

## The Program in Gender & Sexuality Studies

### Fall 2024 Course Booklet

#### 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: [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu).

-Claire Oueslati-Porter, Director of the GSS Program

#### DEGREES

##### 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.

## **The LGBTQ STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP**

The Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies and the College of Arts and Sciences have five scholarships of up to \$10,000 each for students intending to pursue a minor in LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Studies.

### **To be eligible for these scholarships:**

- applicants must be UM students in good academic standing

- have financial need
- minor or intend to minor in LGBTQ Studies (Gender and Sexuality Studies majors with significant LGBTQ-related course work count here)
- intend to participate in a pre-law, pre-med, or a pre-nursing program

**To apply, students must submit an online application form that can be found here:**

<https://umcas.wufoo.com/forms/lgbtq-studies-scholarship-application/>

The application is due Friday, October 30, 2024. Please direct any further questions to Dr. Oueslati-Porter at [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu).

### **The LGBTQ Studies Minor at the University of Miami**

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). 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.

**Fall Course Offerings- Scroll Down to Next Page!**

## **FALL 2024 COURSE OFFERINGS**

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

GSS 201: TuTh 9:30AM - 10:45AM

GSS 201: TuTh 11:00AM - 12:15PM

(People & Society Cognate) (Writing credit) (Fulfills GSS minor & major requirement.) (Fulfills LGBTQ Studies minor requirement.)

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. Gisela Vega**

GSS 202: M, 6:35pm - 9:20pm (Writing credit) (People & Society Cognate) (Fulfills LGBTQ Studies minor requirement.)

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: TuTh 11:00am - 12:15pm (Fulfills GSS minor & major requirement.)

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 with Dr. Steven Butterman & Euge Stumm**

GSS 305: Monday & Wednesday 6:35 – 7:50 p.m. (People & Society) (Writing credit) (Fulfills LGBTQ Studies minor requirement).

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: TuTh 2:00pm - 3:15pm (People & Society Cognate) (Fulfills GSS minor & major requirement.)

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.

### **English and American Literature by Women with Dr. Kathryn Freeman**

GSS 340: TuTh 9:30am - 10:45am (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.

### **Women, Gender, and Islam with Dr. Nebil Husayn**

GSS 350: MoWe 5:05pm - 6:20pm (Writing credit) (Combined with REL 371) (Hybrid Course)

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. This course will utilize a 'flipped classroom.' Students will independently listen to uploaded lectures and then come together for discussions once a week.

### **Género y Sexualidad: Pensamiento, activismo y “artivismo” LGBTQIA+ en el mundo hispano (LGBTQIA+ Thought, Activism, and “Artivism” in the Spanish-Speaking World) with Dr. Gema Perez-Sanchez**

GSS 350 S: TuTh 3:30pm - 4:45pm (People & Society Cognate) (Writing credit)

In this course we will compare and contrast two important moments in the history of LGBTQIA+ activism in the Spanish-speaking world that are relevant to the general history of queer and trans activism internationally: (1) the 1970s homosexual liberation movement (2) the first decade of the twenty-first century, during the legislative victories that led to the legalization of same-sex marriage and to some legislative victories for trans people in Spain and Argentina. What these two moments have in common in these countries is a sense of hopefulness and change right after two brutal dictatorial regimes (in the 1970s-1980s) and after the HIV-AIDS pandemic of the 1980s-90s. To approach the study of these two historical milestones, we will first collectively create a lexicon of keywords and consider the politics of translation. Then we will read about the cultural, theoretical, political, and activist debates that dominated each historical to ask:

- What were the political and legislative goals at each of these two historical moments and in each of these two countries? In other words, how did the activists' priorities differ in each country and in each historical moment?
- What political and cultural strategies did Hispanic activists use to achieve their goals and which were most effective?
- What theories underpinned each of these movements and, conversely, how did these movements influence LGBTQIA+ thought and theory?
- What is the role of “artivism” in furthering political objectives?

### **Writers and Rebels: The Female Renegades of Arabic Literature + Film with Dr. Suja Sawafta**

GSS 360/ ARB 315 MoWe 3:35pm - 4:50pm Dooly Memorial 209 (Arts & Humanities Cognate)

(People & Society Cognate) (Writing credit)

This course will serve as an introduction to some of the Arab world's most rebellious female writers, film-makers, and culture workers. Focusing on the archetype of strong women in literature and film, as well as the contributions made by women to the Arabic literary canon, this course surveys the founding mothers, 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.

