WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES (WGST)

WGST 101 - Issues in Feminism (4 Credit Hours)
An introduction to the field of Women's and Gender Studies, this interdisciplinary course considers the socio-political meanings and practices of gender in our lives. It examines whether gender is biologically or socially constructed and how notions of femininity and masculinity are (re)produced. Students will analyze the workings of power and the social production of inequality in institutions such as the family, the workplace, and the state, taking into account the intersections among gender, race, class, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality. Topics will include sexual and gender violence, equal rights, reproductive technologies, body image, and transnational feminist issues. A central aim of the course is to develop critical reading and thinking about the plurality of women's experiences and about the ways in which women have resisted inequalities and engaged in local/global politics for social transformation and change. This course fulfills the Interdivisional (I), Power and Justice (P), and Oral Communication (R) GE requirements. Crosslisting: QS 290.

WGST 108 - Bible, Gender, and Sexuality (4 Credit Hours)
This course introduces students to the many conflicted attitudes and images around men, women, and sexuality found in the Bible, from the very different creations of Adam and Eve to Revelation's representation of the Roman Empire as the "whore" of Babylon; from the assertive and sexually suspicious female figures of Ruth and Rahab to Jesus’ uncertain masculinity in accounts of his death. We will ask: does the Bible support heterosexuality and decry homosexuality? In addition to close, historically-oriented study of select biblical texts, students will be acquainted with core readings in contemporary gender theory. This course fulfills the I and P GE requirements and the Humanities area distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors. Crosslisting: REL 108 and QS 280.

WGST 110 - Biology & the Politics of Women's Health (4 Credit Hours)
This course examines critical conversations in the biology, politics, culture, and history of women's health. The nation's greatest health issues include, but are not limited to, unmanaged chronic conditions (including cardiovascular health), environmental health risks and cancer, racial and ethnic health disparities, women's reproductive and sexual health, and the epidemic of obesity. Barriers in healthcare delivery, at healthcare system and provider levels, exist for women, trans people, and non-binary people. Evaluating the complexities of these gendered health issues involves both scientific literacy and sociocultural literacy. This course provides a fundamental understanding of how biological system structures and functions are related, specific to the female human body. The laboratory component of this course familiarizes students with the scientific method, feminist theory in science, and methods in women's health research. This course promotes proficiency in oral communication through practice in a variety of formats that typically occur in biology and women's and gender studies. This course fulfills the I, Y, and R GE requirements and the Sciences distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors. Crosslisting: BIOL 110.

WGST 150 - Introductory Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (4 Credit Hours)
This course may satisfy one of the distribution requirements for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.

WGST 162 - Self-Defense for Women (1 Credit Hour)
This course is for women to learn basic self-defense techniques to prevent sexual assault. We will discuss and practice strategies that can be used in a variety of self-defense situations, including street and job harassment, date-rape, and stranger assault, fighting from the ground, defending yourself with or against a weapon, and defense against multiple attackers. Students will learn to combine mental, verbal and physical self-defense techniques in their personal lives. Crosslisting: PHED 162.

WGST 180 - Special Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (4 Credit Hours)
WGST 199 - Introductory Topics in WGST (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

WGST 210 - Sex and Gender in Society (4 Credit Hours)
This course compares and evaluates a variety of theories which attempt to explain the origins, persistence and effects of gender in American society. In particular, it explores a number of settings that may include: the family, the work place, the political arena, religious activity, violence against women, and face-to-face interactional contexts. Special attention is given to the ways in which race, ethnicity, class and sexual orientation shape gender experiences. Although its primary focus is American society, the course compares problems of sexual inequality in American society with other, quite different, societies in order to gain a comparative understanding of how discrimination, prejudice, and structural inequality, wherever they are found, create special problems for women. Throughout, the focus is on learning to use structural, historical, and theoretical information as guides to understanding social change and the choices facing women and men. This course fulfills the Social Sciences distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors. Crosslisting: ANSO 210.

