

Fall 2023 Course Booklet

Gender & Sexuality Studies Program

Dear Students,

The program in gender and sexuality Studies (GSS) offers courses spanning many disciplines and departments. We offer an undergraduate major in GSS, and a minor in both GSS and LGBTQ Studies. We also hold monthly colloquies that are open to everyone in the greater University of Miami community. To find out more about our program or to sign up for our newsletter, please send an email to cxo185@miami.edu.

Warm Regards,

Claire Oueslati-Porter, Director of the GSS Program

The MAJOR in Gender & Sexuality Studies

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).

The MINOR in Gender & Sexuality Studies

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.

The MINOR in LGBTQ Studies

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 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 program director's approval. For confirmation of which courses count toward the LGBTQ Studies minor, please contact the Director.

COURSE OFFERINGS FOR FALL 2023

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

GSS 201: M, W, F, 9:05 – 9:55 am

GSS 201: M, W, F, 10:10 – 11:00 am

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

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. Steven Buttermann

GSS 202: Tues & Thurs 6:35 – 7:50 pm (Writing credit) (People & Society Cognate) (Counts toward LGBTQ Studies Minor)

As an introduction to the LGBTQ Studies minor, this class will be multidisciplinary and will require challenging reading, engaged discussion, and ongoing 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: Tues & Thurs 11:00 – 12:15 pm

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 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.

Queer Studies: The Politics of Transgender with Dr. Brenna Munro

GSS 305: Tues & Thurs 12:30 – 1:45 pm

(Writing credit) (Counts toward LGBTQ Studies Minor)

Transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse people have become the intense focus of contemporary politics. In this class, we will examine the legal landscape: analyze rhetoric from a variety of political locations; discuss contemporary TV representations; consider the role of the internet; grapple with the scholarly research on trans healthcare; talk to researchers at UM and beyond; and, importantly, we will learn about what trans and non-binary people have to say about themselves, through memoir, poetry, and documentary film.

Gender, Race, and Class with Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

GSS 315: Tues & Thurs, 2:00 - 3:15 pm

(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.

Contemporary Brazilian Theater Staging Sixty Years of Brazilianness: An Overview of Brazilian Theater from Dictatorship to the Present (1964 – 2023) with Dr. Steven Butterman and Dr. Marcia Fanti Negri

GSS 320: M, W, F, 5:05 pm - 6:20 pm

(Combined with POR 322/691 & LAS 301/691)

Contemporary Brazilian Theater focuses on the development of nearly sixty years of Brazilian theatrical productions from dictatorship (1964) to the present. The student will learn and refine critical vocabulary to analyze performances from a variety of critical approaches. The course will also present performance and performativity, exploring the nature of dramaturgy itself, its social, psychological, and political roles in Brazilian society, and the relationships of theater and theatrical industries with viewers. Ultimately, we will examine how race, gender, sexual orientation and other factors affect the relationship between the theater and its spectatorship.

Religion and Gender with Dr. Robyn Walsh

GSS 350: Tues & Thurs, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

(Combined with REL 345 & CLA 222)

This course examines what we know about the social lives of wo/men from the classical period through modernity, with an emphasis on questions of sexuality and gender in ancient Greece and Rome. Using cross-cultural analysis and evidence from a variety of ancient literature, scholarship, and material culture, together we will reconstruct and (re)examine the socio-cultural environments and practices that have fostered Western discourses on sexual difference and gender identity over time— paying particular attention to how religion and religious practices are integral to understandings of the natural world, so-called natural law, and the self. Some of the questions we will ask include: What does it mean to be male or female? What can we discover about ourselves from the way(s) we have sex? How are all these things related to daily life, concepts of love, power? All texts will be read in translation.

Women, Gender, and Islam with Dr. Nebil Husayn

GSS 350: M, W, 5:05 - 6:20 pm

(Writing credit)

(Combined with REL 371)

(Hybrid Course)

An examination of issues related to women and gender with an emphasis on 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. This course will utilize a 'flipped classroom.' Students will independently listen to uploaded lectures and then come together for discussions once a week.

