

Autumn 2011 Gender and Sexuality Studies Course Descriptions

Undergraduate Level

GNDR 10100. Problems in the Study of Gender. This course will explore interdisciplinary debates in the analysis of gender and feminism in a transnational perspective. Course readings will primarily traverse the twentieth century Atlantic world encompassing Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. We will consider how understandings of gender intersect with categories of ethnicity, race, class, and sexuality. Topics to be covered include gendered experiences of: imperialism and colonial encounters; migration and urbanization; transformations in marriage and family life; medicine, the body, and sexual health; and decolonization and nation-building. Materials will include theoretical and empirical texts, fiction, memoirs, and films. Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Piper Coutinho-Sledge. MW 1:30-2:50

GNDR 10200. Problems in the Study of Sexuality. Problems in the Study of Sexuality takes sexuality--its qualities, destinies and histories--as a genuine problem that's difficult, debatable, and serious. What constitutes any kind of identity, and how do we historicize the conventional and unconventional ones that appear before us? What's the relation between having a sexual pattern (an "identity") and sexuality as a force that holds worlds together, and blows them apart? How do institutions and ideologies in proximity to the state, religion, scientific practice, and education affect what appears as normal and desirable, and how have populations that don't fit dominant codes made life anyway? How do differences of location--of race, class, religion, nation, caste, and intellectual discipline--affect not only the ways we encounter and archive everyday practices but fantasy itself? Questions of sexual violence and pleasure, of coercion and optimism, of knowledge and fantasy, and of theory, method, and practice, are always on the table in this genuinely investigative class. Lauren Berlant, Ali Feser. TuTh 12:00-1:20

GNDR 12000/BIOS 11119. The Biology of Gender. This course explores the biological evidence and theories that seek to explain gender in humans. This course relies on current research in neuroscience, physiology, and cell biology to address topics such as the genetics of gender; sexual differentiation of the fetus; sexually dimorphic brain regions; the biology of gender identity and gender preference; and hormonal/environmental contributions to gender. Mark Osadjan. TuTh 10:30-11:50

GNDR 20170/SOCI 20175. The Sociology of Deviant Behavior. This course examines how distinctions between "normal" and "deviant" are created, and how these labels shift historically, culturally, and politically. We analyze the construction of social problems and moral panics (e.g., smoking, "satanic" daycares, obesity) to explore how various moral entrepreneurs shape what some sociologists call a "culture of fear." Additionally, we investigate the impact on individuals of being labeled "deviant," either voluntarily or involuntarily, as a way of illustrating how both social control and social change operate in society. K. Schilt. TuTh 9:00-10:20

GNDR 21000/CHDV 21000. Cultural Psychology. There is a substantial portion of the psychological nature of human beings that is neither homogeneous nor fixed across time and space. At the heart of the discipline of cultural psychology is the tenet of psychological pluralism. Research findings in cultural psychology raise provocative questions about the

integrity and value of alternative forms of subjectivity across cultural groups. This course analyzes the concept of "culture" and examines ethnic and cross-cultural variations in mental functioning, with special attention to the cultural psychology of emotions, self, moral judgment, categorization, and reasoning. Richard Shweder. TuTh 3:00-4:20

GNDR 21400. Advanced Theories of Sex/Gender: Ideology, Culture, and Sexuality. This course examines contemporary theories of sexuality, culture, and society. We then situate these theories in global and historical perspectives. Topics and issues are explored through theoretical, ethnographic, and popular film and video texts. Linda Zerilli. M 1:30-4:20

GNDR 21500/CHDV 21500. Darwinian Health. This course will use an evolutionary, rather than clinical, approach to understanding why we get sick. In particular, we will consider how health issues such as menstruation, senescence, pregnancy sickness, menopause and diseases can be considered adaptations rather than pathologies. We will also discuss how our rapidly changing environments can reduce the benefits of these adaptations. Jill Mateo. TuTh 1:30-2:50

GNDR 21906. Sex, Drugs, and the Literature of American Altered Consciousness.

