.1

##### Survey of Feminist Theory

This is an introductory course in feminist theory. The aim of this course is to provide students with a broad introduction to a wide array of feminist thinkers and feminist theories. We will explore a variety of topics including feminist theories related to bodies, reproduction, sexuality, feminist perspectives on science, intersectionality, global feminisms, and numerous other topics. In addition to simply learning about different theories, the goal is for students to begin to think, write and speak about these theories in a critical manner. Lastly, this course asks to students to consider the connections and disconnections between these theories and their own experiences as gendered beings.

Benjamin Kahan T/Th 1:30pm – 2:50pm

#### WGS 4500.1

##### Black Feminist Theory and Activism

In this course we will examine black feminist thought and activism in the U.S. from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. From Sojourner Truth to Angela Davis to Alicia Garza, black feminists have articulated a politic that centers race and gender in the struggle for social justice. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the expansive and transformative theoretical approaches and on-the-ground work of black feminist individuals and organizations. This course counts towards the AAAS undergraduate concentration and minor; the WGS undergraduate

concentration and minor; and the WGS graduate concentration.

Catherine Jacquet

M/W 1:30pm-2:50pm

### **WGS 4500.2**

#### **Foucault and Feminism**

Contemporary feminist and queer theory maintains a remarkably lively critical engagement with the work of French philosopher Michel Foucault. While not explicitly a feminist (Foucault makes few references to women or gender in his work), feminist scholars have found his exploration of the relations between power, the body and sexuality particularly productive. Foucault's work has contributed to feminist critiques of gender essentialism and to accounts of gendered embodiment even as some theorists point to the limitations of Foucauldian theory for emancipatory political projects. Most recently, Foucault's account of the neoliberal mutation of power—biopolitics—has attracted significant critical attention. The final third of the course will be focused on the uptake of biopower in post-Foucauldian feminist/queer theory.

Deborah Goldgaber

T/Th 1:30pm- 2:50pm

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## ***WGS APPROVED ELECTIVES***

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### ***Social Sciences & Humanities***

#### **ENGL 2593.1**

##### **Images of Women**

An immersion in work that enlarges our understanding of what we mean by "women," and an introduction to critical perspectives that suggest new modes of thinking about art—and life. This section of ENGL2593 explores the writing of a selection of mostly contemporary women writers working in a variety of genres and forms while giving students a working knowledge of relevant theoretical approaches from feminist scholarship. There will be various assigned exercises and an in-class (group) presentation, two short papers and a final (essay) exam will be required. Our reading list includes works by Roxane Gay, Jenny Boylan, Kadajah Queen, and Kathy Acker.

Laura Mullen

T/Th 12:00pm- 1:20pm

#### **SOCL 4521**

##### **Sociology of Gender**

This course is intended to provide a critical perspective on the gendered structure of society and is designed to inform students of the existing academic literature on *the sociology of gender*. The relationship of gender with other axes of inequality and privilege (such as race, social class, and sexuality) will be emphasized throughout the course. We will explore how gender shapes individual lives in various parts of the world and we will question the effects of the increasingly globalized economy on our gendered realities. The exploration of the institutional dimensions of families, education, the workplace, and the state will offer an understanding of the social, economic and cultural factors that shape our lives as men and women. We will ask how these structural forces and institutions shape the experiences of groups of women and men who are differently placed within them. Prerequisite: SOCL 2001 or equivalent.

Dana Berkowitz

W 4:30pm-7:20pm

#### **SW 2500.1**

##### **Intro to LGBTQ Studies**

Surveys the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) experience, existence and influence, in areas of culture, theory, and research.

Elaine Maccio

T/Th 1:30pm – 2:50pm

### ***Cross-Cultural***

#### **ANTH 2051.1**

##### **Intro to World Ethnography**

This is a General Education course. Sex roles, economic pursuits, values, beliefs, families and other institutions of selected nonwestern peoples; implications for American culture.

Helen Regis

M/W/F 12:30pm– 1:20pm

#### **REL 4010**

##### **Black Religion and Film**

This course will use the genre of film to examine African American religion with particular attention given to race, class, gender, and sexuality. Film is an untapped resource for understanding the human condition and interpreting various identities. Consciously or unconsciously, film incorporates elements of religious discourse and practice.

