

Spring 2021

Course Booklet

The Gender & Sexuality Studies Program

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Gender and Sexuality Studies

(Formerly Women's and Gender Studies/WGS)

Dear Students,

Welcome to the fascinating interdisciplinary study of Gender and Sexuality. Gender and Sexuality Studies offers courses spanning over 12 departments. We offer an undergraduate major in GSS, and a minor in both GSS and LGBTQ Studies. We also offer a variety of cognates, including Introduction to GSS and Introduction to LGBTQ Studies. We also hold monthly colloquies that are open to everyone in the UM community. To find out more about our program or to sign up for our newsletter, please send me an email at cxo185@miami.edu

Best,

Claire Oueslati-Porter, Acting Director.

MAJOR

A major in Gender and Sexuality Studies consists of at least 30 credits in Gender and Sexuality Studies courses (core or combined courses) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in GSS courses. These credits must include at least 18 at the 300 level or above. All majors must complete GSS 201: *Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies*, GSS 301: *Feminist Inquiries*, and at least two other GSS core courses.

All majors also have the option of completing GSS 501: *Senior Research Project*, which takes the form of an individual research project with a faculty member of the student's choice. The student is responsible for finding an appropriate faculty member who is available to supervise the project and then must seek formal approval from the program director before proceeding with the project. The student must produce a substantial written report or research paper, the format of which will vary according to the nature of the project. Gender and Sexuality 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 GSS 505: *Honors Thesis* instead of the senior research project, following the same guidelines. Most students writing an honors thesis as part of their GSS major will take GSS 505 twice (for a total of 6 credits).

MINOR

A minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies consists of at least 15 credits in Gender and Sexuality Studies courses (core, co-listed, and cross-listed) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in GSS courses. These credits must include at least 9 at the 300 level or above. All minors must complete GSS 201: *Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies*, GSS 301: *Feminist Inquiries*, and at least one other GSS core course. The student may not take more than 3 credit hours of individual studies without the approval of the program director.

LGBTQ Studies MINOR

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer

The LGBTQ Studies minor is designed to allow students to explore sexuality and sexual minorities from a variety of perspectives. The minor will provide students with an introduction to a broad array of LGBTQ issues, including visual and performing arts, literature, languages, history, social science, various theories, public policy and the law, families and other types of intimate relationships, crime, popular culture, and LGBTQ identities and communities. This widely interdisciplinary field addresses work in a broad range of scholarly disciplines, including biological and cultural studies, literature and anthropology, the health sciences, history, and the visual arts. It ranges from archival research to the elaboration of queer theory, from the analysis of constitutional law to questions of public health, from the study of popular culture to investigations into the development and social construction of sexual identity. A minor in LGBTQ Studies consists of at least 15 credits in LGBTQ Studies courses (requirements, core, and combined courses) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in LGBTQ courses. All minors must complete GSS 201: *Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies* and GSS 202: *Introduction to LGBTQ Studies*. The remaining course work must include at least 9 credit hours at the 300 level or above in LGBTQ themed courses and no more than 6 credit hours in any one department or program. The student may not take more than 3 credit hours of individual studies without the approval of the program director. For confirmation of which courses count toward the LGBTQ Studies minor, please contact the Director.

COGNATES

Gender and Sexuality Studies also has several cognates, including “Gender and Sexuality Studies” (people and society), “LGBTQ Studies” (people and society), A Cross-Cultural and Historic Examination of Sexuality (people and society), “Gender and Politics” (people and society), and “Gender, Literature and the Fine Arts” (arts and humanities).

