

2016 Summer Course Offerings

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Director Monica Miller



Graduate certificate, major and minor declaration forms are available in the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs: 31 Williams Hall, Suite 101

WGSS, ENGL 104-10 Nerd Girls: Fakes, Fangirls & Feminists CRN 21016 (HU) 4 credits

San Diego Comic-Con has tripled in size since 2000. Marvel releases movies faster than a speeding bullet. Nerds are on the rise. More and more people identify as nerds, gamers, and geeks, causing formerly fringe genres to level up from subculture to mainstream. As interests that once defined outsider status increasingly occupy center stage, nerd culture has become a battleground for social structures of oppression—particularly gender. This class will investigate why the Internet obsessively polices the authenticity of “nerd girls;” why women in gaming routinely receive harassment and threats; why female characters are hypersexualized while female consumers are slut-shamed; and how nerd feminism is fighting back with intersectional approaches to superhero diversity. Texts will include graphic novels *Bitch Planet* and *She-Hulk*, episodes of *Arrow* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and films *Catwoman* and *X-Men: First Class*. **Professor Horn** Summer session 1 - on-line

WGSS, ENGL 104-11 Good Girls and Bad Boys in the Age of Consent CRN 21018 (HU) 4 credits

Contemporary novels and fan fiction authors continue to use a similar trope: typically in her first year of college, the good, virginal girl meets and lusts after the bad, sexually-experienced boy. What happens when we take these narratives in the context of American colleges and universities that adopt policies of “affirmative consent”? This course will read a series of recent novels and pay specific attention to how desire and sex intersect with gender. The course will also incorporate contemporary college and university conversations around Greek Life and athletics. Questions students will be responding to include, do the novels respond to the changing policies and laws? How do the characters understand notions of consent? Do readers encounter heteronormative and hegemonic notions of “masculinity” and “femininity” in the books? What happens when the students lose faith in the campus conduct system and create their own? In addition to reading contextual material, we will read pieces of fiction including *The Mockingbirds*, *The Luckiest Girl Alive*, *Beautiful Disaster*, and portions of the *Twilight* series, including recent mashups.

Professor Jones Summer session 2 - on-line

WGSS, ENGL 104-12 Made to Kill: Female Violence in Popular Cinema CRN 21378 (HU) 4 credits

This course will examine the ways in which representations of female violence in popular cinema construct, reinforce and/or challenge normative ideas about female identity, violence and gender roles. Films include *The Hunger Games*, *Black Swan*, *Carrie*, and *The Silence of the Lambs*. The course will also introduce you to the language of film and enable you to use this language to interpret the way films make meaning. Readings will include critical essays, contemporary reviews, and feminist theory.

Professor Handler Summer session 2 - T, R; 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

THTR, DES, WGSS 129-10 History of Fashion and Style (HU) 4 credits

Dress and culture in the Western Hemisphere from prehistory to today. The evolution of silhouette, garment forms and technology. The relationship of fashion to politics, art and behavior. Cultural and environmental influences on human adornment.

Professor Hoelscher

Summer session 1, CRN 20832 - on-line

Summer session 2, CRN 20833 - on-line

WGSS, AAS, ENGL 195-10 Madam President: Women in American Politics CRN 21242 (HU) 4 credits

As Hillary Clinton seems poised to win the Democratic presidential nomination and then the White House in 2016, it is a fitting time to examine American women’s long, complicated, and on-going pursuit of political power. Drawing from a variety of texts, including historical documents, literature, and film, this course highlights the different ways that American women have been “political”—for example, spinning cloth, raising children, writing, protesting, voting, and holding public office—and the diverse feelings women have had concerning these political experiences. The course also examines how African American women have confronted the double barriers of gender and race in their quest for political agency. **Professor McClain** Summer session 1 - on-line

WGSS, AAS 196-10 Love in the Time of Tinder: Relationships, Identity and Technology CRN 21483 (HU) 4 credits

