

Gender and Sexuality Studies Courses Winter/Spring 2015

Winter 2015

GSS-Sponsored courses:

GNSE 10101 Problems in the Study of Gender: Gender and Transfeminism

Shanna Carlson, Amanda Davis MF 1:30-2:50

Description: How does transgender change feminism? This course will serve as an introduction to the study of gender, transgender, and trans*feminism, a branch of feminism that forefronts the significance of transgender and gender non-conforming phenomena to feminist projects and ideas and vice versa. Relations between transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and U.S. feminisms have not been easy. This course will begin by exploring some of those contentious encounters in order to address the differing interpretations of gender and social justice at work in each. We will then fan out both backwards and forward in time. We will look at histories of gender non-conforming phenomena in the U.S. that pre-date the coinage of the word transgender, such as those found in George Chauncey's *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World 1890-1940*, Esther Newton's *Mother Camp: Female Impersonators in America*, and various documentations of both the Stonewall riots and the riot at Compton Cafeteria—histories that bring transgender phenomena in (anachronistic) contact with the many sexual histories of the U.S. We will consider as well key texts in feminist theory worrying the relation between gender and sexuality by such authors as Judith Butler, Audre Lorde, and Monique Wittig. Finally, we will turn to essays, novels, manifestoes, films, and documentaries from the 1990s onwards—by such author-activists as Sharon Bridgforth, Eli Clare, Leslie Feinberg, Vic Muñoz, Vivian Namaste, Sylvia Rivera, Dean Spade, Susan Stryker, and Riki Wilchins—in order to explore how transgender and feminism transform each other.

GNSE 15003. Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations II (PQ: GNSE 15002)

Section 01 – *Kristen Schilt* TR 10:30-11:50

Section 02 – *Rochona Majumdar* MW 1:30-2:50

GNSE 21400 Advanced Theories of Gender and Sexuality (= GNSE 31400, MAPH 36500, ENGL 21401, ENGL 30201)

Lauren Berlant, Ashleigh Campi TR 9:00-10:20

Description: This year the class will focus on affect theory in relation to debates in contemporary queer and feminist theory: rights, normativity, love/desire, sex, history, biopower, labor, affect. Aesthetic objects will be brought into contact with theoretical work: we will be thinking about argument and evidence and also about how mediation and exemplarity matter. Students can choose to write a standard essay or can contribute to constructing class anthologies that will contextualize three aesthetic works: such as Frank O'Hara's "Having a Coke with You"; Saidiya Hartman's *Find Your Mother*; Kim Peirce's *Boys Don't Cry*. Key authors include: Sara Ahmed, Lee Edelman, Patricia Williams, Jose Muñoz, Judith Butler, Eve Sedgwick, Michael Warner, Mel Chen, Jasbir Puar, Gayatri Gopinath, Leo Bersani, Michael Foucault, Gayatri Spivak, Fred Moten, Jennifer Doyle.

GNSE 24504 What is Masculinity?

Aidan Beatty TR 12:00-1:30

Description: This course is a deep-history of changing ideas of normative male behavior, ranging from antiquity to the contemporary world. Whilst masculinity is a concept that we often think of as static, permanent and natural, this course argues that it is, in fact, socially constructed and historically dynamic: what any society thinks of as normal male behavior is always liable to change. More than that, ideals of manliness are often bound up with questions of race, class and power. Thus, this course looks at the different ideas of masculinity that existed in the ancient world and in the Middle Ages as well the ideals of male behaviour at the heart of a number of modernist political projects. The intersections of race and masculinity and changing attitudes toward homosexuality are also studied. This broad range is intended to give students a solid grounding in the academic study of masculinity as well as an understanding of how easily masculinity can change and how regularly it acts as a vehicle for other political concerns.

