

Spring 2019 Graduate Courses

[Core Courses]

WST 600 - Feminist Interdisciplinary Histories and Methods

Lisa Diedrich

Tuesdays 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Rather than begin with an exploration of “the” feminist methodology in Women’s and Gender Studies, or an account of “the” history of feminism, this course will explore what counts as “history,” as “method,” and as “evidence” in feminist scholarship. Since its emergence as a distinct knowledge project within the academy, feminism has raised questions about how we know what we know, who gets to speak and for whom, and what are legitimate fields of inquiry. Our goal will be to trace some of the ways in which feminist scholars have sought to intervene in debates about disciplinary as opposed to interdisciplinary forms of knowledge, objective as opposed to “situated” knowledge, evidence versus experience, history versus fiction, etc. A central part of the feminist project for many scholars has been an engagement in the self-reflexive questioning of the status, history, methods, and goals of feminist scholarship. This course will attempt to continue that practice. To that end, students are encouraged to engage with the material with their own projects in mind, and to use the course in order to be self-reflexive about the methods, materials, and theories they intend to use in their graduate and post-graduate work. In order to begin the self-reflexive (re)examination, we will turn to concepts such as “knowledge,” “rational,” “irrational,” “experience,” and “evidence.”

WST 698 - Practicing Women's and Gender Studies

Ritch Calvin

Mondays 1:00 - 3:50 p.m.

The teaching practicum is designed for both graduate students in Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies and certificate students who anticipate teaching classes outside of, or in addition to, their disciplinary home. To prepare for this likelihood, we will spend several sessions working together to construct an introductory course syllabus in Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. We will work together to generate several special topics course titles and descriptions related to students’ research interests. Practicing Women’s Gender & Sexuality Studies explores three interconnected spaces—the classroom, the field, and the university. We will move from practical, even personal, tactics and strategies—what to do in the classroom—to (inter)disciplinary imperatives and institutional structures—how fields are imagined and universities organized. At the same time, we will consider broader questions about the university as an institution in the current moment, and the place of Women’s Studies within the contemporary university. Along with a consideration of the changing practices and objects of feminist knowledge production, we will also read about and discuss the changing politics and economics of academia, and the impact of the wider academic milieu on what and how knowledge is produced. We will ask: what has women’s studies been; what kinds of interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity are possible in women’s, gender and sexuality studies; and finally, what might the disciplinary field and its institutionalized locations as programs and departments become?

[Departmental Electives]

WST 610 - Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: "Fertility and Finance: Reproduction in the Financial Age"

Liz Montegary

Wednesdays 4:00 - 6:50 p.m.

This special topics course will explore the growing body of scholarship, spanning feminist and queer studies, critical race and ethnic studies, and transnational American studies, on the rise of “the financial age.” For the purposes of this seminar, we will look specifically at how financialization has transformed social and human reproduction during the early twenty-first century. We will begin by asking some basic questions about finance, shareholder capitalism, speculative investments, and the consumer credit industry. For starters, what exactly is financialization? How, and with what effect, have local and global economies been reconfigured in the past few decades? And what political and cultural changes have facilitated these recent economic shifts? With this groundwork established, we will turn our attention to the ways in which financial logics now inform national and international governing bodies, civil society institutions, social movement projects, and even some of the most intimate aspects of our everyday lives. Central to our collective endeavor will be an effort to illuminate what this all means for the politics and practices of reproduction in the United States today. While the readings will consider the role of finance capital in relation to the various mechanisms of social reproduction that perpetuate economic insecurities, heteropatriarchal ableisms, and

white settler supremacy, we will dedicate a significant portion of the semester to studying the effects of financialization on human reproduction, with a focus on public policies, privatized reproductive services, biomedical and reprogenetic advances, and contemporary reproductive justice organizing. Over the course of the semester, our goal in surveying the literature on finance and reproduction will be to develop innovative analytic methods for apprehending the newly configured forms of capital and racialized and sexualized modes of power structuring contemporary US culture and politics.

