

Winter 2020 Courses

WST 102: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies in the Social Sciences - DIV, CER, SBS
ONLINE - Andy Eicher

This course is an introductory and interdisciplinary survey that will familiarize students with gender and sexuality theories, histories of women's and feminist movements, and current debates within Women's and Gender Studies. We draw on sources from across the social sciences to understand how gender and sex is explained with respect to specific physical bodies; formulates identities within gendered institutions; and influences our everyday personal and political interactions. Critically thinking of these issues can only occur when we include the intersection of racial, class, age, ableist and national identities within our analysis. The overarching theme of power, hierarchy, and privilege in structured(ing) institutions will always guide our study.

WST 103: Women, Culture, Difference - CER, HUM, DIV
ONLINE - Melis Umut

An introductory humanities survey focusing on women's traditional association with the home and men's association with public life and how writers, artists, philosophers, and religious thinkers have reflected upon those relationships over the past 150 years. Through lectures and critical analyses of novels, poetry, art, philosophy, and religious texts, the course explores how changing intellectual, artistic, and religious precepts have affected gender identity and different genres in the humanities.

WST 210: Contemporary Issues in WaGS - "Feminist Surveillance Studies" - DIV, CER, SBS+
ONLINE - Val Moyer

This class investigates multiple dimensions of surveillance along the lines of gender, race, and sex. While primarily focusing on the U.S. state surveillance practices, we will also look at current issues of surveillance on social media, within medical institutions, as well as anti-surveillance politics. This course combines work from feminist cultural studies with science studies to tackle the multiple, intersecting layers of racialized and gendered surveillance.

WST 392: Special Topics in Women & Science - "Race & Disability in Contemporary Culture" STAS
ONLINE - Carlos Vazquez

[view flyer](#)

This course critically examines the entanglements of race and disability in present-day culture and society. Students will attend closely to race and disability, both as categories of identity and "tropes of human disqualification," paying especial attention to the way disability operates in the production of Black, Latinx, and Asian American identities and communities. The class will draw on works from a variety of genres and disciplines, including literature, film, television, graphic narrative, and cultural criticism, to explore the role of representation in the imagining of racial otherness and embodied difference. Key works we will consider include: Arturo Islas' *The Rain God*; Ramy Youssef's *Ramy*; Jaime Cortez's *Sexile*; Sami Shalk's *Bodyminds Reimagined*; Patrick Devlieger's *The Disabling Bullet*; David Eng's *Racial Melancholia, Racial Dissociation*; and Caleb Luna's "On Being Fat, Brown, Femme, Ugly, and Unlovable."

Spring 2020 Courses

[WST Offerings]

WST 102: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies in the Social Sciences - DIV, CER, SBS

LEC 01 - Tu/Th 10:00 - 11:20 am - Suzanne Staub

LEC 02 - Tu/Th 11:30 - 12:50 pm - Cristina Khan

LEC 03 - ONLINE - Shruti Mukherjee

This course is an introductory and interdisciplinary survey that will familiarize students with gender and sexuality theories, histories of women's and feminist movements, and current debates within Women's and Gender Studies. We draw on sources from across the social sciences to understand how gender and sex is explained with respect to specific physical bodies; formulates identities within gendered institutions; and influences our everyday personal

and political interactions. Critically thinking of these issues can only occur when we include the intersection of racial, class, age, ableist and national identities within our analysis. The overarching theme of power, hierarchy, and privilege in structured(ing) institutions will always guide our study.

WST 103: Women, Culture, Difference - CER, HUM, DIV

LEC 01: Mon/Wed 12:00-12:53 pm; REC 01, 02, 03: Fridays 12:00 - 12:53 pm - Liz Montegary

LEC 02: ONLINE - Melis Umut

An introductory humanities survey focusing on women's traditional association with the home and men's association with public life and how writers, artists, philosophers, and religious thinkers have reflected upon those relationships over the past 150 years. Through lectures and critical analyses of novels, poetry, art, philosophy, and religious texts, the course explores how changing intellectual, artistic, and religious precepts have affected gender identity and different genres in the humanities.

