Winter 2021 Courses

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

ONLINE -  Shruti Mukherjee

ONLINE - WST Instructor

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

ONLINE - Desiree Self

 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

ONLINE - Andy Eicher

  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.

Spring 2021  Courses

[WST Offerings]

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

ONLINE - Cristina Khan

ONLINE - Cristina Khan; TA - Lizbeth Zuniga

ONLINE - Jose Flores Sanchez

ONLINE - WST Instructor

ONLINE -Stephanie Bonvissuto

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  - Vicky Hesford; TAs - Hafza Girdap, Galia Cozzi Berrondo, Francesca Petronio, April Clark, Callen Zimmerman

ONLINE - Zoey Chu

ONLINE - Tasmia Haque

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

ONLINE -  Andy Eicher

ONLINE - Desi Self

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 WGSS -  DIV, CER, SBS+

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 reimaging future anti-racist, anti-imperalist spaces

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

ONLINE - "Race & Dis/Ability in Contemporary Culture" - Carlos Vazquez

[view flyer](https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/wgss/WST%20210-Spring%202021_Course%20Description%20Vasquez.pdf)

This course critically examines the entanglements of race and disability in present-day U.S. culture and society. Students will attend closely to the various ways in which race and dis/ability operate as at once intersecting, divergent, and self-contradicting categories of identity and tropes of human disqualification. Drawing on works from a variety of genres and disciplines, including literature, film, television, graphic narrative, and cultural criticism, our class will pay special attention to how representations of racialized otherness and embodied difference shape the lived experiences of Black, Latinx, and Asian American communities. Key works we will consider include, Crystal Fleming’s *How to Be Less Stupid About Race*; Tarell Alvin McCraney’s *David Makes Man;*Ramy Youssef’s *Ramy*; Patrick Devlieger’s *The Disabling Bullet*; David Eng's *Racial Melancholia*; Caleb Luna’s “On Being Fat, Brown, Femme, Ugly, and Unlovable” *;*and Eric Kripke’s recent series for Amazon Prime, *The Boys.*

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

ONLINE - Val Moyer

ONLINE - Alexandra Novitskaya

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

ONLINE - Vicky Hesford

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+

Synchronous ONLINE: Mondays 10:30 - 1:20 p.m.  - Mary Jo Bona

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 395: Topics in Global Feminism - " Global Reproductive Justice" - DIV, GLO, SBS+

ONLINE - Annu Daftuar

Members of oppressed communities have always had to fight to have children, and raise them in safe and healthy environments. The fight for abortion rights and the dark history of sterilization of women from marginalized communities continues to bear on present day reproductive politics debates. Can we then say that human reproduction is a solely biological phenomenon? In this course, we will examine two key questions: What makes reproduction a political issue? And what does a global reproductive justice movement look like?   Beginning with the concept of reproductive justice devised by Black feminist scholar-activists, we will examine the challenges that 21 st century globalization of reproductive technologies present in different global contexts, and ways in which they can be tackled such that giving birth, and parenting is safer and dignified for all. In each class, we will consider the role of history, socio-economic and political discourses on reproductive processes, practices and experiences of women and men. Further, we will consider ways in which reproductive practices shape and are shaped by inequalities based on gender, race, class, sexuality, citizenship, religion etc. This course will provide a transnational approach to reproductive justice to understand how various debates on reproduction such as abortion, reproductive technologies, and intimate care work play out in different contexts.

WST 399: Topics in Gender & Sexuality - " Queering Science Fiction" - HFA+, DIV

ONLINE - Ritch Calvin; TA - Genie Ruzicka

This class will introduce and examine theories of science fiction, theories and models of queer reading, and examples of authors who engage in queering science fiction. Theorist Darko Suvin defines “science fiction” as literature that makes the world we are familiar with seem strange, and the strange world seem familiar. Queer theorist William Haver writes about “queer” as “making strange, queer, or even cruel what we had thought to be a world.” Given those similarities, you might think that SF had always been queer. That depends. If queer is taken to refer to an identity, then “no.” If queer is taken to mean a critical lens that deconstructs familiar paradigms, then “yes.” Readings/viewings will include works by Samuel R. Delany, James Tiptree, Jr., Joanna Russ, Larissa Lai, Nnedi Okorafor, Gabriela Damián Miravete, Janelle Monáe, Wendy Gay Pearson, and many others.

WST 407: Senior Research Seminar for Women's and Gender Studies  Minors - EXP+, SPK, WRTD

Synchronous ONLINE: Wednesdays 10:30 - 1:20 p.m. - Mary Jo Bona

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

Synchronous ONLINE: Tuesdays 1:15 - 4:05 p.m. - Lisa Diedrich

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.

[WGSS-Related Electives]

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 391.02 - Humanities Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies -"Islamic Feminisms"

Tu/Th 3:00-4:20 pm

Rosabel Ansari

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.

AFS 306 - Gender & Public Health in Africa

ONLINE: MW 4:25-5:45 pm

Adryan Wallace

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.

