

# **GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM**

## **FALL 2020 COURSE OFFERINGS**

### **Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies with Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter**

GSS 201#2515: M, W, F, 11:15AM - 12:05PM, Dooly Memorial 104

GSS 201 #7713: Tues & Thurs, 9:30-10:45 AM, Dooley Memorial 105

(People & Society Cognate) (Writing credit)

In this course, we will examine the local and global significance of gender as it intersects with class, race and ethnicity. The course uses social science methods to distinguish between commonly held perceptions and facts in order to better understand why gender continues to shape our social institutions. In pursuit of understanding gender and sexuality, we will ask several core questions: How do women and men learn to be women and men? Why do women do most of the world's work, but own little of the world's wealth? How is masculinity changing, and what are the implications of this change? What steps can be taken to gain increased gender equality?

### **Introduction to LGBTQ Studies with Dr. Lindsay Thomas**

GSS 202 #6944: M, W, F, 12:20PM - 1:10PM, Dooly Memorial 104.

(Writing credit) (People & Society Cognate) (Counts towards LGBTQ Studies Minor)

As an introduction to the LGBTQ Studies minor, this class will be multidisciplinary, and will require challenging reading, engaged discussion, and on-going written responses. We will examine how sexual and gender identities have been historically, culturally, and politically constructed, how other times and places have thought differently about these forms of human variation, and how these ideas continue to be in transformation and political contestation today.

### **Feminist Inquiries with Dr. Sumita Chatterjee**

GSS 301 #6946: Tues & Thurs, 12:30PM - 1:45PM, Dooly Memorial 106. (People & Society Cognate)

This course studies the ways in which feminist inquiry transforms our understanding of key issues across the curriculum. Reading classic and contemporary feminist scholarship from a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds, we will address questions of rights, equality, nature of oppression and difference. We will discuss the dynamic, historical and changing nature of feminist contributions to the understanding of what constitutes work, inscriptions on the body, sex, sexualities, gender(s) and masculinities. Drawing on interdisciplinary feminist texts in history, anthropology, literary theory and literature, films, visuals, primary documents such as speeches and manifestos, the course will enable us to appreciate the diversity of feminist scholarship and activism that animate feminist inquiries.

### **Gender, Race, and Class with Dr. Sumita Chatterjee**

GSS 315 # 6947: Tues & Thurs, 3:30PM - 4:45PM, Dooly Memorial 114. (People & Society Cognate)

This course interrogates common sense thinking about gender, race, and class drawing on readings, documentaries, blogs, memoirs and fiction from the social sciences and humanities. We will explore the ways in which intersections of gender, race, and class shape society and the lived experiences of individuals and groups within it. The focus of such critical readings will be the United States and its institutions such as family, education, economy, public policy, and media. We will analyze how categories of gender, race, and class intersect, as well as create inequities and build solidarities and resistance movements for change over historical time and in specific cultural contexts. Class readings, lectures and discussions will be from an intersectional and multidisciplinary perspective.

### **South Asians in the Caribbean and the United States: Gender, Race, Class, and Caste in Migration Narratives with Dr. Sumita Chatterjee**

GSS 320 #6943 (Combined with HIS 511/HIS 611) (People & Society Cognate) (Writing Credit): W, 2:00PM - 4:30PM, Ashe Administration 621.

This course will critically study the gender, race, class, and caste dynamics of South Asian migration to the New World – to the British colonies of the Caribbean and to the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. With the help of monographs, fiction, memoirs, films, and oral archival sources we will engage with questions of displacement, belonging, home, and identity. We will situate our seminar-format discussions in the historical context of nineteenth century British colonial labor policies such as indentured servitude, and twentieth century U.S. immigration policies. How do South Asian political, cultural, and social identities get reconstituted in new homelands? Does the category “South Asia” (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bhutan and the Maldives) work in new diasporic spaces in people’s everyday lives? The course will cover the following themes: 1) a brief history of globalization and migration 2) literary imaginings of belonging, home, and hyphenated identities, 3) diasporic films, music, and dance in the shaping of performative and visual cultures. 4) Use of Richter library’s oral sources to understand their value in making visible immigrant voices and stories not found in official and written archival sources.

### **Women Writers in English with Dr. Kathryn Freeman**

GSS 350 #8418 (Combined w/ ENG 215): Tues & Thurs, 12:30PM - 1:45PM, Dooly Memorial 207. (Arts & Humanities Cognate)

This course surveys women writers from the twelfth century to the present. Through the lens of poetry, fiction, criticism, autobiography, and the journal, we will trace a female literary legacy that contributes to and challenges established historical categories. We will study their representations of identity vis-à-vis the changing expectations for women, including such influences as the developing relationship of women’s writing to the male literary tradition; the relationship of gender to class, race and ethnicity; professional identity and the public sphere; and the attitudes of women writers towards family and community.