Stephen Finley

M 3:00pm-5:50pm

#### **ENGL 3674.1**

##### **Survey of African American Literature: Black Gems of American Literature**

What are black gems? In terms of geology, a gem is a crystalline rock cut and polished to such a degree that its inner fire becomes valuable for its beauty. A gem is also something valued for its beauty or perfection such as a work of art or a masterpiece of literature. A gem is also a person held in great esteem. Therefore, a black gem is a praiseworthy literary work by an honored black writer with enough fire to burn the imagination. Here are several black gems of American literature: Coates, Douglass, DuBois, Ellison, Hansberry, Hurston, Jacobs, Larsen, Morrison, Washington, Wilson, Wright, and a handful of poets.

A. Gourdine

T/Th 10:30am– 11:50am

### ***Culture & Society***

#### **CMST 3115**

##### **Communication and Gender**

The purpose of this course is to raise students' awareness regarding the ways in which gender is created, maintained, and/or changed through communication. Students will gain theoretical insights and develop analytical skills to identify gendered expectations and learn how such expectations serve to limit behavior for all people. The course will enhance understanding of how predominant social assumptions and communication norms can devalue and silence women and other non-dominant groups and how students can become change agents to enhance our collective lives.

Evan Schares

M/W/F 9:30am- 10:20am

## **COURSES OF RELATED INTEREST**

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### **HIST 4197.2**

#### **Crime Courtroom Dramas**

In this class, we address how American films offer a complex medium for decoding popular conceptions of the nature of crime, the causes of political conspiracies, and the meaning of justice. We begin with *Scarface* (1932), the classic film of the criminal underworld, followed by films on other controversial political topics: southern chain gangs; the film noir world of murder; wartime fears of espionage, treason, and presidential assassination; racial injustice; prejudice and the jury system; women on death row; and corruption in the judicial system. The course covers mostly Hollywood films but ends with a modern documentary, *The Thin Blue Line* (1988), which explores the case of a man on death row. Major assigned readings (other online articles will be used as well) include: *Double Indemnity: The Complete Screenplay* (1989); Robert Burns, *I Am a Fugitive from a Georgia Chain Gang!* (1997); Reginald Rose, *Twelve Angry Men: A Screen Adaptation* (1985); David Ruth, *Inventing the Public Enemy* (1996). Students are required to screen all the assigned films.

Nancy Isenberg

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

### **ENGL 2123.002**

#### **"Woke" Southern Lit**

Discovery, Understanding, Awareness... Freedom? This course examines a counter-tradition of radical southern literary works that call out and resist dominant systems of oppression and exclusion. Focusing on exciting texts about slave rebellions, civil rights protests, labor strikes, struggles over women's rights, LGBTQ activism, and more, we may never see "the South" the same way again. This counts as a Gen-Ed course.

Michael Bibler

M/W/F 10:30am-11:20am

### **ENGL 4173.001**

#### **Southern Sexualities**

"Have you ever been Down South? If not you'd better go. It's a nation of a queer place, day and night a show!" A poet wrote that in 1829, and maybe things ain't changed much since then. We'll study all kinds of literature, theater, and film to explore the shapes and meanings of gender and sexuality for black and white southerners and, of course, for southerners who might be identified as LGBTQ+. Generally, we'll ask what's queer ABOUT the South and what it's like to be queer IN the South--from the 1800s to today.

Michael Bibler

M/W/F 12:30pm-1:20pm

### **ANTH 4023**

#### **Latin American Cultures**

This course provides an introduction to the cultures of Latin America, with a thematic focus on the interconnections between land, politics, and identity. With cases ranging from indigenous landscape alterations in Amazonia to neoliberal identity politics in Guatemala to the territorial clashes of the drug war, the course will provide an anthropological approach to the historical and current configurations of these three factors across the region. We explore the legacies of colonial regimes, gendered configurations of race and indigeneity in different national contexts, environmental and social movements, violent conflict, and the shifting role of the neoliberal state in all of these issues.

Micha Rahder

T/Th 10:30am-11:50am