[Electives Outside of WGSS]

EGL 586 - Topics in Gender Studies: "Ecofeminism, Literature, and Film"

Heidi Hutner

Mondays 5:30 - 8:20 pm

Ecofeminism, Literature, and Film will examine theories of ecology and gender (ecofeminism) in literature, film, and media. Ecofeminist philosophy reconceptualizes a historically misogynistic, hierarchical, binary, and mechanistic human relationship to the earth/nature/environment. Students will study and apply ecofeminist philosophy to narrative nonfiction, fiction, media and film. We will also examine the work of women ecologists, scientists, and environmentalists.

HAX 663 - Disability Occupation and Community

Devva Kasnitz

ONLINE

Inspired by disability justice social movements in the US and abroad, this course presents politically engaged critical approaches to disability that intersect community organizations, the arts and academic fields including occupational therapy, disability studies and anthropology. Broader than a medical category, disability identity recognizes the political and economic dimensions of disability inequity as it related to other forms of inequality and disadvantage. Themes include all permutations of the concept of occupy; disability justice/decolonization; participation and training for collaborations; marginalization and minorization; technology; struggle, creativity, and change.

HAX 668 - Emerging Topics in Disability Studies

Pamela Block

ONLINE

Disability studies is an area study that focuses on the experiences and representation of disability across multiple realms – including social, environmental, cultural, regional, historical, economic and political. This is an emerging field with new research and topic areas developing constantly. This course will allow focus on the intersections of disability with other emerging area studies such as gender, class, sexuality, race and global studies. It will also encompass study of different emerging disciplinary areas of disability studies in the social sciences, health sciences, humanities, business, and technology. We will explore the connections between disability activism, art, and scholarship in the 21st century. Finally the course will trace emerging regional distinctions in disability studies research and scholarship, especially between Northern and Southern Countries.

HIS 500 - Historiography

Shirley Lim

Mondays 5:30 - 8:30 pm

This seminar will explore major themes in the writing of history. Topics will include race/ethnicity, imperialism and colonialism, gender and resistance, and global culture. This semester we will focus in-depth on particular moments in history. For example, we will examine the Vietnam War from a variety of perspectives: classic and recent scholarly works, U.S. State Department documents, Maya Lin's Vietnam War memorial in Washington D.C., Vietnam War protesters, and Vietnamese refugees and migrants. This multi-perspective focus will enhance our understanding of how history can be discussed and written. Students will be expected to read the equivalent of one scholarly monograph a week, lead discussion at least once during the semester, produce a historiographical essay, and conduct original primary source research, possibly in the cookbook collection at SBU's Special Collections.

HIS 517 - The Global 1960s

E. Zolov

Wednesdays 2:30 - 5:30 pm

This theme seminar approaches the upheavals of the 1960s from a global framework. Recent literature has denominated this period the Global Sixties to encompass the ideological, cultural, and geopolitical crosscurrents that produced a simultaneity of “like” responses across disparate geographical contexts. The course will explore the power dynamics and transnational connections between presumed “centers” and “peripheries” of global unrest through theoretical readings and case studies. In turn, we will try to disentangle the intersections of leftwing politics, consumptive practices and aesthetics (architectural, visual, sonic), and cold war geopolitics in an effort to establish a conceptual framework and research agenda for interpreting the 1960s globally and regionally, as well as in historical memory. Among the works we will discuss (in part or whole) are Richard Wolin, *The Wind From the East: French Intellectuals, the Cultural Revolution and the Legacy of the 1960s*; Andrew Ivaska, *Cultured States: Youth, Gender, and Modern Style in 1960s Dar es Salaam*; Patrick Barr-Melej, *Psychedelic Chile: Youth, Counterculture and Politics on the Road to Socialism and Dictatorship*; Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War*; Patrick Iber, *Neither Peace Nor Freedom: The Cultural Cold War in Latin America*; and Quinn Slobodian, *Foreign Front: Third World Politics in Sixties West Germany*. In addition to short analytical assignments and presentations of materials, students will produce a historiographical paper on a course-related theme.

