

# WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:

*Christa Craven (Anthropology and WGSS), Chair*

*Ahmet Atay (Communications), Spring Semester*

*Jeremy Rapport (Religious Studies), Fall Semester*

*Bryan Alkemeyer (English)*

*Sarah Mirza (Religious Studies)*

*Felicia Williams (WGSS Major '18)*

*Joseph Gonzeles (Communications Major, WGSS and English Minors '18)*

The WGSS curriculum is based in feminist scholarship—both within traditional disciplines across the academic divisions and in response to questions that cannot be answered within the framework of a single discipline. To foster this interdisciplinary inquiry, the Women's Studies Program was established in 1978 and has been built upon the feminist teaching, scholarship, and activism of faculty and students with a wide variety of disciplinary and cross-disciplinary perspectives. In the past few decades, the program has grown and evolved, changing its name to the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program in 2008 to recognize important changes within feminist scholarship.

Acknowledging this important history, WGSS courses retain Women's Studies' focus on examining previously unavailable information about the lives and contributions of women and analyzing the effects of cultural attitudes, power and inequality, and social structures on the experiences of women as they intersect with race, nation, ability, class, religion, and other axes of difference. In addition, feminist scholarship has recognized and explored commonalities between women's oppression and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other sexual minorities worldwide, as well as the varied experiences of masculinity throughout the globe. In this vein, WGSS courses explore the cultural construction of sex, gender, and sexuality in the context of their relationship between theoretical and experiential knowledge, and privileging historically marginalized voices. WGSS encourages scholarship and teaching that is committed to the feminist principle of creating a more just world for all.

## **Major in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

Consists of eleven courses:

- WGSS 12000
- Three courses from the following: WGSS 20200, 20400, 20600, or Core Courses (see below).
- Three electives from cross-listed courses (see below) accepted for WGSS credit or additional core courses.

At least two core or cross-listed courses must be from a different division than the others.

- Junior Independent Study: WGSS 33000/40100
- WGSS 35000
- Senior Independent Study: WGSS 45100
- Senior Independent Study: WGSS 45200

## Minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Consists of six courses:

- WGSS 12000
- Two of the following courses: WGSS 20200, 20400, 20600, or Core Courses (see below).
- One elective from cross-listed courses (see below) accepted for WGSS credit or additional core course.

At least one core or cross-listed course must be from a different division than the others.

- WGSS 33000
- WGSS 35000

## Special Notes

- Majors and minors may substitute one WGSS 40000 or WGSS 40500 for one of the cross-listed courses.
- WGSS 40500 is strongly recommended.
- Only grades of C- or better are accepted for the major or minor.

## WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES COURSES

### WGSS 12000. INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

This course is an overview of WGSS as a discipline and an interdisciplinary field of inquiry, introducing the many issues, theories, and feminist approaches that constitute it. We will examine how gender intersects with nation, religion, race, class and sexuality in order to produce systematic structures of power. Course materials include theoretical, analytical and creative texts. Students will gain the critical tools to analyze a range of historical, political, social and cultural issues from a WGSS perspective, across local and global contexts. *Annually, Fall and Spring. [Wt, AH or HSS]*

### WGSS 20200. HISTORIES OF FEMINIST THOUGHT

This course is a broad introduction to the histories of feminist thought, including major influences in indigenous and women of color (WoC) feminist thought, as well as Euro-American feminist thought with its roots in early modern Europe, the women's suffrage movement (often characterized as the First Wave) through the Second and Third Waves of the women's movement and beyond. This course rejects a singular Eurocentric, Global North "history of feminism" in favor of addressing the intersections and controversies that have emerged among Euro-American feminists, WoC and postcolonial feminist critiques, and within queer studies and queer theory. *Prerequisite: WGSS 12000 or permission of instructor. Every three years; alternates with WGSS 20400 and 20600. [Wt, AH or HSS]*

### WGSS 20400. TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISMS (Latin American Studies)

This course explores how feminism is understood throughout the world and examines struggles for women's equality in both a historical and transnational perspective. It examines the relationship between feminisms in the Global North and the Global South, especially as efforts to empower women are impacted by nationalism, race, class and caste, religion, sexuality, and immigration. It also interrogates the complex process of globalization to understand why it is experienced differently based on gender as well as geographical location. Theoretical developments in transnational feminist and postcolonial theory and case studies of transnational feminist activism allow students to critically explore political movements to address intersecting inequities throughout the world. *Prerequisite: WGSS 12000. Every three years; alternates with WGSS 20200 and 20600. [C, HSS]*