GNSE 26213 Art of the Culture Wars? New Queer Cinema, Performance, Visual Art, 1980s-1990s (= ARTH 26213, CMST 20903)

Solveig Nelson TR 4:30-5:20

Description: This course offers a broad introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies through the early history of New Queer Cinema, a loose movement of film and video practices coined by critic B. Ruby Rich that developed in parallel to academic queer theory and AIDS activism in the late 1980s and early 1990s. While we will focus on New Queer Cinema's initial practitioners (for example, Derek Jarman, Isaac Julien, Sadie Benning, Todd Haynes, Gregg Arraki, Tom Kalin, Gus van Sant, and Marlon Riggs), we will also treat New Queer Cinema as an opening toward a broader set of historiographic questions. How did New Queer Cinema function as itself a form of theory in dialogue and friction with early writings on Queer Theory? In what ways did individual works within New Queer Cinema reflect upon previous traditions of gay avant-garde and feminist and lesbian film? Centrally, what are the legacies of New Queer Cinema upon visual art practice? Methodologically drawing from both Art History and Cinema & Media Studies, this course considers New Queer Cinema in dialogue with queer image-making practices broadly -- from the photographic a performance works at the center of the 'culture war' debates about obscenity and state funding, to art works that desired to function as AIDS activism, to the early video installations of Matthew Barney and Steve McQueen. Topics might include depictions of explicit sexuality, figuration/abstraction, projection, 'negative' images, cinematic gesture, appropriation, subculture, queer aesthetics as contested, collectives, direct action vs. lyricism, and the role of video art. Weekly screenings are a required part of the course.

GSS-Crosslisted Courses

GNSE 23002/33002 Workshop: Regulation of Family, Sex, and Gender (=LAWS 63312)

This workshop exposes students to recent academic work in the regulation of family, sex, gender, and sexuality and in feminist theory. Workshop sessions, to be held irregularly throughout the winter and spring, are devoted to the presentation and discussion of papers from outside speakers and University faculty. The substance and methodological orientation of the papers will both be diverse. The grade is based on a substantial paper or series of short papers, with class participation taken into account. Substantial paper writers require

permission of the instructor. Undergraduates admitted only with permission of the instructor. Course extends over two quarters.

Mary Anne Case, W 4:00-6:00

GNSE 23603/33603 Grace, Love, and Pleasure. Painting in Eighteenth Century France (=ARTH 23603,ARTH 33603,FREN 26303,FREN 36303,GNSE 33603).

Susanna Caviglia, F 1:30-4:20

The easing of political life and the relaxation of private morals which came to characterize the long reign of Louis XV (1715-1774) was mirrored by the development of a new conception of art, an art more intimate, decorative, generally amorous and often erotic. It is these last two related dimensions which are the basis of a new visual aesthetic which constitute the subject matter of this course. Through the exploration of contemporary novels and theater, as well as contemporary critical and philosophical writings, we will demonstrate how both the sensual and the erotic become essential components of the century's cultural ethos. Artistic subjects, the mechanisms to represent them, their metaphorical stakes, and their phenomenological effects on the beholder will therefore be considered as the expression of a particular historical and ideological context. It is in this context that love became the symbol of a king who privileged peace against war, and where emotional pleasure triumphed over moralizing values and asserted itself as a new aesthetic category.

GNSE / 20100 The Family (=SOC 20123)

Linda Waite, TR 1:30-2:50

Everyone is a member of a family. The family has been one of the most important social institutions in every society throughout history. But the shape that families take, the functions they fill, and the problems they face vary historically and cross-culturally. So families in Sweden look different from and act differently than families in Saudi Arabia or Brazil. And American families today differ dramatically from a century ago. This course looks at families from a sociological perspective, focusing on the family as a social group, the institution of the family, and differences in families within and across societies. We consider how public policies—such as those aiding needy families (TANF) and recognizing same-sex marriage—affect families and how family members work to influence public policies. We draw on contemporary media representations of families and their challenges in order to evaluate sociological theories. The course follows lecture/discussion format. Students are responsible for three one-page papers on topics drawn from the course, a mid-term, and a final.

Prerequisites include one or more general introductory courses in sociology or a related social science or consent of the instructor.

GNSE 21601 Introduction to Political Philosophy (=PHIL 21600,PLSC 22600,LLSO 22612).