HIS 522 - U.S. Since the Civil War

Robert Chase

Wednesdays 5:30 - 8:30 pm

This course offers a historical survey of the United States from 1865 to the present. It examines major forces of historical change and evolution over time from two perspectives: First, what were the major statecentered and structural historical forces that shaped American politics and society from Reconstruction to the end of the twentieth century? Second, how did countervailing forces of labor, race, class, migration, gender, and sexuality respond to major structural changes in American politics and society? A course that covers so much of U.S. history in a single semester can only offer a survey of some of the most influential titles for each significant historical transformation. As such, the course considers major titles on foreign wars and U.S. imperialism, statebuilding, industrialization, corporatization and advertising, suburbanization, mass incarceration, and globalization. It also considers influential monographs on the labor movement, the civil rights revolution and Black Power, migration, ethnicity, the Chicana/o movement, and the feminist and gay liberation movements. Assignments include weekly discussion and written critical reading responses, leading class discussion, a book review, and a final historiographical essay

HIS 553 - Memory, Public Space, and the Production of History

Donna Rilling

Tuesdays 4:30 - 7:30 pm

This course melds two intersecting approaches: an exploration of memory, commemoration and heritage; and an introduction to the methods, practice and intellectual foundations of public history. We will examine relationships between history and collective memory, current cultural and political controversies, and real-world issues surrounding monuments, memorials, exhibitions and other forms of historical representation and interpretation, discerning ways that the study of the past is remembered and shaped by and into the present. In addition, we will consider how public history engages and influences its audiences, and shapes public knowledge and interpretations. How do public historians—in contrast to academic historians—communicate historical knowledge and interpretations to general audiences? What forms do these narratives take? While approximately half of the common readings will focus on public history in the U.S., students focusing on other geographic areas will be expected to read, present, research and write on public history projects in their areas of interest.

HIS 557 - The Sociology of Human Rights

Daniel Levy

Wednesdays 10:00 - 1:00 pm

This is a course for graduate students with an interest in the sociological significance of Human Rights norms and their various effects on international and domestic politics. A potential corollary of the political and cultural implications of the Human Rights Regime is the emergence of new forms of solidarity. Given the centrality of solidarity for sociological theorizing, this class seeks to explore whether and how the basic premises of national solidarity are circumscribed by global developments. Identity politics, worldwide webs of affiliation driven by technological advances and related developments, to name but a few, should propel sociologists to rethink concepts that have been so foundational that they have morphed into un-reflected assumptions. Since the end of the Second World War, we observe the consolidation of a Human Rights Regime that manifests itself along three central dimensions: through the formation of nationtranscending legislation (e.g. International Tribunals and the institutionalization of supra-national Courts); a politics of restitution that seeks to compensate former victims; and the institution of truth and reconciliation commissions. The latter modes of coming to terms with difficult national pasts are particularly salient to states facing transitional conditions, but can also be found in the context of established democracies. The aforementioned proliferation of Human Rights Regimes and their institutionalization will serve as an analytic prism to explore their relative impact on: migration patterns, war crime tribunals, genocide prevention and the monitoring of ethnic cleansing and other aspects of restitution politics. We will also analyze how these developments relate to the potential reconfiguration of state-society relations, and the role both non-state actors (such as NGOs, INGOs, TSMs) and supranational organizations play in this emerging constellation. Last but not least, we will explore whether and how these developments circumscribe emerging forms of solidarity

HIS 536 - Introduction to South Asian History

Eric Beverley

Thursdays 5:30 - 8:30 pm

This course provides an advanced introduction to South Asian history and historiography from the early modern period to the present. We cover major works on key themes, including precolonial cultural relations, colonialism and imperialism, the politics of religious identity, anti-colonialism and nationalism, decolonization and partition, and postcolonial developments. Classic books and recent scholarship in the field will be supplemented with selections from relevant primary sources. This is not a survey course, and does not attempt to provide comprehensive coverage. No prior knowledge of the field is prerequisite, and the course will begin with a rapid thematic survey of South Asian history. This course is jointly designed for PhD/MA students in History and related disciplines for whom a knowledge of South Asian history will be useful in their research and teaching, and MAT students interested in teaching South Asian and World History at the advanced secondary level. Requirements include preparation and participation, a series of short response or feedback papers, project presentation, and either a topical historiographical essay (for HIS 563 students), or a lesson plan (for CEG 536 students).