### WGSS 20600. QUEER LIVES

This course addresses a broad range of "queer" issues and the lived experiences of sexual minorities throughout the world. It explores major events in the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, and queer political movements in the United States and transnationally to understand the social construction of identities and movements and how they have changed in different times and places—often as a result of race-, class-, and gender-based inequities. The course also considers the categories used to describe same-sex desire. How do the Western terms used above help (or hinder) our understandings of the experiences of Indian hijras, Thai "Toms" & "Dees," Native American two-spirit people, drag queens and kings, and others who do not fit "neatly" within single categories of gender, sex, and sexuality? *Prerequisite: WGSS 12000. Every three years; alternates with WGSS 20200 and 20400. Spring. [C, HSS]*

**WGSS 33000. DOING FEMINIST RESEARCH: THEORY & PRACTICE**

This course addresses the question of what makes a research methodology feminist. Through advanced interdisciplinary readings and short writing assignments, students are introduced to feminist research methods as well as distinctive feminist critical approaches to issues in the social sciences, natural sciences, and the humanities. This course is the equivalent of WGSS 401 and is required of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors and minors, but it is designed for other students planning to incorporate feminist perspectives into their senior research. *Prerequisite:* WGSS 12000 and one 200-level WGSS course, or permission of instructor. *Annually, Spring.*

**WGSS 35000. SENIOR SEMINAR: FEMINIST PEDAGOGY IN ACTION**

This course is a rethinking of students' previous work in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies through an in-depth immersion in advanced theoretical readings, literature, and personal writings pertaining to women, gender, and sexuality. The course is taught through feminist pedagogy and collaborative learning. The seminar is required of majors and minors but open to other interested students. *S/NC course. Prerequisite:* WGSS 12000, one 200-level WGSS course, and WGSS 33000, or permission of instructor. *Annually, Fall.*

**WGSS 39900. SPECIAL TOPICS IN WGSS**

This course is an advanced seminar exploring current theory and research on selected interdisciplinary issues in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Topics will be announced in advance by the chair of the WGSS Program and the faculty member teaching the course. *Prerequisite:* WGSS 12000 or permission of instructor. *[W+]*

**WGSS 40000. TUTORIAL IN WGSS**

This course is independent research on a topic in consultation with a supervising faculty member. *Prerequisite:* WGSS 12000 and at least one other course from Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies courses or cross-listings; the approval of both the supervising faculty member and the chairperson is required prior to registration.

**WGSS 40500. WGSS PRACTICUM**

This course involves mentored participation a student-defined project in feminist praxis. The student will engage in practical efforts toward understanding and/or working for gender justice, and the course will culminate in written analysis of the practicum experience in relation to coursework in WGSS. Practicum could include: organizing events on campus around feminist issues, publishing a feminist newsletter, or staging a theatre production, in conjunction with academic work on the topic. Students interested in a practicum experience are also urged to explore the Antioch Women's Students Semester in Europe (Fall), the GLCA Philadelphia Center Urban Program, and make prior arrangements with a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies faculty member to count their off-campus work as a practicum upon submission of a reflective paper or journal entries. *Prerequisite:* WGSS 12000 and at least one other WGSS course; permission of the chairperson is required before registration. *Annually, Fall and Spring.*

**WGSS 41000. WGSS INTERNSHIP**

A structured, usually off-campus experience, in which a student extends classroom knowledge to a work position within a community, business, or government organization. Student interns work and learn under the joint guidance of a host organization supervisor and a College of Wooster mentor. The student must arrange the internship in advance and develop an Internship Learning Plan (forms available through the Registrar) in consultation with a WGSS-affiliated faculty member. (.25-4 course credits) *S/NC Course. Prerequisite:* WGSS 12000 and at least one other WGSS course; permission of the mentor, department chair, faculty advisor, and the Associate Dean for Experiential Learning is required. *Annually, Fall and Spring.*

**WGSS 45100. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY – SEMESTER ONE**

The first semester of the Senior Independent Study project, in which students use the methods and perspectives of feminist interdisciplinary scholarship to pursue questions of their own design, developed within the context of their prior course work and their interests within the major, and which culminates in a thesis and an oral examination in the second semester. *Prerequisite:* WGSS 33000.