SPRING 2021 COURSES

GSS 201: Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies

(Writing credit)

Section B: MWF 9:15am-10:05am

Section E: MWF 1:00-1:50pm

Section J: MW 6:00-7:15

Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter

When your mother announced that she was pregnant with you, the first question she was probably asked was, “Are you having a boy or a girl?” In this course, we will examine the local and global significance of gender as it intersects with class, race and ethnicity. We will ask many questions: Why is it women who do most of the world’s work, but who own little of the world’s wealth? Why are stay-at-home fathers ridiculed? Why, in a time of increased transgender visibility and celebrity, are U.S. transgender women so often the targets of violence? As we investigate the challenges that women politicians face, we will focus on the surge in women entering politics since the 2016 presidential election. We will assess gendered double-standards, such as the fact that it is women who are often expected to avoid being raped, rather than men being expected not to rape. This course uses social science research to separate false perceptions from realities, in order to better understand why gender continues to shape our social institutions.

GSS 301: Feminist Inquiries

(Writing credit)

Section Q: 1:00-2:15 pm

Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

This course studies the history of feminist thought and the ways in which feminist inquiry transforms our understanding of key issues across the curriculum. We will study what it means to be a feminist by situating the discourse animating feminisms in broader political and historical contexts. 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, 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.

GSS 305: Queer Studies

(Writing credit)

Section G: MWF 3:30-4:20 pm

Instructor: Dr. Brenna Munro

In this class, we will think about the podcast as a contemporary media form, and how it intersects with today’s queer culture. We will listen to a range of LGBTQ-themed podcasts and write responses and analyses of those, from 99% Invisible on public restrooms to the BBC’s NB: My Non-Binary Life to Afro-Queer to Making Gay History to Disability After Dark. We will read some “sound studies” theoretical work that focuses on queerness, and some media histories that place the podcast in a wider context. The class will culminate in students making their own podcast about some element of queer media life instead of a final paper, and so throughout the semester we will be building technical skills leading up to that, with a series of small assignments such as a recording of what you consider to be a “queer sound.” Students don’t have to have any expertise to take this class, and we are not in search of technical perfection, but rather experimenting with how this media form can help us think and create in new ways.

GSS 315: Gender, Race and Class (Writing credit)

Section T: 6:00-7:15 pm

Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

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.

GSS 320 C: Femininity, Masculinity, and Sexual Politics in Indian History (Writing credit)

Section R: TR 2:40 -3:55 pm (Combined with HIS 312-C)

Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

This course will be a thematic rather than chronological study of issues relating to gender and sex and the ways in which they have shaped the history of women and men's lived experiences in India. We will focus on relations between women and men, constructions of the feminine and the masculine, sexual politics in the divergent narratives and contested histories of Indian womanhood as imagined and lived – the “Devi”(Goddess) or the “Dasi” (slave), the changing and dynamic nature of the roles and statuses of women and men in the spheres of politics, law, society, economy, and culture. We will weave a narrative of women and men's lives by looking at both formal structures (inscribed in religious and legal texts) as well the customary lived experiences that often did not conform closely to formal dictates. To understand both formal social structure as well as experience and lived customs we will read a variety of multidisciplinary texts – primary historical documents written by both women and men, religious texts (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh), selections from legal treatises, folktales, fiction, plays, autobiographies, memoirs, visuals, and films. Themes will be selected from ancient, medieval, and modern periods of Indian history, with primary focus on modern and contemporary developments.

GSS 320: Brazilian Women Writers in Translation (Civic Engagement) (Writing credit)

Section R: TR 2:00 pm-3:15 pm (Combined with POR 310/691 & LAS 350)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Butterman

POR 310 / 691 and GSS 320 / LAS 301 is an interdisciplinary, multimedia cultural studies course designed to examine gender, culture, and social values in contemporary Brazilian society (1900 to present). Opening a wide window to meet our objective of studying representations of, by, and for Brazilian women, this course will include selected readings from a number of literary genres (short story, novel, novella, poetry, theater, crônica, and diary), films and documentaries, oral history and testimonials, and finally, Brazilian popular music. This writing-intensive course will be conducted in English. However, speakers of Portuguese and / or Spanish who wish to conduct their reading in the original Portuguese or, where available, in Spanish translation, are welcome and in fact encouraged to do so. In addition to addressing issues of social justice, intersectionality of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation, this course will examine a number of philosophical, political, and aesthetic concerns, problematizing such notions as