Gender Studies Living Learning Community Course with Dr. Gisela Vega

GSS 350: Tues 5:05-6:05

(Counts toward the LGBTQ Studies Minor)

(Civic Engagement Course)

The course will examine leadership development and social change introduced in the LGBTQ Community Leadership and Engagement Gender and Sexuality LLC Course using a global lens. This learning and experiential course will introduce students to non-normative sexualities and gender issues from around the world. Building upon the Social Change Model of Leadership, and through the incorporation of the Social Change Wheel 2.0 students will further explore leadership and engagement with the goal of helping them think critically and creatively about how to best sustain partnerships and expand LGBTQ community-engaged and learning on a global scale. The course is comprised of selected readings, lectures, classroom presentations, and both in and out-of-class discussions and events. The course links the community-based learning experience with the academic coursework through a hands-on Living Learning Community experiential component.

Intermediate Poetry Workshop: Crafting and Queering the Contemporary Poem with Mia Leonin

GSS 350: M, W, F, 12:20 – 1:10 pm

(Counts toward LGBTQ Studies Minor) (Gender & the Arts Cognate) (Combined with ENG 319/392)

This is a poetry writing workshop galvanized by the charge to queer or challenge binary notions of gender and upend normative approaches to point of view, voice, and form in contemporary poetry. To lay the foundation for student writing and examine our personal and cultural assumptions about gender, we will discuss essays by feminist thinkers such as bell hooks, Audre Lorde, and Jackson Katz. Models for student writing include poets of color such as Natalie Scinters-Zapico, Ocean Vuong, Patrick Rosal, and Analicia Sotelo, and others. ENG 319/392 is a portfolio-based course that requires students to write and revise poems throughout the semester and actively participate in a peer review workshop. Through readings, in-class writings, and dynamic conversations about craft and literature, we will build a writing community that encourages students to create from an informed, expansive understanding of gender and sexuality.

Bollywood and Beyond: Religion, Gender, and Politics in South Asian Film with Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

GSS 350: M, W, F, 9:05 – 9:55 am

(Combined with HIS 313)

(People & Society Cognate)

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.

English American Literature by Women with Dr. Kathryn Freeman

GSS 350: M, W, F, 9:05 - 9:55 am

(Combined with ENG 215) (Writing credit) (People and Society 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 these writers’ representations of identity vis-à-vis the changing expectations for women, including such influences as their literary relationship to the male tradition; the relationship of gender to class, race, sexuality, and ethnicity; professional identity and the public sphere; and the attitudes of women writers towards family and community.

Literary Representations of Women with Dr. Tassie Gwilliam

GSS 350: M, W, 3:35 – 4:50 pm

(People & Society Cognate)

(Writing credit)

Satisfies the English major requirement for a course in literature between 1700 and 1900.

Women writers and female celebrities of the late seventeenth century to the early nineteenth century were experimenting with identities, both in literature and in life, in response to social and psychological constraints. This course focuses on literary and cultural texts that embody challenges to the limits placed on women’s lives by moral and sexual norms, gendered expectations, social and psychological forces, and the law. We will begin the semester with two novellas by Aphra Behn that feature renegade anti-heroines, followed by one of Behn’s plays, either *The Feigned Courtesans* or *The Rover*. Both comedies by this earliest of female professional writers demonstrate the possibilities and pitfalls of prostitution. In fact, the courtesan or celebrity sex worker recurs in our readings as a figure for the conflicted position of women in this era. Two scandalous tales of masquerade and danger by the bestselling novelist Eliza Haywood continue the thread of sexual experiment. Alongside these works, we will explore the actual world of eighteenth-century sex work through a fictionalized biography of one of the most celebrated courtesans of the period, Kitty Fisher, who also appears in Harris’s *List of Covent Garden Ladies*, an annual guide to prostitutes from which we will read excerpts. Turning to another genre and another profession, the *Memoirs of Mary Robinson* offers insight into the life of the actress, poet, and novelist whose accomplishments as a writer were overshadowed by the scandal of her becoming mistress to the Prince of Wales. We will then look at women caught in Gothic traps: first Mary Shelley’s *Mathilda* and then Jane Austen’s homage to and parody of

the Gothic, Northanger Abbey. Harking back to the renegade heroines of the beginning, we will end with Austen's radical, comic celebration of heartless scheming, Lady Susan.

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

GSS 405 M, W, F, 2:30 – 3:20 pm

(Combined w/Apy 418) (Writing credit) (Counts toward the LGBTQ Studies Minor) (People & Society Cognate)

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.

GSS INDEPENDENT STUDIES, THESES, INTERNSHIPS

GSS 499: Independent Study (Writing credit) Instructor: As arranged by the 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 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 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 for more information.

GSS 590: Gender and Sexuality Studies Internship

Instructor: As arranged by the 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 for more information.