### **Gender and Sexuality in Medieval and Renaissance Literature with Dr. Pamela Hammons**

GSS 350 #8699 (Combined w/ ENG 211-Q): Tues & Thurs, 12:30PM - 1:45PM, Dooly Memorial 214 (Counts towards LGBTQ Studies Minor) (Arts & Humanities Cognate) Satisfies the English literature major requirement for a course in literature before 1700.

Many well-known medieval and Renaissance literary texts foreground matters of love, desire, and sexuality. Chivalric romances intertwine stories of combat with tales of courtly love;

Petrarchan sonnets dissect the intense, vacillating emotions and turbulent psychological states associated with unrequited love; Renaissance comedy stages the erotics of mistaken identities and crossed purposes. As we will see in this course, the diversity and complexity of early English representations of love, desire, and sexuality deeply challenge today's assumptions about past literatures. For example, what does it mean when two medieval knights merrily (and repeatedly) kiss one another? Perhaps most famously, what are we to make of Shakespeare's frequent portrayal of homoerotic desire to increase the emotional intensity of his verse and the delightful complications of his plots? This course will survey medieval and Renaissance literature by male and female writers, including the Lais of Marie de France, the anonymous "Gawain" poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, John Donne, Margaret Cavendish, and Katherine Philips.

### **LGBTQI Thought, Literature, and Film in 20th- and 21st-Century Latin America and Spain with Dr. Gema Perez-Sanchez**

GSS 350 #8950 (Combined w/ SPA 330): Tues & Thurs, 11:00AM - 12:15PM, Whitten LC 140 (Counts towards LGBTQ Studies Minor) (Arts & Humanities Cognate)

This course will explore a few choice moments in the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, gender fluid, gender queer, queer, intersex and plus people in Spain and Latin America to contextualize recent political, activist, and cultural debates in Spanish-speaking countries on LGBTQI+ issues and the legal gains attained by these groups in some countries in the Spanish-speaking world. We will read key texts in LGBTQI theory originally written both in Spanish (especially from Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Peru) and English, and contrast them with contemporary films, literature, and activist interventions in order to gauge the very important contributions of Hispanic queer thought and culture to global debates about gender, sexuality, and human rights. The course will be conducted in Spanish, although we may have some occasional readings in English. The class sessions will be organized—insofar as the room we get assigned makes it possible—using the Harkness method of seminar discussion. Active participation is expected. This course satisfies the Arts & Humanities cognate.

### **Crafting and Queering the Contemporary Poem: Intermediate Poetry with Professor Mia Leonin**

GSS 350, #8419 (Combined w/ ENG 392): Tues & Thurs, 3:30PM - 4:45PM, Merrick 214F (Arts & Humanities Cognate) (Counts towards LGBTQ Studies Minor)

This course is a poetry writing workshop galvanized by the charge to queer or challenge binary notions of gender in contemporary poetry. To lay the foundation for student writing and examine our personal and cultural assumptions about gender, we will discuss writing by feminist thinkers and contemporary poets. Through readings, in-class writings, and dynamic conversation about craft and literature, ENG 319/392 seeks to build a writing community where students can create poems from an informed, expansive understanding of gender and sexuality.

### **Women's America 1 with Dr. Sybil Lipschultz**

GSS 350 #6942 (Combined w/ HIS 261): M, W, F, 5:05PM - 6:20PM, Dooly Memorial 100. (People & Society Cognate)

This course looks at the history of American women from the American Revolution to Reconstruction. We will examine mothers and daughters of the revolution, women and the law of

slavery, abolition and women's rights, the first independent women's movement and the legal status of women throughout the period.

### **Writers & Rebels: Female Renegades in Arabic Literature and Film with Dr. Suja Sawafta**

GSS 360 #8590 (Combined w/ ARB 315): M, W, 3:35PM - 4:50PM, Dooly Memorial 217 (Arts & Humanities Cognate)

This course will serve as an introduction to some of the Arab World's rebellious female writers and filmmakers. Focusing on the contributions made by female writers to the Arab literary canon, this course will survey the writings of the founding mothers, the revolutionary warriors, and the femmes fatales of the Arabic tradition, all of whom wrote from the war zone, the prison cell, from exile, and-most importantly-from the margins.