Ben Laurence MW 1:30-2:50 (plus Friday discussion section)

In this class we will investigate what it is for a society to be just. In what sense are the members of a just society equal? What freedoms does a just society protect? Must a just society be a democracy? What economic arrangements are compatible with justice? In the second portion of the class we will consider one pressing injustice in our society in light of our previous philosophical conclusions. Possible candidates include, but are not limited to, racial inequality, economic inequality, and gender hierarchy. Here our goal will be to combine our philosophical theories with empirical evidence in order to identify, diagnose, and effectively respond to actual injustice.

GNSE 23400 Virginia Woolf (=ENGL 23400,FNDL 24011)

Lisa Ruddick, TR 10:30-11:50

Students read six of Woolf's major works (fiction and intellectual prose), as well as short works by other modernists.

GNSE 29610/39610 Pale Fire (=RUSS 29600,RUSS 39600,FNDL 25311,GNSE 39610)

No description available.

Malynne Sternstein, TR 10:30-11:50

GNSE 35010 Race and Politics in the U.S. (=PLSC 35000,CRES 35000).

Cathy Cohen, TBA

Description: Fundamentally, this course is meant to explore how race, both historically and currently, influences politics in the United States. For example, is there something unique about the politics of African Americans? Does the idea and lived experience of whiteness shape one's political behavior? Throughout the quarter, students interrogate the way scholars, primarily in the field of American politics, have ignored, conceptualized, measured, modeled, and sometimes fully engaged the concept of race. We examine the multiple manifestations of race in the political domain, both as it functions alone and as it intersects with other identities such as gender, class, and sexuality.

GNSE 45600 When Cultures Collide (=CHDV 45600,HMRT 35600,PSYC 45300,ANTH 45600).

Richard Shweder, W 9:30-12:20

Coming to terms with diversity in an increasingly multicultural world has become one of the most pressing public policy projects for liberal democracies in the early 21st century. One way to come to terms with diversity is to try to understand the scope and limits of toleration for variety at different national sites where immigration from foreign lands has complicated the cultural landscape. This seminar examines a series of legal and moral questions about the proper response to norm conflict between mainstream populations and cultural minority groups (including old and new immigrants), with special reference to court cases that have arisen in the recent history of the United States.

Spring 2015

GSS-Sponsored courses:

GNSE 10102 Problems in the Study of Gender: Gender, Citizenship, and Violence

Rochona Majumdar, Joya John TBA

Description: The notion of differential citizenship is a topic that exercises scholars the world over. In particular, those interested in issues of feminism and ethnicity have studied why women (and then some women more than others) or particular social groups experience disenfranchisement more than their counterparts. This is so even when officially many cultures grant them formal equality before the law. This course explores issues of disenfranchisement, inequality, and violence through a focus on South Asia. We will begin with a set of theoretical readings mainly John Locke and John Stuart Mill whose works demonstrate some early strands of thinking about the political and cultural role (or the lack thereof) of women within the (fraternal) social contract. We will then move to contemporary works such as Joan Scott's *Only Paradoxes to Offer* (selections), *Parite: Sexual Equality and the Crisis of French Universalism* (selections), Leila Ahmed's *A Quiet Revolution* (selections), Amy Dru

Stanley's *From Bondage to Contract* (selections) to frame the issue of differential citizenship and inequality in a historical and global context.

Following this we turn to South Asia with a particular focus on gender and caste inequality and the violence unleashed by majoritarian politics (both overt and covert). Over the course of the quarter we will discuss the debates, both historical and contemporary, over article 377 that criminalizes homosexuality and is still upheld by the highest law court in India; laws pertaining to marriage and property rights in Hindu and Muslim communities; the legal history of mixed raced marriage, class, and adoption in the context of the British empire, the changing nature and discourse on rape from the period of partition (1947) to the present and other related issues. We will end with the thorny and unfortunate divisions that trouble Indian feminism today since the feminist movement has cleaved on questions of caste and religion. In so doing we will have read some autobiographies that demonstrate the struggle over self-identification: Am I a feminist? Am I a Dalit (ex-untouchable) feminist? Am I a Buddhist, Dalit, feminist? If yes, then in what order?