This course will explore how various kinds of digital, electronic, and social, etc. technologies have impacted the many ways in which humans engage in relationships with one another and with technology. Through a series of primarily science fiction and speculative fiction readings and films, students will be able to not only analyze the role of technology in characters' lives, but also extend their explications in order to consider the farther-reaching social justice and global issues concerning the production, use, and reliance upon technologies to navigate our relationships with other and with ourselves. We will also consider the gendered and racial components that affect how individuals interact with various kinds of technologies. Students will be encouraged to ask and hopefully offer a preliminary answer to the following questions: How do various kinds of electronic and digital technologies help and/or hinder their level of interaction with others? How do social media platforms and (dating) apps. affect the ways that we assess and treat others in platonic and romantic relationships? Moreover, how do we account for the ways in which humans can develop bonds with technology? How do social beliefs about sex, gender, and race influence the way we interact with technologies? What do writers' and film-makers' preoccupations with futuristic technologies reveal about our current historical moment and fears? How will technologies continue to impact the way we communicate and bond with one another in the future? **Professor Heidebrink-Bruno**
Summer session 2 - on-line

WGSS, AAS, GS, HIST 197-10 Women, Gender, Sexuality and Race in African Societies CRN 21063 (HU) CBE Diversity 4 credits

This course explore the various ways in which womanhood, gender, sexuality and race is defined, constructed and articulated in African societies. The interdisciplinary course draw from historical writings, novels, biography, anthropology, political science, health and others to examine diverse activities and contributions of African women from the pre-colonial period. **Professor Essien**
Summer session 1 - M, T, W, R; 10:00 - 11:25 a.m.

WGSS 271 Independent Reading and Research (HU, SS) 1-4 credits

Prerequisite: consent of the WGSS program director.

WGSS 330 Internship in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (SS) 1-4 credits

Prerequisites: WGSS 001 and consent of the WGSS program director.

WGSS, PSYC, HMS 334-10 The Psychology of Body Image and Eating Disorders CRN 20839 (SS) 4 credits

The course addresses the psychosocial aspects of the development of healthy and unhealthy body image and eating disorders. The roles of personality traits/individual factors, family and interpersonal functioning, and cultural factors will be examined, as will the impact of representations of body image in mass media. Public health and psychological interventions for prevention and treatment will be explored. Personal accounts/memoirs, clinical case presentations, and documentary and dramatic films will be incorporated in the presentation of topics. **Professor Lomauro** Summer session 2 - M, W; 7:00 - 9:50 p.m.

WGSS 341 Gender and Health CRN 21488 (SS) 4 credits

Relationships of sex differences and gender norms to disease and longevity. Influence of medical systems on women's lives and the impact of the women's movement on health care. Focus on specific topics, e.g. medicalization and commercialization of women's bodies, the politics of reproductive choices, and mental health. **Professor Alang** Summer session 1 – on-line

WGSS 373-10 Internship in Women's Center CRN 20813 (SS) 1-3 credits

Supervised work in the Women's Center allow WGSS students to bring critical perspectives on women and gender into the campus community. Students who wish to fulfill the internship requirement of the WGSS minor must take the Women's Center internship for (3). This course may be repeated for credit up to a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisites: WGSS 001 and consent of the Women's Center director. **Professor Jones** Summer session - 1

WGSS, COMM, AAS 376-10 New Media, Race and Gender CRN 21076 (SS) 4 credits

This class will take an exploratory approach to understanding the relationship between race, gender and new media. To this end, it will examine depictions of racial minorities and women online; how users access and use new media across race and gender (including a look at the digital divide); and differences in use of social media websites across race and gender. The goal of this course is for students to understand the ways in which existing racial and gender categorizations are/are not transmitted to the online community and do/do not become an extension of present social hierarchy. **Professor El-Burki**
Summer session 1 - M, W; 10:00 - 12:50 p.m.

WGSS 430 Internship in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 1-3 credits

Prerequisite: consent of the WGSS program director.

WGSS 491 Independent Study 3 credits

Prerequisite: consent of the WGSS program director.