WST 111: Introduction to Queer Studies - DIV, CER, HUM

LEC 01: Tu/Th 11:30 - 12:50 pm - Carlos Vazquez

LEC 02: ONLINE - Alexandra Novitskaya

This course will provide students with a broad overview of queer studies and major theorists and thinkers within the field. Beginning with Foucault before turning to more contemporary theorists, this course will be an interdisciplinary approach to American queer studies. Through the examination of visual culture, literature, and theory, students will learn to read critically through the lenses of queer theory, critical ethnic studies, disability studies, and feminist theory.

WST 210: Contemporary Issues in WaGS - DIV, CER, SBS+

LEC 01: ONLINE - "Toxic Ecologies: Race and place in the U.S." - Miranda Saenz

This course urges students to think about the way race is used as a central weapon for the social construction of space. We will analyze the use of language in its maintenance, rethinking the ways in which we occupy, occupied space. We will examine the way technology allows for us to transcend our geographic locations in meaningful and harmful ways. To denormalize the presence of borders- to instead addressing the creation of borders and the imagined fear of its porousness. We will discuss larger themes of colonialism, surveillance, globalization, gentrification, imprisonment, utopia/dystopia, longing and belonging. Explorations of "time, space, place", memory, identity will be done utilizing an transnational feminist lens. Topics range from literal physical structures- prison industrial complex, immigration detention, segregated public housing, reservations, etc.- to more metaphorical structures such as homelessness, the NFL, food justice, among others. At the end of the course students should have a better understanding of their role in the production of space, our movement within spaces, and begin to reimagining future anti-racist, anti-imperialist spaces.

WST 210: Contemporary Issues in WaGS - DIV, CER, SBS+

LEC 02: Tu/Th 2:30 - 3:50 pm - "Transnational Feminisms" - Annu Daftuar

The idea of global sisterhood coming from US and European contexts has often assumed shared visions of women's equality and shared priorities for organizing. However, much to its failure in addressing differences across race, class, sexuality, nationality and colonial history, we see the development of transnational feminist theory and practice. This course will engage with two questions- what is transnational feminist theory and practice, and what are the challenges of doing transnational feminism?

Throughout the course we will investigate how differences of class, race, national origin, sexuality etc affect experiences of women organizing for social justice, and examine how power relations between individuals and collectives both within nations and across them influence prospects of solidarity and collaboration. Course readings will explore ethics and practice of production of knowledge, transnational NGOs, transnational solidarity, and building bridges between academia and activism. We will also examine the question of politics of location, and challenge western feminists to reflect on their own position within global systems of power.

WST 291 - Introduction to Feminist Theory - DIV, ESI, HFA+

LEC 01: Tu/Th 10:00 - 11:20 am - Vicky Hesford

An introductory survey of historical and contemporary interdisciplinary theories used in Women's and Gender Studies. Theoretical debates on sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, knowledge, discourse, representation are among the topics to be considered. The course will provide a strong theoretical foundation for further studies in Women's and Gender Studies .

WST 301: Histories of Feminism - SBS+, DIV

LEC 01: ONLINE - Val Moyer

An historical study of the theoretical and practical developments that form contemporary feminism. Beginning with the 18th century critiques of women's rights, the course traces the expansion of feminist concerns to include a global perspective, as well as attention to race and class. Representative texts include Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, poems by Phyllis Wheatley and Sojourner Truth, Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*, Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas*, and Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*.

WST 305: Feminist Theories in Context - HFA+

Tu/Th 10:00 - 11:20 am - Ritch Calvin

This course offers students an introduction to major traditions in critical and cultural theory while focusing specifically on how feminist scholars have pushed these theories in new directions. The aim of this class is not to provide a comprehensive survey of modern theoretical traditions; instead, we will examine several key theoretical terms that have become central to feminist thought during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. In addition to unpacking the ways in which liberalism and neoliberalism have shaped contemporary debates about sex, gender, and sexuality, we will also look at how feminist perspectives have challenged and complicated theories of nationalism and citizenship, labor and consumption, and representation and circulation. In doing so, we will gain insight into how feminist theories inform and are informed by other interdisciplinary fields, such as queer studies, disability studies, transgender studies, postcolonial studies, and critical race and ethnic studies.