AFS 381 - AIDS, Race, Gender/Black Community

ONLINE: Tu/Th 9:45-11:05 am

Geroge Aumoithe

Review of current biological and epidemiological knowledge about the HIV virus, and examination of the virus' social impact on the Black community. This course is offered as both AFS 381 and WST 381.

AFS 392 - The Black Power Movement

ONLINE: MW 4:25-5:45 pm

Zebulon Miletsky

A study of the Black Power Movement's promotions of racial pride, self-determination, unity, and revolution in American society and abroad from 1955-1975.

BIO 358 - Bio & Human Soc & Sex Behavior

ONLINE: MF 1:00-2:20 pm

Joanne Souza

Major features of human social and sexual behavior are examined from a biological perspective.  Insights from ethology, evolutionary biology, and neurobiology are synthesized into a picture of human nature and behavior.  Implications of this picture for human sexual and social behavior are considered.

CCS 311 - Gender and Genre in Film - "The Problem With Disney"

ONLINE: Tu/Th 9:45-10:40 am

Sophie Leroy

Examination of the notion of genre as a category of analysis and its often conflictive relationship to gender in the context of specific genres (the western, film noir, the horror film) and film story. Attention is paid to a particular genre's appeal to men and/or women as well as its relationship to larger social, cultural, and political issues. May be repeated as topics changes.

HIS 334/WST 360 - Women and Gender in Pre-Modern European History

ONLINE: Tu/Th 6:30-7:50 pm

Mary Cooper

An examination of the position of women in European society from ancient Greece through the Italian Renaissance. The course examines women's roles in the family and political life; women's economic activities; women and the Christian church; cultural attitudes concerning women; and women's own writing and creativity. This course is offered as both HIS 334 and WST 360.

HIS 360 -   U.S. Social History to 1860

ONLINE: MW 10:30 - 11:25 am

April Masten

Explores the American past from the perspective of ordinary people through lectures and readings that emphasize the experiences and ideas of individuals and groups of men and women of different classes, races, ages, beliefs, ethnic origins, and regions as they pursued competing notions of liberty and democracy.

HIS 383 - The World of Jane Austen; Jane Austen in the World

ONLINE: Tu/Th 3:00-4:20 pm

Kathleen Wilson

An examination of the social, political and cultural milieux 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 in the Law

ONLINE: MW 7:50-9:10 pm

Juliette Passer

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 240 - Survey in Social Psychology

ONLINE

Bonita London-Thompson

A presentation of various topics in social psychology including interpersonal processes, obedience to authority, social perception, attitude change, attraction and liking, and aggression and violence, especially as applied to national and international issues.

PSY 342 - Psychology of Women's Health

ONLINE: Tu/Thu 4:45-6:05 pm

Marci Lobel

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

ONLINE

Kathleen Fallon

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

ONLINE: W 6:05-8:55 pm

Catherine Marrone

A study of the links between biological reproduction and the socioeconomic and cultural processes that affect and are affec ted 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.

[Electives for the Specialization in Gender, Sexuality, and Public Health]

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

ONLINE -  Andy Eicher

ONLINE - Desi Self

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[Electives for th e Specialization in Gender and Social Change]

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

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 reimaging future anti-racist, anti-imperalist spaces

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

ONLINE - "Race & Dis/Ability in Contemporary Culture" - Carlos Vazquez

[view flyer](https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/wgss/WST%20210-Spring%202021_Course%20Description%20Vasquez.pdf)

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WST 395: Topics in Global Feminism - " Global Reproductive Justice"  - DIV, GLO, SBS+

ONLINE - Annu Daftuar

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WST 398: Topics in G ender, Race, and Ethnicity - "Staging Race & Gender" - SBS+, DIV

Synchronous ONLINE: Tues/Thurs 1:15 - 2:35 p.m.  - Francesca Spedalieri

How have contemporary playwrights, performance artists, and artivists engaged with intersectional approaches to race and gender? How have they resisted or echoed dominant discourses around policing and gun violence, environmental justice, and migration (to name a few)? What makes a performance an act of activism? What are the limits and possibilities of resistance through the arts? What can we learn from these artists’ approaches and how might this knowledge serve liberatory policymaking and community-building? These are some of the questions we will grapple with in this class as we analyze playscripts and filmed performances hand-in-hand with key theoretical decolonial and feminist writings. As an upper-division seminar, this class aims to be a collaborative exploration and will ask you to engage with art-making as a way of knowing unrestrained from the confines of mastery.

AFS 392 - The Black Power Movement

ONLINE: MW 4:25-5:45 pm

Zebulon Miletsky

A study of the Black Power Movement's promotions of racial pride, self-determination, unity, and revolution in American society and abroad from 1955-1975.

POL 330/WST 330 - Gender Issues in the Law

ONLINE: MW 7:50-9:10 pm

Juliette Passer

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.

SOC 247/WST 247 - Sociology of Gender

ONLINE

Kathleen Fallon

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.

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NOTES:

 \*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.

\*At least two WST topics courses (taught by WST-affiliated instructors) must be used to satisfy the topics courses requirement.