“feminine” vs. “masculine” writing, “gynocritics,” “phallogocentrism,” etc. We shall devote our attention primarily to feminisms in a Brazilian perspective. At the same time, we will also address universal topics such as: Which literary genres are / were privileged sites of “feminine writing”? Is there a “feminine sensibility” and do men have the authority / credentials to write within it (author) or write about it (literary critic)? Does the formation of a “room of one’s own” further exclude women from the literary canon? University of Miami Portuguese minors must conduct all written assignments in Portuguese. Students who do not wish this course to count toward a Portuguese minor may choose to complete assignments in English, Portuguese, or Spanish.

Prerequisite: ENG 106, or equivalent; one 200-level course in Humanities or Social Sciences; or permission of instructor.

Satisfies requirements for the Portuguese minor and MLL minor (with Portuguese) and the following cognates:

- Language and Cultures of the Portuguese-Speaking World: Intermediate and Advanced (A&H)
- Portuguese Language & Culture for Heritage and Native Learners. (A&H)
- Portuguese Language & Culture: Communicating with Portuguese Speakers. (A&H)
- Cultural Codes in the Portuguese-Speaking World. (P&S)

GSS 335: Sociology of LGBTQ Communities and Identities

Section O TR 9:40am-10:55am (Combined with SOC 335)

Instructor: Dr. Robert J. Johnson

The course examines gender, race, age and class differences in the experiences of gays and lesbians. A life-span perspective guides the course after the presentation of some background of biological, psychological, and sociological theories pertaining to homosexuality. The course also presents historical and social movements perspective of same-sex intimacies and communities and well as recent topics including micro aggressions, intersectional analyses of social status and identities, bullying, hate crimes, parenting and families, and civil rights as citizens of the communities and states where members of LGBTQ+ communities live.

GSS 344: Gender and Politics

(Writing credit)

Section R: TR 9:40am-10:55am (combined with POL 344)

Instructor: Dr. Louise Davidson-Schmich

This course begins by introducing some key theoretical concepts for the study of gender and politics, including the concept of gender itself, the notion of gender inequality, and the intersection of gender with other relevant social divisions such as race, ethnicity, partisanship, and sexual orientation. The course will then trace the rise of feminist movements around the globe before going on to assess their political impact. We will compare public policies in various areas including reproductive rights, LGBT issues, human trafficking, and issues of concern to women in the workforce. Our focus in this class will be not only on describing cross-national differences in gendered policies but also explaining the sources of this international variance. What role have actors such as autonomous women’s movements, political parties, interest groups and NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations played in promoting gender equality? How do formal and informal political and economic institutions create gendered political outcomes? If the gendered imbalance in policy outputs is to be leveled, causes of gender inequality must be understood.

GSS 350: Special Topics: Bollywood and Beyond: Religion, Gender, and Politics in South Asian Film.

(Writing credit)

Section E: - (combined with HIS 313-E)

Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

This course studies themes in Indian society through the lens of Indian cinema - Bollywood and the regional film industry. The course consists of five modules each lasting between two to three weeks. Module one will situate and frame the entire semester's readings with a discussion of a brief history of Bollywood and regional cinema, their respective influence and limits in framing, valorizing or critiquing societal and cultural norms. Each subsequent module will open to lecture and discussion with the screening of a Bollywood film (often an excerpt), regional cinema or a documentary. The important themes that will be covered in the modules will relate to: a) the significance, centrality, fluidity and perversion of caste in Indian society; b) the multiple cinematic and popular representations and framing of the religious epic - the Ramayana. Using multiple visual and textual narratives of the Ramayana we will discuss the place of myths in the construction of politics and society; c) issues of gender and sexuality - studying the shaping of celluloid goddesses and real lives of women, consumption of sex, queering of it and its depiction in film and reception in society; d) colonial and post-colonial engagement with modernity in India – through the lens of the nation state and its women, as well as the nation and its “others”: identity politics based on religious exclusions and exclusivity, communal and secular anxieties in modern India; and e) diaspora identities and cultural appropriation of Bollywood cinematic frames and references outside India.