GNSE 10310 Theories of Gender and Sexuality

Lauren Berlant, Kristen Schilt, TR 10:30-11:50

Description: This is a new one-quarter seminar-style introductory course for undergraduates. Its aim is triple: to engage scenes and concepts central to the interdisciplinary study of gender and sexuality; to provide familiarity with key theoretical anchors for that study; and to provide skills for deriving the theoretical bases of any kind of method. Students will produce descriptive, argumentative, and experimental engagements with theory and its scenes as the quarter progresses. Prior course experience in gender/sexuality studies (by way of the Civilization Core or other coursework) is strongly advised.

GNSE 20309 Sex, Gender, and Medical Technologies of the Body

Brandon Hill, TBA

Description: This course is designed to explore the intersection of sex, gender, and medical technologies of the body. Drawing from feminist, gender, and queer theoretical perspectives we will examine the ways in which the material and corporeal body is altered, manipulated, and gendered through medical interventions and surgical practices. In particular, we will interrogate the sociohistorical understandings of what material configurations define and determine the "sex" of the body, and how such scientific distinctions interact with concepts of the gender embodiment and trans/queer corporealities. To this end, this course poses to read the body as both object and subject, as we investigate the medical practices surrounding intersex/disorders of sex development (DSD), female cosmetic surgeries, and transgender medicine.

GNSE 22804 A Global History of Sexualities

Lauren Stokes, TBA

This course introduces students to the historical study of sexuality through investigating how a variety of non-Western societies have understood sexuality and gender identity since the 18th century. How does a historical and global lens expand our understanding of sexual identity formation? This course will focus on the lived experience of a variety of historically situated actors in order to qualify triumphalist and Eurocentric understandings of the history of sexuality with reference to cases such as trans* activism in Iran, the colonial imposition of sexual identity in South Africa, and debates over legal and medical categorizations of homosexuality among doctors in Latin America.

GNSE 28302 Language and Gender Identity

Matthew Teichman, TBA

Description: You and I might identify as all sorts of things: as an American, a woman, a teacher, a student, a hip hop enthusiast, a vegetarian, a knitter, a computer nerd, a chef, a caucasian, a runner, a news junkie, a bleeding heart liberal, a member of the tea party, a football fan, and so on. Call everything on that list a *practical identity*. Some practical identities are optional—we can choose or whether or not to adopt them—while others, such as gender, are such that the law requires us to adopt them. But in each of these cases, there is a question as to whether the relevant practical identity has a prescriptive or a descriptive flavor. When I tell you I'm a vegetarian, am I describing the way I am, or laying down a plan for how I'd like to be? Are vegetarians a special kind of person all of whom share a special, deep, common core, or are they just the set of people who happen to follow the convention of not eating meat? Does the way we talk about vegetarianism affect what it means to be a vegetarian—what vegetarians are or could be?

This quarter, we will approach these questions through the specific case of gender identity. You might think it's straightforward to say what it means to be a man: you're a man just in case you have a Y chromosome, and a woman just in case you have two X chromosomes. But what about an intersex baby who is arbitrarily assigned a gender at birth? Or someone with Klinefelter syndrome, who according to the above definition would be both a man and a woman? What about someone who was born biologically female, underwent sex reassignment surgery as an adult, and now identifies as a man? What about someone who prefers not to adopt any gender identity? There is often a temptation to dismiss these examples as aberrant borderline cases. But the past few decades have seen an explosion of new gender categories, many of which may very well take center stage in our culture sooner than we think. If we decide to write them off, we need to tell some story about how our gender concepts license us to do so. If not, then we are faced with the interesting challenge of explaining what gender now is, in light of these developments.

GSS-Crosslisted Courses

GNSE 21216 Gender and War (=PLSC 21216)

Amanda Blair, TBA

Description: This course explores the gender dimensions of war. With the rise of civil wars and the decrease of interstate or world wars, the nature of warfare has changed: wars are no longer being fought in battlefields, but neighborhoods: and combatants and civilians are no longer distinguishable. Additionally, over the last century, women's formal participation in armed groups and militaries has increased, challenging the traditional segregation of men and women into different roles during war. This seminar will integrate political science literature on armed conflict with interdisciplinary research on gender and sexuality. We will study various dynamics of armed conflict—the actors, the violence, and the consequences—in order to understand how constructions of sex and gender operate before, during, and after war.