In this class we will explore the ways in which American literature about drug use and alcohol consumption expose some of the underlying psychic investments and fears that accumulate throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries around issues of sex and gender. And with the emergence of the addict in the nineteenth century, we will see how such a figure reveals the socio-political issues surrounding identity and how it is mobilized to mark and manage the country's subjects. Drug narratives, then, as we will discuss in class, often operated analytically as an examination of the very norms that they were imagined to operate against. Often turning addiction, in the opium writing in the nineteenth century for example, into an allegory of American patriarchy, drug literature made very critical comments about the political powerlessness of women. In works like the opium poetry discussed above, William Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*, David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*, and others, drug use and abuse, and the institutions developed to cope with their often deleterious effects, operate, often metaphorically, as the issue of contemporary American life. Henry Scotch. MW 1:30-2:50

GNDR 21805/ENGL 22206. Gender and Writing at the Fin de Siècle. This course stretches the chronological boundaries of the fin de siècle to examine British and Irish writing from c.1880-1922. This is a period of turmoil in gender relations that witnesses the rise of the so-called New Woman – the iconic figure of women's growing professional, sexual, and financial independence. Traditional ideas of masculinity and femininity become unstuck, jeopardizing what Adrienne Rich calls the "compulsory heterosexuality" underlying the institutions of marriage and the family. Maud Ellmann. TuTh 10:30-11:50

GNDR 22203/NEAA 20115. Women in Mesopotamian Art. This course will offer students the opportunity to survey images of women in Mesopotamian art from the Uruk Period (4th millennium BC) through the Neo-Assyrian Period (1st millennium BC), with the major goal of investigating the social, cultural, and political roles of women in ancient Iraq (Sumer and

Akkad/Babylonia and Assyria) and in ancient Syria. The class will examine the official, ritual, and social activities of women from their portrayals in images. We will analyze materials for the information conveyed in inscriptions as well as in visual motifs. This course will place a strong emphasis on the archaeological contexts (archaeological sites, private, public or monumental architecture, graves) in which these images were discovered. Throughout our investigation, we will make distinctions between images of goddesses and women, with the focus on reconstructing the official and social roles of real women in Mesopotamia and the goal of determining, when possible, the identities of women. Images to be examined will include statuary (votive, official), plaques and mosaic panels, monumental art such as reliefs, and personal and official cylinder seals. Reading will combine imagery, archaeology, historical sources, short translations of texts, and secondary readings (analyzing the data). Lise Truex. MW 1:30-2:50

GNDR 22403/HIST 26113: Culture, Politics, and Sexuality in the Latin American 1960's.

From Ernesto Che Guevara's victory alongside Fidel Castro in Cuba in 1959 to the military coup d'état against President Salvador Allende in Chile in 1973, the Latin American long sixties were suffused by a feeling of imminence, of change about to happen. This seminar will explore how cultural, political, and sexual change was imagined and shaped. Using a diverse collection of secondary and primary sources including songs, film clippings, and posters this seminar will examine the themes of guerrilla insurgency, student protest, youth counterculture, military repression, and US interventionism during this transformative era. Valeria Manzano. W 10:30-1:20.

GNDR 22503/EALC 29421. Gender, Culture and the Political in Chinese Women's

Literature: From the 17th to 20th Century. This is an undergraduate level course on women's writing and the question of gendered expression in literature in China, from the 17th c to the 20th c. The course asks the question of the relationship between women and writing as well as the making of literary, cultural and political communities in these centuries. It brings the "pre-modern" and the "modern" into conversation in an attempt to understand how 'woman' as a gendered social category becomes a subject of cultural production and historical change in and through the medium of writing and publishing. We will look at how seventeenth-century loyalism to twentieth-century nationalism and modern revolution converged with other forces that were re-shaping gendered spheres – especially in the realm of print culture and technologies and women's relation to writing and publishing – to create spaces for the construction of gendered identities. This space may be described as one in which political and cultural modes of identification interacted, interrogated, and were interrogated by, shifting modes of gender identification. This interaction allowed women writers to stake out a position in the cultural, political and historical spheres as women in different ways, or to question prevalent gender ideologies. Another crucial aim of this course is to interrogate how Chinese "women's literature" or a "women's literary tradition" was shaped and re-configured over time. We start with the questioning of interpretations of women's writing and the cultural past by self-consciously modernist reformers in the early 20th century. We end with another period of deep re-valuation of the relationship between women's literary subjectivity, culture and political community in the 1980s. Anup Grewal. MW 1:30-2:50

GNDR 22802/ENGL 22815. U.S. Latino Literary and Intellectual History: Subject to Citizen. How does one go from being a subject of the king to becoming a citizen? From where does one acquire the language to think of equality? In the late eighteenth century, many revolutionary Spaniards and Spanish Americans travelled throughout the Atlantic world seeking to make the philosophy of equality a reality and gain independence of the Spanish colonies. They travelled to and from Europe and Spanish America; and on to New Orleans, Charleston, Washington DC, Philadelphia, and New York. Through their voyages, these individuals would bring this new political language of rights to the places they visited, imbibing of this political philosophy by reading and through conversations and discussions. They produced, as well, a plethora of publications and writings that circulated throughout the Atlantic world. Through lecture and discussion, students in this interdisciplinary course learn of these individuals, their circuits of travel, and their desire to create a modern world. Our focus is on the communities, individuals, and texts that were published and circulated in what is today the United States. We begin with the late eighteenth century and work our way through the nineteenth century. Classes conducted in English; most texts in English. Raúl Coronado. TuTh 1:30-2:50

