

Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Fall 2020 Graduate Courses

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

To get a **Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Graduate Minor (12 credit hours)**, you need to take 6 hours at the 7000 level (choose two of these three: WGS 7150, WGS 7500 and WGS 7900) and 6 hours of WGS-approved electives that are listed as 4000 and above..

WGS COURSE OFFERINGS

WGS 4500.1

Women's Autobiography and Memoir

In this course, we will examine a variety of women's autobiographies and memoirs, including a historical and cultural range. We will read some accessible theoretical texts to understand the difference between autobiography and memoir. Further, we will want to consider what is at stake historically and culturally when women write about themselves.

Works include Margaret Oliphant, *The Days of My Life*; Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*; Kim Lefèvre, *White Métisse*; Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*; Gail Caldwell, *Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship*; Katharine Smyth, *All The Lives We Ever Lived: Seeking Solace in Virginia Woolf*; and Annie Ernaux, *A Woman's Story*.

The course is discussion based. Students will respond to reading questions on the texts in preparation for each class period. My mid-semester, they will prepare discussion questions themselves for each class period. Students will write 3 Response Papers over the semester and a Final Paper. Students will also have the opportunity to write either a short autobiography or a memoir.

Kate Jensen

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

WGS 4500.2

Queer Theory

This seminar provides an introduction to the central issues and debates in queer studies. The course is interdisciplinary in aim: we will consider literary and philosophical texts as well as a range of writing in history, sociology, biology, law, psychoanalysis, and cultural studies. Students will become acquainted with the history of queer theory, examining both its major foundational texts (Foucault's *History of Sexuality*, Butler's *Gender Trouble*, and Sedgwick's *Epistemology of the Closet*) and its roots in black feminist theory and gay and lesbian studies. In addition to a historical understanding of the emergence of queer theory, this course will explore recent scholarship with particular emphasis on the relationship between Euro-American queer theory and queer of color critique. Students will leave the course with a deep understanding of contemporary debates, questions, and issues in 21st century queer theory.

Benjamin Kahan

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

WGS 7150

Seminar in Feminist and Gender Theory

Topics in recent and contemporary theory in a range of disciplines including the humanities, social sciences, natural and physical sciences, design, and education; students are encouraged to develop research projects relevant to their primary disciplines and to their research interests.

Deborah Goldgaber

W 4:30pm-7:20pm

Related Interest

HIST 4013.1

Women in Early Modern Europe

This course examines the roles of women in the in Europe in the period 1400-1800. Special emphasis on women's cultural, religious and political experiences during that time.

Christine Kooi

MWF 11:30am-12-20pm

CMST 4971.1

Gender, Race, & Class in the Media

This course seeks to help students develop an understanding of how mediated narratives influence our understandings of race, gender, and class in the Western world. Throughout this course, you will learn how to identify, observe, understand, and analyze how gender, race, and class are symbolically represented in media. We will look at various types of media including the internet, social media, television series, films, music, and advertising. We will discuss the political economy of media production, textual and cultural analysis of narratives in media, and discuss audiences' responses to media. Finally, we will consider how media impacts our cultural views about gender, race and class, and in turn, how social institutions structure themselves around positionalities. Students will not only develop a comprehensive understanding of media culture and communication processes, but also learn how media can be used to subvert prevailing narratives that reinforce the status quo.

Ashley Mack

T/TH TBD

LAW 5541.1

Gender and the Law

This course deals with the following issues: women's de jure and de facto legal status in U.S. jurisdictions with some attention paid if time permits to the general legal status of women in European and Latin American countries. Topics to be covered include the history of suffrage and demands for equal rights for men and women, violence against women and violence committed by women, property rights, inheritance rights, reproductive rights, marriage, child custody, the definition of family, Title IX issues, employment discrimination, and gender issues in the legal profession. This course will not examine employment law or domestic relations law in as great depth as the Law Center's existing courses in these areas. Rather it is intended to situate these issues within the greater context of the law of gender.

Christine Corcos M/W 3:00pm-4:20pm

CPLT 7140

The Promised Land: On Queer Bodies and Nation

This course sets in conversation two of the most important threads in the humanities today: gender and sexuality studies and transnational studies and their shared investments in interrogating the fundamental constructs of social relations, and their field-shaping effects on the practice of literary studies. Doing so, we will explore how the fluidity of gender and sexuality creates within cultural texts a model for understanding, what I am calling a "queer nation". We will

bring together the thinking and writing of intellectuals and artists from both the English-speaking and non English-speaking world, offering a trans-national way of thinking about how sexual minorities and gender-non-conforming persons are enfranchised and protected by the state.

This class will be taught in English and all materials for the course, from primary text to secondary sources, will be in English or in English translation (all films will be with English subtitles).