**WGSS 45200. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY – SEMESTER TWO**

The second semester of the Senior Independent Study project, which culminates in the thesis and an oral examination. *Prerequisite:* WGSS 45100.

## CORE COURSES ACCEPTED FOR WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES CREDIT

### COMMUNICATION

COMM 23300. MEDIATED GENDER, RACE & SEXUALITY [HSS]

### ENGLISH

ENGL 21002. BLACK WOMEN WRITERS [AH]

ENGL 21018. SEX AND GENDER IN RESTORATION AND 18TH-CENTURY LITERATURE [AH]

ENGL 23036. HEARTBREAK & MASCULINITY [AH]

### HISTORY

HIST 24401. SEX AND POWER IN COLONIAL AMERICA [HSS]

## CROSS-LISTED COURSES ACCEPTED FOR WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES CREDIT

### AFRICANA STUDIES

AFST 24000. AFRICANA WOMEN IN NORTH AMERICA: EARLIEST TIMES THROUGH THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT [C, HSS]

AFST 24100. BLACK WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY [C, HSS]

### ART AND ART HISTORY

ARTH 21600. GENDER AND MODERN ART [AH]

ARTH 21400. NINETEENTH-CENTURY ART [W, AH]

### CHINESE STUDIES

CHIN 22200. WOMEN IN CHINESE LITERATURE [C, AH]

### CLASSICAL STUDIES

AMST 22300. GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY [AH]

### COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

CMLT 23000. COMPARATIVE SEXUAL POETICS [W, AH]

### ECONOMICS

ECON 24500. ECONOMICS OF GENDER [HSS]

### ENGLISH

ENGL 21004. EMPIRE BOYS [AH]

ENGL 21008. GENDER, SEX, AND TEXTS, 350-1500 [AH]

ENGL 22001. SHAKESPEARE: RACE, GENDER, SEXUALITY AND CLASS ON SHAKESPEARE'S STAGE [AH]

ENGL 22011. JAMES BALDWIN AND TONI MORRISON [AH]

### GERMAN STUDIES

GRMN 22700. GERMAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION: GENDER, POWER, TEXT

### HISTORY

HIST 10183. INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY: THE FAMILY IN CHINESE HISTORY [C, HSS]

HIST 20115. CRAFT OF HISTORY: THE BODY IN CHINESE TRADITION [W, HSS]

HIST 27502. STUDIES IN HISTORY: MODERN BRAZIL [HSS]

HIST 30126. WOMEN'S LIVES IN LATIN AMERICA [C, R, HSS]

HIST 30142. AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY [HSS]

HIST 30148. NARRATIVES OF FREEDOM [HSS]

### PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 21200. RACE, GENDER, AND JUSTICE [C, AH]

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHED 20000. WOMEN IN SPORT

### POLITICAL SCIENCE

PSCI 21000. WOMEN, POWER, AND POLITICS [C, HSS]

PSCI 23500. CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST POLITICAL THEORY [HSS]

**PSYCHOLOGY**

PSYC 21500. PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN AND GENDER [HSS]

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

RELS 22200. ISLAM [C, R, AH]

RELS 22900. WOMEN AND RELIGION [C, R, AH]

RELS 25200. THIRD WORLD FEMINIST THEOLOGY [C, R, AH]

RELS 26937. RELIGION, RACE, GENDER AND CLASS IN AMERICA [R, AH]

**SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

ANTH 22500. GENDER IN WORLD CULTURES [C, HSS]

SOCI 20700. SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER [HSS]

SOCI 21102. AMERICAN MASCULINITIES [HSS]

**SPANISH**

SPAN 30901. SPANISH-AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS AND THE FEMALE LITERARY TRADITION [C, AH]

**THEATRE**

THTD 24100. LATINA/O DRAMA AND PERFORMANCE [AH]

THTD 24500. FEMINISM AND THEATRE [C, AH]