WST 374: Historical Perspectives on Gender Orientation - SBS+

Tu/Th 2:30 - 3:50 pm - Stephanie Bonvissuto

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This course interrogates the constitutive connections between social space and its users by following the development of LGBTQ+ sites and identities through 1900's and into the early 21st Century. Our inquiry moves formatively from the gay and lesbian social clubs and bars of the 1920's – 1960's to the marches, occupations and separatist sites of the Gay Liberation and Second Wave of Feminism Movements; from the rise of the Gay Village and 'gayborhoods' to current contested sites of gender non-conforming interventions and sexual political resistance, such as public all-gender restrooms. We will employ an interdisciplinary analysis of Feminist, Trans, Queer and Sociological Theory to identify and deconstruct the critical links between the queer(ing) use of space and the spatial context of queer identity constructions.

WST 395: Topics in Global Feminism - "Afro- Latinidad in the Americas" - DIV, GLO, SBS+

Tu/Th 1:00 - 2:20 pm - Cristina Khan

Today, about 130 million people of African descent live in Latin America, which constitutes a quarter of the total population. In this course, we will study the development and expansion of Afro-Latinx as an identity category claimed by Latinxs both in the U.S. and Latin America. Beginning from the Atlantic slave trade onto present day, we will examine the intersections of Blackness and Latinidad relative to imperialism, diaspora, and race. We will study the histories of Caribbean afrodescendientes, including Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Cubans, and survey the contributions and experiences of afrodescendientes in Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico. The guiding questions we will undertake include: what does it mean to be both Black and Latinx in the U.S.? Who gets to claim Afro-Latinidad? What are the politics behind the "Afro" prefix? Central themes include colorism, how identity is constructed differently across time and space, the racialized coding of language (i.e. "pelo malo," "mejorar la raza"), and media representations of Afro-Latinxs across the Americas.

WST 398: Topics in Gender, Race, Ethnicity - " Immigration, Nation & the Media" - SBS+, DIV -

Mon/Wed 2:30 - 3:50 pm - Nancy Hiemstra

[view flyer](#)

This course explores how immigration and debates about immigration tie to ideas of national identity, with a focus on the role played by media coverage of immigration issues and events. We identify causes and consequences of immigration through a feminist, interdisciplinary lens, with special attention to race, gender, class, sexuality, ability, and family. We analyze restrictive laws and enforcement measures employed to maintain national borders—territorial and conceptual—historically and today. We deconstruct common narratives, metaphors, and images evident in media coverage of immigration, and examine how they shape immigration debates, immigrant/citizen interactions, and experiences of membership and belonging. Throughout the semester, we pay attention to current news and events, and explore a range of contemporary topics. While our primary focus is on the United States, we also give attention to the relationship

between immigration, nation, and media around the world. Course materials include an interdisciplinary variety of academic readings, news sources, social media, and film/video.

**WST 399: Topics in Gender & Sexuality - "Contagion, Catastrophe, and Creative Resistance" - HFA+, DIV
Tu/Th 1:00 - 2:20pm - Andy Eicher**

[view flyer](#)

This course focuses on queer activism and visual culture. By considering the nascent, postmodern technologies of the 1980s and 90s, this course—entitled “Contagion, Catastrophe, and Creative Resistance”—contends that the collision of activism, AIDS, and new technology produced a robust range of experimental and democratic cultural expressions that still resonate today. Students will consider how a catastrophic tragedy became a site of resistance, hope, and resilience, with particular attention to the ways that visual culture became a rich repository of possibility for thinking about community and challenging the status quo. Drawing on an interdisciplinary set of learning materials including ephemera, film, experimental art, theory, graphic novels, performance, and literature, this course will interrogate how queer cultural productions are created, sustained, fail, and contribute to subcultural and alternative practices. At the end of the course, students will develop a complex understanding of gender and sexuality and recognize how they have both informed and been informed by the AIDS epidemic. Ultimately, this course will consider the contentions and interactions that occur between the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans bodies that queer visual cultures/productions/practices/theories represent—or, perhaps, fail to represent.