### **Gender and Sexualities in the Middle East and North Africa with Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter**

GSS 405, #6945: Tues & Thurs, 11:00AM - 12:15PM, Dooly Memorial 119

(Writing credit) (People & Society Cognate) (counts toward LGBTQ Studies minor)

This course offers an anthropological point of entry into the study of gender and sexuality in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Through ethnographic readings, we will analyze the social construction of gender and sexuality in the MENA. Through this course, students will learn the value of using anthropological theory and ethnographic method to better understand gender and sexuality in the often misunderstood Middle East and North Africa.

### **Queer Sexualities: Literature & Theory with Dr. Brenna Munro**

GSS 450 #8420 (Combined w/ ENG 489): Tues & Thurs, 12:30PM - 1:45PM, Ashe 427 (Arts & Humanities Cognate) (Counts towards LGBTQ Studies Minor)

This class will examine a wide variety of texts to think about how sexuality and gender have been imagined in different historical periods, cultures, and literary genres. We will start with the coming-out narrative of modern Western lesbian and gay identity, and then look at a series of texts that imagine sexuality, love, gender, bodies, and identities in different ways. The class will involve a project and presentation on a queer zine of your choice from our library's special collections, as well as regular written assignments. Works may include poems by a new generation of transgender and nonbinary writers, films such as *Stories of Our Lives*, from Kenya, and *XXY*, from Argentina, and novels: Uzodinma Iweala's Nigerian-American re-writing of the coming out novel, *Speak No Evil*; Abigail Tarttelin's YA novel about an intersex teen in the UK, *Golden Boy*; Saleem Haddad's novel of queer life in the Middle East in the midst of revolution, *Guapa*; Chelsey Johnson's *Stray City*, about bisexuality, pregnancy, and the queer 1990s; and Sarah Waters' *The Night Watch*, a lesbian WWII romance told chronologically backwards.

Writing Credit (W)

### **LGBTI Politics with Dr. Louise Davidson-Schmich**

GSS 469 #6939 (Combined w/ POL 569): Tues & Thurs, 11:00AM - 12:15PM, Dooly Memorial 209 (Writing credit) (People & Society Cognate) (Counts towards LGBTQ Studies Minor)

Across the globe today, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex citizens face very different legal situations. In some countries, homosexuality is outlawed and penalized by death, whereas in other countries gays and lesbians enjoy the protections of civil liberties and may marry and adopt children. In some nations trans people are arrested or harassed by the police

while in other places the public health service covers the cost of sex-reassignment surgeries. In some countries there are more than two officially-recognized sexes on government identification documents whereas in most places intersex individuals must either be classified as male or female. This class has two primary goals. First, we will explore the empirical variation in public policies towards various issues of interest to LGBTI citizens. Second, we will examine the social scientific literature on social movements and try to identify the factors which have helped or hindered LGBTI rights activists' efforts to improve the legal status of LGBTI citizens. Students will have the opportunity to do their own research on LGBTI activism of their choosing and present their findings to their classmates. Other assignments include brief in-class writing and reading summaries.

### **GSS INDEPENDENT STUDIES, THESES, INTERNSHIPS**

**GSS 499: Independent Study** Instructor: As arranged by student. Section: As arranged by student and instructor.

A study of the student's choice, and arranged in conjunction with a GSS instructor, of an issue focusing on gender and sexuality. Content varies. Contact Claire Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director, at [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu) for more information.

**GSS 501: Senior Research Project (Writing credit)** Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter  
Section: As arranged by student and instructor.

A student-initiated research project with a faculty member of the student's choice and approved by the program director. Contact Claire Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director, at [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu) for more information.

**GSS 505: Senior Honors Thesis (Writing credit)** Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter  
Section: As arranged by student and instructor.

Women's and Gender Studies majors with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in GSS courses and an overall GPA of at least 3.0 may earn departmental honors by completing an honors thesis instead of the senior research project. Candidates for departmental honors are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to serve as a thesis advisor and then must complete a thesis proposal of approximately 400 words, which must be approved by the thesis advisor and the program director. Most students will take this course twice, for a total of six credits. Contact Claire Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director, at [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu) for more information.

**GSS 590: Gender and Sexuality Studies Internship**

Instructor: As arranged by student.

Section: As arranged by student and instructor.

An internship in a community organization focusing on issues of gender or sexuality. Students arrange the internship and propose an exhibit, project, term paper, or other materials that will be presented for academic credit to a faculty sponsor for approval prior to beginning the internship

and to the program director at the end of the internship. Contact Claire Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director, at [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu) for more information.