GNDR 23304. Women and Power: Rights Politics in International Perspective. This is a multidisciplinary and cross-cultural course that investigates the interplay between sex/gender systems and power in contemporary societies. In the dominant traditions of social science, power tends to be identified with the ability to exercise one's will in the public sphere. Feminist theorists have posed substantial challenges to this conception of power, documenting the complex links between private spheres (families, emotional relations, sexuality) and the public domain. The course aims to acquaint students with key theories and current scholarship exploring the relationship between power and gender around the globe. We examine both historical and contemporary literatures to see how these questions have been answered in the United States and other countries. A special feature of the course this year will be a focus on women in Muslim societies and in Asian societies. Zahra Jamal. TuTh 9:00-10:20

GNDR 23700/RLST 20700. Medieval Women's Religious Writing. The purpose of this course is to read different types of writing on religion by medieval women to investigate the relationship between gender and genre. We consider hagiography, letters, autobiography, theology, didactic treatises, and visionary writing by individuals such as Baudonivia, Hildegard of Bingen, Heloise, Christine de Pisan, and Teresa of Avila. Lucy Pick. TuTh 9:00-10:20

GNDR 25200/PHIL 21400. Happiness. From Plato to the present, notions of happiness have been at the core of heated debate in ethics and politics. Is happiness the ultimate good for human beings, the essence of the good life, or is morality somehow prior to it? Can it be achieved by all, or only by a fortunate few? These are some of the questions that this course engages, with the help of both classic and contemporary texts from philosophy, literature, and the social sciences. This course includes various video presentations and other materials stressing visual culture. Barton Schultz. MW 3:00-4:20

GNDR 27702/SOSL 27610. Gender in the Balkans through Literature and Film. This introductory course examines the poetics of femininity and masculinity in some of the best works of the Balkan region. We contemplate how the experiences of masculinity and femininity are constituted and the issues of socialization related to these modes of being. Topics include the

traditional family model, the challenges of modernization and urbanization, the socialist paradigm, and the post-socialist changes. Finally, we consider the relation between gender and nation, especially in the context of the dissolution of Yugoslavia. All work in English. Angelina Ilieva. TuTh 10:30-11:50

GNDR 28605. Feminist Theory. Feminist theory has been the basis of both appropriation and criticism within disability theory. The purpose of this course is to investigate the problems feminist theory presents to disability and disability studies presents to feminism. Both strains of thought share a concern for the status of the subject and identity, a focus on rights-based politics and its limitations, and questions of how power and norms create repressive forms of social relations. Traditional politics focus on rationality, maximizing personal interests, and remediation of discrimination. We will look at how these norms are both critiqued and adopted, sometimes simultaneously, in feminism and disability. How are the simultaneous desires for accommodation and transformation theorized? Can feminism help resolve the tensions in disability studies concerning the status of identity, autonomy, and social relations? Can disability point to new understandings of the subject, social justice, and interdependency? And are disability and feminism fundamentally compatible strains of thought or are certain domains fraught with irresolvable conflict? We will examine both conceptual discussions and several cases where feminism and disability confront each other and dominant political and social norms. Claire McKinney. TuTh 10:30-11:50

Graduate Level

GNDR 31000/CHDV 31000. Cultural Psychology. There is a substantial portion of the psychological nature of human beings that is neither homogeneous nor fixed across time and space. At the heart of the discipline of cultural psychology is the tenet of psychological pluralism. Research findings in cultural psychology raise provocative questions about the integrity and value of alternative forms of subjectivity across cultural groups. This course analyzes the concept of "culture" and examines ethnic and cross-cultural variations in mental functioning, with special attention to the cultural psychology of emotions, self, moral judgment, categorization, and reasoning. Richard Shweder. TuTh 3:00-4:20

GNDR 31400. Advanced Theories of Sex/Gender: Ideology, Culture, and Sexuality. This course examines contemporary theories of sexuality, culture, and society. We then situate these theories in global and historical perspectives. Topics and issues are explored through theoretical, ethnographic, and popular film and video texts. Linda Zerilli. M 1:30-4:20

GNDR 35200/ENGL 65201. The US Historical Novel. This course has two aims: one, to familiarize students with the current touchstones of U.S. historical fiction during the pre and post bellum US century--such as *Hobomok*, *Typee*, *Ramona*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Of One Blood*, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*. Students will be expected to do original historicizing work on the texts they report and write on. Second, students will read in a wide range of secondary materials (not just on U.S. novels) that produce models for reading the narrative and political conventions and effects of historical fiction. Lauren Berlant. M 1:30-4:20

