

GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES (GSS) COURSES SPRING 2016

Gender and Sexuality Studies Courses

GNSE 23103 Women Possessed: Religion, Gender, and Sexuality in Early America (= ENGL 21403, RLST 21312)

This course will examine American religion, gender, and sexuality from the 17th to the 19th century using the conceptual framework of possession. The course will begin in 17th-century America with the possessed bodies of young women, occupied and claimed by the devil, whose symptoms were often described in overtly sexual terms. We will attend to Quaker writings on the kinds of authority women could claim over the pulpit and their homes. We will read 19th-century erotic fiction of Protestant girls kidnapped by Catholics and Mormons and discuss the roots of the pervasive fears of these two religions as they relate to historical conceptions of femininity, marriage, sexuality, and family. We will read violent, sensational tales of the dangers of seduction and a woman's subsequent descent into disease, degradation, or prostitution, and examine how concepts of the seducer and the seduced shift according to gender and this shift's connection with religious ideals of self-possession and self-control in antebellum America. We will read spiritual autobiographies of American slaves and consider the way religion is woven into these narratives. We will end with spirit possession of another kind: the Spiritualist movement, which grew from the desire to communicate with those lost in the Civil War and within which young women often acted as mediums and were able to speak for the dead—sometimes men—publicly in ways they would not have been allowed to in their own voices.

Alison Davis and Katherine Krywokulski

MW 3:00-4:20

GNSE 23104 Gender, Sexuality, and Islamic Traditions (=NEHC 23104, RLST 28012)

This course will explore the discourses surrounding gender and sexuality in the Islamic tradition, from the early Islamic period to the present day. The course will focus on two particular themes: (1) Islamic traditions of thought on issues of gender and sexuality, and (2) The transformations that have altered the space in which these discourses take place today in the Western academy. In each class, we will focus our readings and responses through discussion questions. In this interdisciplinary class, the instructors will compare and contrast their perspectives of classical Islamic studies, text criticism and legal theory with feminist studies, postcolonial and critical theory and the anthropology of religion.

Timothy Gutmann and Mariam Sheibani

R 1:30-4:20

GNSE 20409 The Gender of Biology

This course is designed to explore the intersection of gender, sex, sexuality, and the biological sciences. Drawing from feminist science, gender, and queer theoretical perspectives we will examine the ways in which the biological sciences, including animal behavior, basic biological processes, and developmental human biology are infused with notions of sex and gender. In particular, we will interrogate the ways in which discourses of the “natural” or “biological” world are constructed in alignment with contemporary understandings of sex, gender, and sexuality—configuring scientific understandings to explain social processes, and vice versa. Topics will include the gendered anthropomorphism of animal characteristics and behaviors, biological explanations of sex and gender etiology and differentiation, genetic hypotheses of sexuality and trans* identities, and social construction of nature. To this end, the course poses to read biology in constant interaction with hegemonic definitions of sex, gender, and sexuality. Further, the course will pose that an interactionist approach, or perhaps queering of science, offers a critical lens to exploring the epistemology of the biological sciences.

Brandon Hill

TR 3:00-4:20

Gender and Sexuality Cross-listed Courses

GNSE 18902 Chicago Social Movements, 1954-2014 (=HIST 18902, CRES 18902, LLSO 28902)

This course will introduce students to key social movements in Chicago from the post-WW II years to the present. In part the class offers an introduction to dissent, oppositional organizing, and alternative approaches to

social welfare, community building, and rights in a major modern American city. In part this class engages important ideas related to current study of social movement, including state/society tensions, intersectionality theory, and the impact of urban prosperity and austerity. While these are challenging and even complex concepts, they will be presented in basic and historically grounded form, enabling students beginning their study of history to usefully engage them. Occasional guest lecturers and off-campus trips may be organized and made available as cocurricular opportunities.

Adam Green

TR 1:30-2:50

GNSE 20120 Introduction to Population (= SOCI 20122, ENST 20500, SOCI 30122, GNSE 30120)

This course provides an introduction to the field of demography, which examines the growth and characteristics of human populations. It also provides an overview of our knowledge of three fundamental population processes: fertility, mortality, and migration. We cover marriage, cohabitation, marital disruption, aging, and population and environment. In each case we examine historical trends. We also discuss causes and consequences of recent trends in population growth, and the current demographic situation in developing and developed countries.

Linda Waite

TR 1:30-2:50

GNSE 20701 The Autobiography of Theresa Avila (= RLST 20701, HIST 29801)

This course is a close reading of the autobiography of Teresa of Avila in which we pay attention to her attitudes towards prayer and religious practice, mystical experience, community organization, sin and redemption, and gender. Our reading is supplemented by other texts written by Teresa, as well as secondary works that help us interpret her in her historical context.