**WST 407: Senior Research Seminar for Women's and Gender Studies Minors - EXP+, SPK, WRTD
Wednesday 10:00 - 12:50 pm - Nancy Hiemstra**

An exploration of significant feminist scholarship in various disciplines designed for students who are majoring in disciplines other than women's and gender studies. Seminar participants present and discuss reports on reading and research.

**WST 408: Senior Research Seminar for Women's and Gender Studies Majors - EXP+, SPK, WRTD
Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:50 pm - Vicky Hesford**

An exploration of significant feminist scholarship in various disciplines designed for students who are majoring in disciplines other than women's and gender studies. Seminar participants present and discuss reports on reading and research.

[Elective Offerings Outside of WST]

This is not an all-inclusive list; courses may be added. Please contact our Undergraduate Program Director, Nancy Hiemstra at nancy.hiemstra@stonybrook.edu if you find a course not on this list and would like for it to be evaluated to count as an elective towards the major or minor.

**AAS 391.01 – “Dystopia: Race, Gender and the End Times” – HFA+
Nerissa Balce - Tu/Th 4:00-5:20**

Past topics have included titles such as Sikhism; Introduction to Indian Philosophy; Modern Indian Literature; and Appreciating Indian Music. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic within humanities disciplines such as music, art, literature, religion, and philosophy. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods used in the humanities discipline(s) studied. May be repeated as the topic changes.

**AAS 372/ANT 372 - Family, Marriage, and Kinship in China – SBS+
Gregory Ruf - M/W 2:30-3:50**

Examines forms and dynamics of social organizations in Chinese society, focusing on cultural, social, and economic aspects of family, marriage, and extended kinship relations such as lineages, clans, and sworn brotherhoods. Particular attention is paid to how gender, generation, class, and ritual exchange shape identity, status, and power. This course is offered as both AAS 372 and ANT 372.

**AFH 382/EGL382/WST382 – Black Women’s Literature of the African Diaspora – HFA+
Tracey Walters – Tu/Th 10:00 – 11:20am**

Black women's literature presents students with the opportunity to examine through literature the political, social, and historical experiences of Black women from the African Diaspora. The course is structured around five major themes commonly addressed in Black women's writing: Black female oppression, sexual politics of Black womanhood, Black female sexuality, Black male/female relationships, and Black women and defining self. This course is offered as AFH 382, EGL 382, and WST 382.

AFS 306 - Gender and Public Health in Africa - GLO, SBS+

Adryan Wallace - M/W 4-5:20

Examines approaches to disease prevention and treatment through public health systems in African countries. The impact of global health organizations such as WHO, UNAIDS and other UN bodies and international development organizations on domestic health care policy is also analyzed. An emphasis is placed on identifying the most prominent public health issues in each of the county case studies and identifying points of convergence and divergence among them. More specifically their relationships to gender equality, education, and economic security and population displacement will be evaluated using Intersectionality as a theoretical framework. Disparities in access to health insurance, treatment, and medication, and funding mechanisms will be analyzed.

EGL 276/WST 276 - Feminism: Literature and Cultural Contexts - DIV, HUM

Heidi Hutner - M/W 11:00-11:53

An examination of works written by or about women reflecting conceptions of women in drama, poetry, and fiction. The course focuses on literature seen in relation to women's sociocultural and historical position. This course is offered as both EGL 276 and WST 276.

EGL 382/AFH 382/WST 382 - Black Women's Lit of Diaspora - HFA+

Tracey Walters – Tu/Th 10:00-11:20AM

Black women's literature presents students with the opportunity to examine through literature the political, social, and historical experiences of Black women from the African Diaspora. The course is structured around five major themes commonly addressed in Black women's writing: Black female oppression, sexual politics of Black womanhood, Black female sexuality, Black male/female relationships, and Black women and defining self. This course is offered as AFH 382, EGL 382, and WST 382.