WGST 220 - Women in Music (4 Credit Hours)
Historically, women have played an integral role in musical traditions around the world, although the extent of their contributions has only recently been recognized and studied in an academic context. This course traces the development and current state of women's roles in music, including Western art music composers, performers, critics, and teachers: performers of popular American genres such as jazz, country, and rock; and performers of popular "World Beat" and traditional world musics. This course fulfills the Arts distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors. Crosslisting: MUS 220 MUS 230.

WGST 223 - Women in United States History (4 Credit Hours)
This course surveys the history of women in the United States from 1848 to the present. We will explore the lived experiences of many different kinds of women and analyze the ways in which other categories of identity – race, ethnicity, nationality, class, sexual orientation, age, etc. – affect those experiences. We will also explore the development of feminist consciousness among U.S. women, and analyze attempts to expand that consciousness both nationally and globally. This course fulfills the Humanities distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors. Crosslisting: HIST 192.

WGST 225 - Women in Literature (4 Credit Hours)
Selected poetry and prose by women guide inquiries into writing and gender and into related issues, such as sexuality, history, race, class, identity and power. This course fulfills the Humanities distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors. Crosslisting: ENGL 225.
WGST 227 - Women's Spiritual Activism (4 Credit Hours)
What is women's spiritual activism in our contemporary society? What can we learn from those who have struggled to bring gender equality and peace in human society? Is religion anti-feminist or feminism anti-religious? In spite of cultural, racial and religious diversity among women across the globe, women often share the similar stories of physical and psychological suffering caused by their institutionalized religions and societies. Many of these women also testify that their religions enabled them to resist injustice and to build up solidarity with others including men. This course invites the students to explore the spiritual journeys of the feminist activists—their struggles for justice for all humanity. This course fulfills the Humanities and Transnational Feminism distribution requirements for WGST majors/minors.

Crosslisting: REL 227.

WGST 229 - Mediating Gender and Sexuality (4 Credit Hours)
We will critically examine and evaluate the cultural construction and representation of gender and sexuality in contemporary American mass media, and trace their development throughout the 20th century. We will focus on a variety of mass-produced commercial media texts, surveying television, magazines, advertising, and popular music. Although gender is the primary identity construction examined in this course, we will pay close attention to other aspects of identity that define American women, such as ethnicity, class, and sexuality. We will investigate representational issues in relation to their political repercussions, and draw from a broad range of academic literature, including feminist television criticism, film theory, cultural studies, communication theory, and popular music criticism. This course fulfills the Social Sciences distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors.

Crosslisting: COMM 229 and QS 229.

WGST 250 - Intermediate Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (4 Credit Hours)
This course may satisfy one of the distribution requirements for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.

WGST 251 - Intermediate Topics Seminar (Humanities) (4 Credit Hours)
This topics seminar is cross-listed with a course in the Humanities and satisfies the Humanities distribution requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.

WGST 252 - Intermediate Topics Seminar (Arts) (4 Credit Hours)
This topics seminar is cross-listed with a course in the Arts and satisfies the Arts distribution requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.

WGST 253 - Intermediate Topics Seminar (Social Sciences) (4 Credit Hours)
This topics seminar is cross-listed with a course in the Social Sciences and satisfies the Social Sciences distribution requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.

WGST 254 - Intermediate Topics Seminar (Sciences) (4 Credit Hours)
This topics seminar is cross-listed with a course in the Sciences and satisfies the Sciences distribution requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.

WGST 255 - Black Women and Organizational Leadership (4 Credit Hours)
This class explores Black women's leadership orientations in organizations. Afrocentric and womanist frameworks are used to inquire about Black women's leadership in the context of their lives. In this course we explore and theorize Black women's use of communal and generative leadership orientations as well as their application of a multiple and oppositional consciousness. Organizational dilemmas stemming from their race, class, and gender, as well as the unique challenges Black women leaders face in creating a supportive life structure are examined. Students will critique the omission of Black women's leadership styles in the mainstream theories about leadership, as well as explore the implications of Black women's leadership for expanding mainstream theory.

Crosslisting: BLST 265.