Lucy Pick

MW 1:30-2:50

GNSE 21310/41300 Our Biopolitics, Ourselves, Feminist Science Fiction (= MAPH 41300, ENGL 21310/41310)

1970s feminist theory made a significant conceptual move in provisionally bracketing off biological sex from the historical/cultural work of gender. Feminist science fiction (in contrast), in its brief flourishing in the 70s and early 80s, finds its utopian moments in the biological, in genetic manipulation, reproductive technology, ecological forms of being and new bodies of a variety of kinds. This class will read science fiction, feminist theory and current critical work that concerns itself with bios, biology and biopolitics in order to ask questions about the divide between nature and culture, what's entailed in imagining the future, what gender and genre have to do with each other, and just what science fiction is and does anyway. Authors may include: Le Guin, Russ, Butler, Piercy, McIntyre, Haraway, Malabou, Fortunati, James, Rubin, Firestone. *Undergraduates with consent of instructor.*

Hilary Strang

TR 12:00-1:20

GNSE 23814 The Autobiographies of Dorothy Day and Malcolm X (=FNDL 23804, CRES 23804, RLST 23804)

A close reading of Dorothy Day's *The Long Loneliness* (1952) and of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1964) will allow the exploration of the relation between self-creation or re-invention, on the one hand, and social critique and change, on the other. Day was a social radical who, motivated by the cause of the poor, became the founder of the Catholic Worker movement; Malcolm X was a revolutionary who became an iconic figure in the global Black freedom struggle. The reconstruction of memory, the relation of narration and consciousness, the appropriation of cultural and religious narratives, the diagnosis of personal fault and social ill, and the arc of conversion are among themes to be considered; reference will also be made to Augustine's classic autobiography, *Confessions* (397).

Kristine Culp

TR 10:30-11:50

GNSE 25108/35108 Ética, género biografía en la literatura hispanohablante? (= LACS 25108/35108, SPAN 28215/38215)

La biografía es un género que desde sus orígenes entre los escritores clásicos se ha mantenido a caballo entre la historia y la literatura. Centrándonos en las últimas décadas, el mundo académico experimentó un “giro biográfico” en los años 90 que facilitó la emergencia y el análisis de las escrituras auto/biográficas, ahora mismo en proceso de consolidación en los estudios académicos, cada vez más abiertos a sus avances y aportaciones. Sin embargo, la biografía todavía mantiene un perfil bajo y se cultiva una idea general sobre el género que la asocia a los productos más comerciales de la historia o de la literatura. Pero la aceptación de la biografía ha supuesto en el mundo hispánico dos líneas de análisis: a) la recuperación de textos valiosos que permiten reconstruir una tradición biográfica nunca desterrada del todo, pero nunca asimilada del todo y b) la aportación de nuevas biografías escritas a partir de una metodología radicalmente novedosa gracias a la cual se están reescribiendo grandes parcelas del pasado. El propósito del curso es reflexionar sobre las poéticas del género, su evolución y sus conflictos en el mundo hispánico en torno de algunas etapas decisivas, de obras que han supuesto un punto de inflexión o bien de autores que nos son ya imprescindibles. Dos ejes reflexivos inspiran el desarrollo del programa: a) la ética, pues la escritura biográfica topó en el mundo hispánico con un sentido excesivo del honor y del puritanismo que hizo difícil que la escritura del individuo pudiera desarrollarse en libertad y b) el feminismo, pues ha transformado el redescubrimiento de la experiencia femenina en un arte biográfico gracias al cual se han redefinido las nociones históricas de privacidad y vida doméstica. Taught in Spanish.

Anna Caballé

T 3:00-5:50

GNSE 25112 Anthropology of the Body (=ANTH 25100, CRES 25112, CHDV 25100)

Drawing on a wide and interdisciplinary range of texts, both classic and more recent, this seminar will variously examine the theoretical debates of the body as a subject of anthropological, historical, psychological, medical and literary inquiry. The seminar will explore specific themes, for example, the persistence of the mind/body dualism, experiences of embodiment/alienation, phenomenology of the body, Foucauldian notions of biopolitics, biopower and the ethic of the self, and the medicalized, gendered, and racialized body, among other salient themes.

P. Sean Brotherton

T 1:30-4:20

GNSE 25706/33501 Gender, Sex, and Empire (= MAPS 33501, HIST 23308)

This course uses the analytical tools of gender and sexuality to examine social processes and power relations in histories of (primarily British) imperialism and colonialism from the early conquests in the New World through the twentieth century. Employing insights from feminist and postcolonial theory, we look at a broad range of historical case studies to explore themes including (re)discovery¹ and conquest; power and resistance; the construction of imperial and colonial gender roles; the disciplining, regulating, and “improvement” of colonial bodies; and the role of sex and gender in racial ideologies. The goal is to analyze such themes in specific colonial sites in order to better understand some of the ways in which the work of gender and sexuality were crucial to imperial and colonial rule. *Consent required for all undergraduates.*

Darcy Heuring

F 3:00-5:50

GNSE 25961 Minding the Mind/Body Distinction (= ENGL 25961)

Minding the Mind/Body Distinction: Narratives of Transgender, Disability, and Queerness: This class asks students to think critically about how the mind-body distinction mediates narratives of queer, trans* and disabled experience in ways that can both enable and endanger queer, trans* and disabled lives. After engaging with Descartes, Plato, and Foucault, we will consider a range of autobiographical, literary, and popular texts.