GNDR 37702/SOSL 37610. Gender in the Balkans through Literature and Film. This introductory course examines the poetics of femininity and masculinity in some of the best works of the Balkan region. We contemplate how the experiences of masculinity and femininity are constituted and the issues of socialization related to these modes of being. Topics include the traditional family model, the challenges of modernization and urbanization, the socialist paradigm, and the post-socialist changes. Finally, we consider the relation between gender and nation, especially in the context of the dissolution of Yugoslavia. All work in English. Angelina Ilieva. TuTh 10:30-11:50

GNDR 40170/SOCI 40174. Researching Gender and Sexuality. This course is an introduction to qualitative methods for researching gender & sexuality as well as a research practicum for students. The course is designed to aid graduate students and advanced undergraduates in developing a solid, executable research study focused on gender and sexuality. Over the ten-week course, students read exemplary articles and books showcasing a variety of qualitative research methodologies. Additionally, they read methodology articles that highlight the benefits and limitations of various methodologies and study designs. Students are required to identify a research question at the beginning of the course. They analyze existing research on this topic, and conduct a limited amount of their own primary research on the topic. The course assignments build toward the formation of a final project: a research proposal complete with a literature review, methods section, preliminary data section, and a research hypotheses section. At the end of the course, students will not only have a deeper understanding of methodological approaches to gender and sexuality research, but also will have gained experience in collecting data and designing a viable research proposal. Kristen Schilt. TuTh 1:30-2:50

GNDR 50101/LAWS 61512. Workshop: Law and Philosophy. This is a seminar/workshop most of whose participants are faculty from various related disciplines. It admits approximately ten students. Its aim is to study, each year, a topic that arises in both philosophy and the law and to ask how bringing the two fields together may yield mutual illumination. Typically, half of the sessions are led by local faculty, half by visiting speakers. Several sessions involve students only, and are led by the instructors. The leader assigns readings for the session, and the session consists of a brief introduction by the leader, followed by structured questioning by the two faculty coordinators, followed by general discussion. Students write a 20-25 page seminar paper at the end of the year. The seminar satisfies the Law School Writing Requirement. The schedule of meetings will be announced by mid-September, and prospective students should submit their credentials to both instructors by September 15. Past themes have included: practical reason; equality; privacy; autonomy; global justice; pluralism and toleration; war; sexuality and family. Students are admitted by permission of the instructors. They should submit a c.v. and a statement (reasons for interest in the workshop, relevant background in law and/or philosophy) to the instructors by e mail. Usual participants include graduate students in philosophy, political science, and divinity, and law students. Martha Nussbaum. M 4:00-6:00

GNDR 51700/LAWS 99202. Contemporary Virtue Ethics. This graduate seminar will study the revival of a neo-Aristotelian ethics of virtue in contemporary moral philosophy, considering, among others, Iris Murdoch, John McDowell, Bernard Williams, Philippa Foot, and Alasdair MacIntyre. Is virtue ethics a single movement, with a single set of philosophical motivations and normative commitments, or is it a complicated plurality of positions, motivations, and debates?

What is the relationship of virtue ethics to the idea of ethical theory? To the aspiration to put reason in charge of human life? Is virtue ethics inherently conservative, deferring to socially formed passions and patterns of conduct, or is (some form of) it capable of radical criticism of entrenched social norms, e.g. of class, race, and gender? A prerequisite for this course is a solid background in philosophy, comparable to that which would get someone admitted to our graduate program. (For example, a law student with an undergraduate major in philosophy would be a strong contender.) People who are not from the Philosophy Ph.D. program should apply directly to me for permission by September 15. We will be alluding to the Greeks throughout, so some background in ancient Greek ethics, particularly Aristotle, is highly desirable. Martha Nussbaum. Tu 3:00-5:00

GNDR 53400/HIST 73303. Seminar: Gender and Sex in Modern Europe 1. This two-quarter research seminar will survey the classic and recent historiography on gender and sexuality in Modern Eastern, Central, and Western Europe. We hope to not merely juxtapose the different national and regional historiographies, but think across those boundaries. We will be eclectic in our methodological reach, including works of social, political, intellectual, and cultural history. Of particular focus will be gendered approaches to migration, labor, consumerism, war, and political mobilization. The fall quarter will provide a basis for a preliminary PhD examination field in the topic as well as the foundational reading for the research papers to be written in the second quarter. Leora Auslander and Tara Zahra. W 1:30-4:20