HIS 601 - Research: Race & Conflict in American History

Paul Kelton

Mondays 4:30 - 7:30 pm

This course focuses on the individual research of each student with some common reading on the theme of race and conflict in American history. Participatory activities and assignments are scheduled along the way that model good graduate-level scholarship: from choosing a topic, selecting sources, structuring an argument, and writing effectively, to presenting one's findings with clarity and professionalism. In the end, each student is to produce a research paper of 25 to 30 pages that approaches publishable quality. Papers are to be well-written, display substantial research in primary sources, have a clear thesis, and engage with current historiographical issues and debates. Students from all geographic and chronological areas are welcome and, with consultation with their primary advisers, they will have broad latitude in defining their research projects.

PHI 639 - Social and Political Philosophy: "Marx"

Allegra de Laurentiis

Wednesdays 5:30 - 8:30 pm

This seminar is dedicated to the work of the 'last of the universal erudites' (*Universalgelehrter*), Karl Marx. *Main foci* may be (specifications a few months from now): Marx's reading of Aristotle (*EN*, *Pol.*), his debt to Kant's ethics, his uses of Hegel's *Phil. of Right* and of Adam Smith's political economy. Marx's philosophy of history. One case study: G.E.M. de Ste. Croix, *The Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World* (1981) (excerpt provided).

Readings: Selected early works: *German Ideology*, *Crit. of Political Economy*, *Intro to the Crit. of Hegel's Phil. of Right*, others. Selections from the mature works, i.e., *Value, Price and Profit*; *Grundrisse*; *Kapital*; *Critique of the Gotha Program*.

If you have no background at all in Aristotle, Kant or Hegel, please consider auditing.

PHI 644 - Special Topics in Contemporary Philosophy: "Feminism, Visuality and Space"

Elizabeth Grosz

Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm, Friday 11:00-12:00 pm

This is an introductory course on theories of space and visuality. Instead of focusing on the question of gender and space, a recent concern of many feminists, this course will examine the more preliminary and general questions of how space, and vision which is the bodily sense that functions best to organize and structure space, have been associated with historically developed concepts of femininity and masculinity. It asks if and how the differences between the sexes may help us to understand how we conceive and live in space, and how we are able to represent it using light; and how changing our understanding of sexual difference may transform how space and vision are understood, organized and represented. Beginning with key writings by feminist philosopher, Luce Irigaray on the relations between vision, space and sexuality, we will explore how conceptions and theories of space, light and vision, connected in the various arts, are implicitly elaborated in and linked to the same terms as the differences of the sexes.

*PSY 507: Meta-Analysis

A methods seminar that may be helpful to WGSS PhD and certificate students doing meta-analysis for their research projects

Anne Moyer

TU/TH 4:00 - 5:20pm

This course is an introduction to research synthesis and the use of meta-analytic techniques. The content is intended to be a thorough yet practical coverage of basic principles, with an emphasis on leading students through the steps of conducting their own meta-analytic project. A basic knowledge of statistics commonly used in the social and behavioral sciences is essential. Class meetings will involve both didactic instruction and discussion of readings and homework assignments.

*SPN 662: 19th Century Spanish American Literature - "Flesh, Bodies, & Consumption"

Course taught in Spanish - Students will need good reading/comprehension/speaking skills

Joseph M. Pierce

Mondays 4:30 - 7:30pm

In the Western imaginary Latin America has been intrinsically linked to abundant natural resources, mythical and monstrous creatures, sensuality, and danger. Latin America is a place of consumption: to consume and be consumed. This course examines what "consuming" means as a trope and ideological construct, but also as an embodied, lived experience. We will approach the Colonial era cannibal, the 19th century bandit, the 20th century market speculator, and 21st century globalization as sharing a drive to consume that is characteristic of a region defined by excess. This course asks what drives, appetites, and desires constitute Latin American consumption. We will read canonical works in tandem with lesser-known works of fiction, autobiography, and memoir. We will engage in a trans-historical method of reading and critique, though this course will focus primarily on the 19th century era of nation-formation and the advancement of Liberal ideologies of social and economic value in Latin America.