HIS 345/WST 345 - Women in Chinese History - SBS+

Iona Man-Cheong - LEC - MW 12:00-12:53 and REC

A dynamic exploration of Chinese women's revolutions from 19th through 20th century: how Chinese women struggled to change society's social and political expectations and overcome traditional patriarchal bondage. We examine the important intersectionality of gender roles, sexuality, ethnicity and shifting cultural pressures within a changing global framework. Sources include primary sources, fiction, and visual media interpretations.

HIS 383 - The World of Jane Austen - HFA+, SBS+

Kathleen Wilson – Tu/Th 5:30-6:50

An examination of the social, political and cultural milieu and legacies of Jane Austen's famous novels, including the contours of English provincial and gentry society in the Revolutionary, Napoleonic and Regency periods (1792-1820). Topics will include class and sociability; the functions of the country house; gender and family relations; the pleasures and dangers of urban culture; fashion and leisure pursuits, including tourism; women, theatre and print culture; the impact of empire, war and radical politics on social and political relations of the day, and the details of Jane Austen's own life, along the ways in which Austen novels were appropriated and used by subsequent generations and in different cultural contexts, from the Victorian critics to twentieth-century Bollywood film adaptations to twenty-first century blogs.

POL 330/WST 330 - Gender Issues and the Law - DIV, SBS+

Juliette Passer - W 5:30-8:30

A critical exploration of American law that specifically addresses the issues of (in)equality of women and men in the United States. The course surveys and analyzes cases from the pre-Civil War era to the end of the 20th century dealing with various manifestations of sex discrimination, decided in the federal court system, typically by the Supreme Court, and the state court system. The course also considers how the political nature of the adjudicative process has ramifications for the decisions rendered by a court. This course is offered as both POL 330 and WST 330.

PSY 342 Psychology of Women's Health - DIV

Marci Lobel - Tu/Th 2:30-3:50

An investigation of psychological aspects of women's health and gender differences in health through readings, lectures, films, guest speakers and presentations, class discussions, a writing assignment, and other educational activities.

SOC 247/WST 247 - Sociology of Gender - DIV, SBS

Linda Wicks - Tu/Th 11:30-12:50

The historical and contemporary roles of women and men in American society; changing relations between the sexes; women's liberation and related movements. Themes are situated within the context of historical developments in the U.S. This course is offered as both SOC 247 and WST 247.

SOC 340/WST 340 - Sociology of Human Reproduction - STAS

Cathy Marrone - W 5:30-8:20

A study of the links between biological reproduction and the socioeconomic and cultural processes that affect and are affected by it. The history of the transition from high levels of fertility and mortality to low levels of both; different kinship, gender, and family systems around the world and their links to human reproduction; the value of children in different social contexts; and the social implications of new reproductive technologies. This course is offered as both SOC 340 and WST 340.

SPN 405 – Issues in Hispanic Cultural Studies: “Women, Power, Early Modern Spain” – ESI, HFA+

Victoriano Roncero-Lopez – Tu/Th 11:30 – 12:50

Readings, viewings, and theoretical discussion of Spanish or Latin American culture with special focus on one or more issues (colonialism, imperialism, national identity, indigenism, subjectivity) as manifested in a specific cultural form or forms (testimonial literature, popular culture, cinema, novel, short story, poetry, television). May be repeated as the topic changes.

Spring 2020 Courses that can substitute for WST 395, 398, and 399 topics courses:

WST 395 (Topics in Global Feminism): AFS 306; HIS/WST 345; SPN 405

WST 398 (Topics in Gender, Race, and Ethnicity): AAS 391; WST/EGL/AFH 382

WST 399 (Topics in Gender and Sexuality): WST 374; WST 340

NOTE: Only approved topics courses from other departments count. Make sure to check the course title, not just the number. If you see a course not on this list that you think could count, email nancy.hiemstra@stonybrook.edu to check.