Margaret Fink

MW 1:30-2:50

GNSE 27100 Sociology of Human Sexuality (= SOCI 20701/30701)

After briefly reviewing several biological and psychological approaches to human sexuality as points of comparison, this course explores the sociological perspective on sexual conduct and its associated beliefs and consequences for individuals and society. Substantive topics include gender relations; life-course perspectives on sexual conduct in youth, adolescence, and adulthood; social epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections (e.g., AIDS); sexual partner choice and turnover; and the incidence/prevalence of selected sexual practices.

GNSE 27503 Reading the Border: Gender, Texts, and Performance (= CRES 27503, LACS 27503).

This course will focus on cultural and textual (re)presentations of the Central American-Mexico-U.S. borders. The course will cover the mid-1980s until contemporary times, a period tempered by the events of 9/11, which shifted configurations of the border into the discursive realms of “neoliberalism” and “globalization.” We will be paying attention to three recurrent themes: 1) the sexualization and racialization of the borderlands; 2) “establishing shots,” border pictures, “textual photographs,” and performance as tropes of what we may call “undocumentation;” 3) historical accounts of the symbiotic relationship between the built environments of the borderlands and theorizations of the border, borderlessness, and disposability. A study of these themes will lead us to a third post-contemporary shift that haunts this course’s organization: the current levels of narco-violence in Mexico as an extended, gendered borderlands, and its implications for Central American migration.

Thelma Jiménez-Anglada

TR 9:00-10:20 GSRP 103

GNSE 27902/47900 Wives, Widows, Prostitutes: Indian Literature and the Women’s Question (= HIND 47904, SALC 27904/43800)

From the early nineteenth century, the debate on the status of Indian women formed an integral part of the discourse on the state of civilization, Hindu tradition, and social reform in colonial India. This course explores how Hindi and Urdu writers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries engaged with the so-called “women’s question.” Caught between middle class conservatism and the urge for social reform, these authors addressed controversial issues such as female education, child marriage, widow remarriage, and prostitution in their fictional and other writings. We explore the tensions of a literary and social agenda that advocated the “uplift” of women as a necessary precondition for the progress of the nation, while also expressing patriarchal fears about women’s rights and freedom. Texts will be read in English translation, with some excerpts in the original. Basic knowledge of Hindi or Urdu; *instructor consent is required for undergraduate students.*

Ulrike Stark

M 3:00-5:50

GNSE 28210/47900 Emotion, Reason, and Law (= LAWS 99301, PHIL 25209/35209, PLSC 49301)

Emotions figure in many areas of the law, and many legal doctrines (from reasonable provocation in homicide to mercy in criminal sentencing) invite us to think about emotions and their relationship to reason. In addition, some prominent theories of the limits of law make reference to emotions: thus Lord Devlin and, more recently, Leon Kass have argued that the disgust of the average member of society is a sufficient reason for rendering a practice illegal, even though it does no harm to others. Emotions, however, are all too rarely studied closely, with the result that both theory and doctrine are often confused. The first part of this course will study major theories of emotion, asking about the relationship between emotion and cognition, focusing on philosophical accounts, but also learning from anthropology and psychology. We will ask how far emotions embody cognitions, and of what type, and then we will ask whether there is reason to consider some or all emotions “irrational” in a normative sense. We then turn to the criminal law, asking how specific emotions figure in doctrine and theory: anger, fear, compassion, disgust, guilt, and shame. Legal areas considered will include self-defense, reasonable provocation, mercy, victim impact statements, sodomy laws, sexual harassment, shame-based punishments. Next, we turn to the role played by emotions in constitutional law and in thought about just institutions – a topic that seems initially unpromising, but one that will turn out to be full of interest. Other topics will be included as time permits. Open to all law students without prerequisite. Undergraduates may enroll only with the permission of the instructor. Assessment will be via a take-home exam or a substantial research paper. The class will not meet at the regularly scheduled time on Thursday, April 14, but on Friday, April 15, from 1:30 - 2:35 p.m. instead.

Martha Nussbaum

MWR 1:30-2:35

GNSE 29603 Feminist Economics and Public Policy (= LAWS 70502)

This seminar will explore advances in feminist economics and the implications for public policy in local and global communities. Drawing from feminist economics research, the seminar will address the persistence of

gender inequality in societies around the world and proposed policy solutions. Topics will include gender relations and the organization of domestic and market work, violence against women, workplace and pay equality, gendered access to resources, education, and healthcare, and gender and property rights. Grades will be based on a series of short writing assignments and class participation.