WGST 274 - Cultural Studies (4 Credit Hours)
This course frames Western concert dance as a complex political activity made public through various agendas of race, creed, national origin, sexuality, and gender. Students may simultaneously be exposed to poststructuralist epistemology, feminist theory, and power & justice ideology while they are meeting a survey of historical works. In this way, the course is less about coming to know a canon of “masterworks” and more about learning how to interrogate dance in many cultures from multiple perspectives. Students will be expected to engage in movement activities as a method toward an embodied understanding of theory, but will not be evaluated on their movement performance or ability. No dance experience necessary. This course fulfills the I and the P GE requirements and the Arts distribution requirement for WGST major/minors.

Crosslisting: DANC 274.

WGST 275 - Philosophy of Feminism (4 Credit Hours)
Feminism and philosophy both make the invisible visible, the implicit explicit. Both make us aware of assumptions we make in our everyday lives and challenge us to justify them. This course examines ways in which feminist theory enriches philosophy and vice versa. How does feminism destabilize philosophy and affect philosophical conceptions of knowledge, metaphysics, agency, or morality? How does philosophy enrich feminist understandings of oppression, privilege, or equality? We will consider a range of forms of oppression and privilege, particularly as they affect women. We will consider philosophical conceptions of sex, gender, and race. How do they shape people's understanding of themselves and the world? What kinds of agency do they foster and what kinds of agency do they inhibit? How does resistance to oppression and privilege lead to social change? Are knowledge and reality themselves gendered and, if so, in what sense? We will examine these issues in the context of debates about gender violence, work and family, as well as feminist ethics and epistemologies. This course fulfills the I, P, and W GE requirements and the Humanities distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors.

Prerequisite(s): One previous course in Philosophy or Women's and Gender Studies or consent.

Crosslisting: PHIL 275, QS 275.
WGST 276 - Gender, War and Conflict (4 Credit Hours)
This course aims to make feminist sense of contemporary wars and conflicts. It analyzes the intersections between gender, race, class, and ethnicity in national conflicts. The class traces the gendered processes of defining citizenship, national identity and security, and examines the role of institutions like the military in the construction of femininity and masculinity. The course focuses on the gendered impact of war and conflict through examining torture, mass rape, genocide, and refugee displacement. It analyzes the strategies used by women's and feminist movements, to oppose war and conflict, and the gendered impact of war prevention, peacekeeping, and post-war reconstruction. The class draws on cases from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The class is interdisciplinary and gives equal weight to theory and practice while drawing on writings by local and global activists and theorists. This course fulfills the Social Sciences and Transnational Feminism distribution requirements for WGST majors/minors.

Prerequisite(s): INTL 100 or WGST 101.
Crosslisting: INTL 250.

WGST 299 - Intermediate Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

WGST 301 - Psychology of Women (4 Credit Hours)
This course reviews psychological research and theories on women. Topics include sex bias in psychological research, gender differences and similarities in personality and abilities, lifespan development, problems of adjustment and psychotherapy, language and communication, women's health, female sexuality, and violence against women (rape and wife battering). This course fulfills the Sciences distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors.

Prerequisite(s): WGST major, or PSYC 100, PSYC 200, and junior or senior status, or consent.
Crosslisting: PSYC 301 and QS 301.

WGST 302 - Women and the Arts (4 Credit Hours)
This topics course considers works created by artists who self-identify as "female." The course will include engaging in, looking at, and reading about art making, focusing on historical examples and on the art of everyday life. Questions about creativity, expectations, limitations, releasing into the unknown will be considered alongside socio-cultural environments, surveillance, and judgment about who can and who cannot easily identify, and be read, as art makers in various cultures. This course fulfills the I GE requirement and Arts distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors.

WGST 306 - Transnational Feminism (4 Credit Hours)
This class provides students with the ability to understand, critique, and comparatively analyze the politics of gender in transnational contexts. The course traces the development of feminist thinking and practice within national, regional and transnational contexts, and maps the political agendas of women's and feminist movements in various countries around the world. The course focuses on how feminism emerges in a particular context and the specific issues that galvanize women to act for change. The course explores the connections between feminism, colonization, nationalism, militarization, imperialism, and globalization, and analyzes the processes by which the agendas of women from the global north and south come together or clash. The course examines through specific examples from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa the concerns and challenges facing transnational women's and feminist movements today. The class is interdisciplinary and draws on writings by local and global activists and theorists. This course fulfills the Transnational Feminism distribution requirement for WGST major/minors.