GSS 350: Special Topics: Jane Austen and Literary Criticism.
(Writing credit)

Section P: TR 11:20-12:35 (Satisfies the English literature major requirement for a course in literature between 1700 and 1900.)

Instructor: Tassie Gwilliam

Jane Austen has an important and unusual place in literary studies. She is, on the one hand, a profoundly popular writer with ardent fans and imitators and, on the other, the object of intense scholarly investigation. She has exerted a peculiarly generative influence over her readers; her books have spawned films, repeated television adaptations, updating (Clueless), revisions (Pride and Prejudice and Zombies), vlogs (The Lizzie Bennet Diaries), and numerous sequels. Her fans even have a name: Janeites. Literary critical discussions of Austen's work have ranged from the controversial Eve Sedgwick article “Jane Austen and the Masturbating Girl” to reports on fan fiction to highly technical linguistic analyses, and from inquiries into feminism, race, and colonialism to explorations of shopping in the novels.

In this discussion course we will read five of Austen's six novels, employing some of the most illuminating criticism and responses to open up our understanding of Austen's work and her place in literature. We will also consider the assumptions and purposes of the criticism and theory we read. Part of our class time at the end of the semester will be devoted to preparation of the 10-15 page research paper.

GSS 350: Special Topics: War and the Fashioning of Gender.
(Writing Credit)

Section B: MWF 9:05-9:55; Section F: MWF 1:25-2:15 (Combined with ENG 210)

Instructor: Elizabeth Oldman

This course examines war and retreat from war as gendering activities which serves to restructure male and female identity. Investigating psychological and social responses to the crisis of order brought on by battle, we explore arguments in favor of pacifism as well as efforts to limit armed strife by distinguishing between just and criminal warfare. We assess the role and representation of soldiers and non-combatants in literature, art, and film, as well as ambivalent attitudes toward aggression and crises of “manhood.” More specifically, we analyze retreat from battle in relation to such tropes as: pastoral escapism, stoical self-possession, self-dissolution/imagined body of colossus, shell-shock, drink-induced reverie and indifference, fantasies of topographical isolation and utopia. Authors and artists include Shakespeare, Machiavelli, Marvell, Lovelace, Brome, Cleveland, Vaughan, Blunden, Graves, Millay, Owen, Rosenberg, Sassoon, West, Woolf, as well as the paintings, poems, political manifestos, photography, films, collages

and ready-made objects of Dalí, Tanguy, Ernst, Magritte, Miró, Aragon, Tzara, Eluard, Buñuel, Oppenheim, and Tanning.

Prerequisite: ENG 106 or equivalent.

GSS 350: Special Topics: Women, Gender, and Islam.
(Writing credit)

TR 11:20-12:35 (Combined with REL 371)

Instructor: Nebil Husayn

An examination of issues related to women and gender with an emphasis upon themes pertaining to the Muslim world. We will study the contributions of progressive/feminist Muslim writers in addition to secular academic research on the subject. Topics include Qur'anic revelations concerning women; gendered ideals that developed after the founder's death; understanding how Islamic texts, rituals, and doctrines have both reinforced and challenged certain gender categories; and the experience of Muslims living in the U.S. and the Middle East, addressing racial as well as gendered hierarchies.

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 Dr. Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director for 2020, for more information, at cxo185@miami.edu.

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 Dr. Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director for 2020, for more information, at cxo185@miami.edu.

GSS 505: Senior Honors Thesis
(Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter

Section: As arranged by student and instructor.

Gender and Sexuality 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 Dr. Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director for 2020, for more information, at cxo185@miami.edu.