Diana Strassmann

R 4:00-6:00

GNSE 43900 Women, Writing, and Spirituality in Colonial America (= ENGL 43901)

We will analyze the writings, speeches, public performances, devotional objects and practices, and the recorded testimonies of selected American women religionists and authors, focusing on the relationship between spirituality, gender, literary production, and alternative practices of gaining a public "voice." We will read a variety of genres, including trial transcripts, heresiographies, advice manuals, conversion and captivity narratives, letters, poems, and diaries. Our selections will be attentive to such issues as class affiliation, the production of public and "domestic" utterance, and the disciplining of female speech. Among the authors included: Anne Bradstreet, Mary Rowlandson, Anne Lee, Emily Dickinson. We will also explore the trials of Anne Hutchinson, the disruptive religious performances of Quakers, and Shaker expressive modes of spirit drawing and dancing.

Janice Knight

TR 12:00-1:20

GNSE 44009 Religious Law, Secular Law, and Sexual Deviation in Ancient India (=HREL 44009)

The Laws of Manu, the Arthashastra, and the Kamasutra. This course will compare these three important texts in order, first, to understand the social norms for religion and sexuality in ancient India (in *The Laws of Manu*); and then to discover how two widely accepted scientific texts (the *Kamasutra*, on pleasure, and the *Arthashastra*, on politics) challenged those norms.

Wendy Doniger

TR 1:30-2:50

GNSE 44401-02 Sexuality Across the Life Cycle (= SSAD 44401)

From birth through old age, sexuality is an essential component of human development impacting identity formation, self-esteem, and relationships. The developmental theories of Erickson and Freud offer dynamic frameworks from which to view sexuality. The exploration of sexuality becomes even more complex when the influences of family, culture, ethnicity, and religion are considered. This class will focus on the developmental aspects of sexuality relevant to each life stage as viewed through the multiple social constructions impacting sexuality, gender, and sexual orientation. Special attention will be given to marginalized sexualities, particularly women's sexuality and gay/lesbian/bisexual sexuality. A number of theoretical perspectives will be incorporated to provide tools for critical thinking about sexuality and human development.

Jason McVicker

M 1:30-4:20

GNSE 45001 Family Law (= LAWS 45001, PPHA 35221, SSAD 69002)

This course will examine the state's role in recognizing and regulating personal relationships between adults and between adults and children. Throughout the quarter we will explore assumptions about family that underlie existing legal regulation, including assumptions embodied in constitutional law. The grade is based on a substantial paper, series of short papers, or final examination, with class participation taken into account. Paper writers require permission of the instructor; ADDITIONAL explicit instructor consent required for paper to be considered for SRP certification. Can be taken with Constitutional Law VII (LAWS 47101) with permission of the instructor. Undergraduates by instructor permission only.

Mary Anne Case

MWR 1:00-12:05

Gender and Sexuality Potentially Cross-listed Courses (will count in major/minor)

ENGL 21100 Junior Seminar: Victorian Wives, Mothers, Daughters

This course concerns the role of gender in Victorian society with a focus on female normativity in the period. We will explore these questions through fiction, through instructive and medical texts and refine our thinking through a range of pertinent gender theory. We will begin with readings by literary critics and gender

theorists, which will help us think about the role of gender in the Victorian period. We then will concentrate on several contested and much-studied modes of identity: marriage, motherhood, the role of daughters, and related categories such as leisure and labor, reading Eliot, Wood, and Gaskell, among others. As a junior seminar, this course is ideally suited for students interested in developing the skills necessary to write a BA Honors paper, or those considering graduate work in English. The course will culminate in a substantial critical paper of your own design. *Third-year English majors only.*

Elaine Hadley

TR 9:00-10:20

ENGL 40701 Early Modern Natality

This course explores how birth, infancy, and other forms of radical beginning were given discursive shape in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England. In light of the increasing importance accorded to natality and its conceptual cognates—highlighted in the work of such thinkers as Hannah Arendt, Michel Henry, Adriana Caverero, and Giorgio Agamben, among others—we will read works of literature, philosophy, and medicine from early modernity, a period obsessed with phenomena akin to what we now call natality. Topics will include the recovery of human experiential newness in the writings of John Milton, Thomas Traherne, and Henry Vaughan; the philosophical appropriation of the new in René Descartes and John Locke; and the politics and practice of midwifery (Jane Sharp) as it related to the increasing medicalization of birth and infancy.

Timothy Harrison

MW 1:30-2:50

ISLM 43310 Feminism and Islamic Studies

Alireza Doostdar

R 11:00-1:50