Prerequisite(s): WGST 101 or permission of instructor.

WGST 310 - Feminist Research Methods (4 Credit Hours)
This course examines both scientific methods and social analysis based on empirical research and the interpretive strategies that have developed out of the humanities for understanding societies. It provides experience in the design and implementation of social and cultural research with a focus on women's studies. The course will examine the epistemological issues that underlie research in women's and gender studies, the ethical and political questions involved, and the assumptions that shape various methods. Students will apply the methods learned to their own research projects.

Prerequisite(s): WGST 101.

WGST 311 - Feminist Theory (4 Credit Hours)
This course examines various ways of understanding gender by looking at a variety of feminist theories. Theories studied may include psychoanalytic, feminist theory, cultural materialist feminist theory, etc. Particular consideration will be given to issues raised by multiculturalism, women of color, womanist perspectives, queer theory, class concerns, international and transnational movements. The course will introduce students to a variety of theories to enable them both to recognize and use those theories in their research and social practice. Students will be encouraged to become reflective about their own theoretical stances and to consider how societies can move closer to justice for both women and men.

Prerequisite(s): WGST 101.

WGST 320 - Women in Sport (4 Credit Hours)
This course is designed to give students a comprehensive look at women in sport: past, present and future. This course will examine, analyze and synthesize the issues surrounding women. Each topic will be studied through readings, films, class discussions and reflect sport from historical, psychological, sociological, physiological, political and philosophical perspectives. This course fulfills the I GE requirement and the Social Sciences and Women of Color in the U.S. distribution requirements for WGST majors/minors.

Crosslisting: HESS 101.
WGST 323 - Transgender Studies/Transgender Issues (4 Credit Hours)
This course offers an introduction to the growing interdisciplinary field of Transgender Studies, focusing on key figures and writings that contributed to its development. Transgender Studies is primarily concerned with directing critical concentration on the diversity and politics of gender, the embodied experience of transgender people, as well as the material conditions and representational strategies that surround, enable, and constrain trans* lives. We will consider relevant selections of scholarship in feminist, queer, and transgender studies; first-person and autobiographical writings by transgender people; and media representations of transgender people and politics that are shaping perspectives of gender within our contemporary cultural moment. Transgender scholarship and perspectives made available by transgender lives provide opportunities to consider and critique the range of apparatuses and systems of regulations that produce the limits and frontiers of embodying sex and gender. This course fulfills the I and P GE requirements and the Social Sciences distribution requirements for WGST majors/minors.
Prerequisite(s): WGST 101 or QS 101.
Crosslisting: QS 323.

WGST 325 - African-American Women's Literature (4 Credit Hours)
Historical and contemporary African-American women's literature grounds an inquiry into black women's literary and intellectual traditions within the matrix of race, gender, class and sexual relations in the United States. This course fulfills the Humanities and Women of Color in the U.S distribution requirements for WGST majors/minors.
Crosslisting: BLST 325, ENGL 325.

WGST 327 - Women and Social Ethics in the Global Context (4 Credit Hours)
"The personal is internationally political!" Whether we are aware or not, we live in the globalized world and our actions here and now affect the lives of millions of people whom we may never meet face to face. Through the religious concept of "interdependence" with the secular understanding of "women's rights as human rights," this course will analyze and explore globalized issues of poverty, war, sex-trafficking, migration, reproductive rights, and religious conflict as well as ethically consider how diverse social groups are interconnected to each other beyond national and religious boundaries; and how we study, analyze, and practice transnational feminist activism for all humanity. This course fulfills the Humanities and the Transnational Feminism distribution requirements for WGST majors/minors.
Crosslisting: REL 327.