### **The Anthropology of Sex & Culture with Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter**

GSS 370/APY 392 TuTh 3:30PM - 4:45PM Dooly Memorial 201 (Writing credit) (Counts toward the LGBTQ Studies Minor) (People & Society Cognate)

This course explores human sexuality from an anthropological point of view. Students taking the course will examine how anthropologists, especially feminist and queer anthropologists, research, theorize and challenge knowledge of sex in relation to class, gender, sexuality, nationality, race, ethnicity, economy, and more. The course includes examinations of the biology of human sexuality, the cultural dynamics of sexual activity and expression (from virginity pledges to BDSM communities), asexualities, sexual forms of social control, sexual violence, economies of sexual exchange including sex work, and contemporary upsets to the conventional study of the anthropology of sexuality.

### **Sociology of Gender with Dr. Kim-Phuong Truong-Vu**

GSS 370 MoWe 2:30pm - 3:45pm (Prerequisite: SOC 101.) (People & Society Cognate)

The phenomenon of gender in society using sociological theory and research. Topics of focus include the social construction of gender, gender identity, and gender discrimination within various social institutions such as the family, the educational system, the media, the world of employment, and more.

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

GSS 450 M, 2:30pm - 5:15pm (Combined with HIS 511/611)

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) Discussion of feminist ethnographic method and use and value of oral histories. Here we will use Richter library's oral sources to understand their value in making visible immigrant voices and stories not found in official and written archival sources. This oral archive was created by students of the same course in Fall 2020 with a CREATE Mellon grant. We will also use South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA.org) These themes and archival engagement with existing oral collections, historical scholarship, literature, and film, provide the frames through which we will evaluate the lived experiences of South Asians who migrated to different parts of the Caribbean and United States under diverse conditions and dissimilar motivations – highlighting gender, race, caste, and class in shaping these new homes and identities.

### **Contemporary Global Gender Queer Writing with Dr. Brenna Munro**

GSS 450/ ENG 489: TuTh 3:30pm - 4:45pm (People & Society Cognate) (Writing credit)

In this class, we are going to read, discuss, and write about a range of contemporary international literature that changes how readers imagine gender, pushes the boundaries of literary form, and responds to how people are asserting their right to know, name, and express their own genders. As non-binary, experimental writer Isabel Waidner puts it, “If there were a literary avant-garde that were relevant now, it would be what the queers and their allies are doing.” Speculative fiction, surrealism, apocalyptic climate crisis fiction, postmodern fairytales, graphic novels and manga, a tragicomic novel in verse, queer Afro-spirit-writing, a novel that never genders its main characters, a novel whose narrator can shift genders at will, gender/queer literature is both inventing and re-making genres—including, maybe most subversively, trans and nonbinary realism. This is also a literature that is being targeted for censorship, around the world and here in our own state: all the more reason to read it. Students will hand in regular questions about the reading, write four short papers, and produce a longer final paper. Texts might include some of the following options: Chi Ta-Wei, *The Membranes* (Taiwan), Vivek Shraya, *The Subtweet* (India/Canada), Eloghosa Osunde, *Vagabonds!* (Nigeria), Cat Fitzpatrick, *The Call Out* (US), Helen Oyeyemi, *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours* (Nigerian-British), Isabel Waidner, *Sterling Karat Gold* (German-British), Zeyn Joukhader, *The Thirty Names of Night* (Syrian-American), Camila Sosa Vilada, *Las Malas* (Argentina), Joshua Whitehead, *Jonny Appleseed* (Oji-nêhiyaw), Maia Kobabe, *Gender Queer: A Memoir* (US), Akwaeke Emezi, *Freshwater* (Nigeria/US), Alice Oseman, *Loveless* (UK), Oto Toda, *To Strip The Flesh* (Japan), Anne Garréta, *Sphinx* (France), Nat Reeve, *Nettleblack* (UK), Andrew Joseph White, *Hell Followed With Us* (US), Nicola Dinan, *Bellies* (Hong Kong/UK), Alison Rumfitt, *Tell Me I'm Worthless* (UK), Andrea Lawlor, *Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl* (US), Irenosen Okojie, *Nudibranch* (Nigerian-British), Nina Bouraoui, *Garçon Manqué* (Algeria/France), Shelley Parker-Chan, *She Who Became The Sun* (Chinese-American), Rivers Solomon, *An Unkindness of Ghosts* (US).

## **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](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 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](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu) for more information.