WGST 329 - Gender and Communications (4 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on (1) the role of interpersonal, social and political communication in the construction of gender expectations in American culture, and (2) how those expectations get communicated/formed, and thus reified, in our daily lives. We will explore the complex interplay between self expectations and social expectations of gender that get expressed, challenged, and ultimately influenced by and within a variety of social and interpersonal contexts: education, the body, organizations, friends and family, romantic relationships, the media, and politics. This course fulfills the Social Sciences distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors.
Prerequisite(s): COMM 280 and COMM 290, or WGST major.
Crosslisting: COMM 329.

WGST 340 - In the Company of Educated Women (4 Credit Hours)
This is a course on women's educational history in the United States. The scope encompasses some general patterns in women's educational experiences—as students, teachers, school administrators, and in higher education at particular points in U.S. history. Examining gender issues in historical context allows us to get a handle on how education, ideology, and political economy influence the contours of societies, and limit or extend possibilities for individuals.
Crosslisting: EDUC 340.

WGST 350 - Advanced Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (4 Credit Hours)
This course may satisfy one of the distribution requirements within the major/minor, as appropriate.
Prerequisite(s): WGST 101.

WGST 351 - Advanced Topics Seminar (Humanities) (4 Credit Hours)
This topics seminar is cross-listed with a course in the Humanities and satisfies the Humanities distribution requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.
Prerequisite(s): WGST 101.

WGST 352 - Advanced Topics Seminar (Arts) (4 Credit Hours)
This topics seminar is cross-listed with a course in the Arts and satisfies the Arts distribution requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.
Prerequisite(s): WGST 101.

WGST 353 - Advanced Topics Seminar (Social Sciences) (4 Credit Hours)
This topics seminar is cross-listed with a course in Social Sciences and satisfies the Social sciences distribution requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.
Prerequisite(s): WGST 101.

WGST 354 - Advanced Topics Seminar (Sciences) (4 Credit Hours)
This topics seminar is cross-listed with a course in the Sciences and satisfies the sciences distribution requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major/minor.
Prerequisite(s): WGST 101.

WGST 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
WGST 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
WGST 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
WGST 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)

WGST 383 - Sex and Sexuality in Latin America (4 Credit Hours)
This course critically examines gender and sexuality in Latin America. Particularly it will explore the various attempts by the ruling elite to define acceptable and deviant gender roles and sexual identities, how the non-elite resisted the imposition of those elite notions of propriety to create their own codes of conduct, and how those conflicts have changed over time. This course fulfills the Humanities distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors.
Crosslisting: HIST 243.
WGST 391 - Critical Pedagogy: Gender, Race and Class in U.S. Education (4 Credit Hours)
In its examination of current critical issues in U.S. education, the central concern throughout this course is the relationship between teachers and students; schools and society; and people and the world. Particular attention is given to critical and feminist pedagogies informed by critical theory. The Curricular Service Learning course includes a 25-30-hour service-learning commitment in an area school or community organization. This course fulfills the Social Sciences and Women of Color in the U.S. distribution requirements for WGST majors/minors.
Prerequisite(s): EDUC 213.
Crosslisting: BLST 390, EDUC 390.

WGST 396 - Women, Sex, and Power in the Modern World. (4 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on histories of women around the world since the eighteenth century in order to examine the various ways in which women have struggled first to claim and then to maintain power over their bodies and experiences. The course analyzes sources that speak to women's efforts to assert political, economic, cultural, and personal power in society and in their own lives. Topics include a study of the development of organized women's movements in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and an examination of the extent to which women have been successful in building coalitions to achieve power. The course also examines the role of other categories of identity in these struggles for power, including race, class, nationality, sexual orientation, and religion. This course fulfills the Humanities distribution requirement for WGST majors/minors.
Crosslisting: HIST 266.

WGST 399 - Advanced Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

WGST 416 - Women in the U.S. Economy. (4 Credit Hours)
This course will focus on the market and nonmarket contributions of women to the U.S. economy. A historical framework provides the backdrop for examining the economic, political and social institutions that affect women's contributions to the nation's economic well-being.
Prerequisite(s): ECON 301.
Crosslisting: ECON 416.

WGST 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)
WGST 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)