

2015 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

Summer Session I

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

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.

On-line; Professor Hoelscher

AAS, WGSS 196-10 #Activism: How Social Media Changed the Way We Advocate 4 credits (SS)

This online course will introduce students to a 6-week long discussion of how social media contributes to, propagates, and critiques activist causes and counter-causes. This course will begin with an overview of how social media platforms—such as Twitter, Facebook, blogs, vlogs, and online forums—have revolutionized activists' ability to disseminate information and mobilize citizens to advocate for social and political causes. Students will be encouraged to further develop their critical thinking skills by close-reading and analyzing the strategies and marketing techniques used by online activists in various readings, articles, blog posts, videos, and documentaries that explore the intersections of social media, information access, and understandings of sex and gender, race, and class. Considering the relative ease and speed with which online activists can post and share information, skeptics claim that this type of "slacktivism" may remove the current generation of online activists from the on-the-ground efforts that typified earlier grass-roots, activist movements. We will explore a range of causes, such as net neutrality articles, #askhermore (in regards to interviews with women in the entertainment industry), Anonymous' involvement in several high-profile cases (such as the Steubenville rape case and revealing the identities of KKK members in Ferguson, MO), #iftheygunnedmedown (how black youth are protesting against the media's portrayal of them), Gamergate (which concerns gender parity and misogyny in the video game industry), and the movement beyond Bring Back Our Girls, in order to ask ourselves: How do online activists share information about social and political causes and appeal to the reading public online? What kind of informational, persuasive, or emotional techniques do social media connoisseurs use to influence the audience? How do we conceive of online communities surrounding various activist causes, especially those that we may perceive as being threatening to specific populations? How does social media change or skew our perceptions of those causes? Is "slacktivism" a genuine concern, and if so, how do we differentiate between pragmatic online activists and slacktivists? In considering vigilante justice, where do we draw the line between sanctioned and unsanctioned use of online spaces to raise awareness?

On-line; Professor Heidebrink-Bruno

WGSS 197-10 Introduction to LGBT Studies 4 credits (SS)

This introductory course will focus on the development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities and identities in the United States. Together, we'll explore the ways in which same-sex desire has been pathologized, represented, and experienced from the colonial period forward. We'll also critically engage with primary sources—including fiction, films, and texts from the fields of anthropology, psychology, and medicine—that have shaped the development of LGBTQ identities and communities in the United States. Additionally, we will pay special attention to exploring how the intersections of racial, gendered, and class-based identities affect conceptions and constructions of LGBTQ identity as well as the social and political endeavors taken up under the LGBTQ umbrella.

M, T, W, R 12:00 – 1:45 p.m.; Professor Gadd

WGSS 330/430 Internship in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 1-4 credits (SS)

Supervised work in women's organizations or settings, combined with an analysis, in the form of a major paper, of the experience using the critical perspectives gained in WGSS courses. Placements arranged to suit individual interests and career goals; can include social service agencies, women's advocacy groups, political organizations, etc. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: WGSS 001 and consent of the WGSS program director.

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

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.

WGSS 491 Independent Study 3 credits (SS)

Individually supervised course in area of women, gender, and sexuality studies not ordinarily covered in regularly listed courses. Prerequisite: consent of the WGSS program director.

WGSS, ENGL 496 Freaks of Nature in 1950's Sci-Fi Horror Films 3 credits (HU) *Perfectly Average: The Pursuit of Normality in Postwar America*, the title of a recent book by historian Anna Creadick, seems perfectly to describe the American 1950s. The same decade, however, produced a parade of freaks, aliens, mutants, and throwbacks in fiction and on the movie screen. This course will explore how the novels, stories and films that constitute the best of the 1950s sci-fi horror canon all challenge the idea of the "normal," insinuating a strangeness, an alienness, deep within the "average" American. Our texts will include the following fiction and the films that were based on them: John Wyndham, *Day of the Triffids*, Ray Bradbury, "The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms," William March, *The Bad Seed*, Jack Finney, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, George Langelaan, "The Fly," and Daphne Du Maurier, "The Birds." We will also watch at least three original films *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, *The Blob*, and *Monster on the Campus*.

Summer Session II

WGSS, ENGL 104-10 Fantastical Heroes and Heroines: Gender in Young Adult Lit and Film 4 credits (HU)

Because young adult novels and films can powerfully influence the fertile imaginations of their primary readers and viewers, in this online course we will explore how heroes and heroines are rendered within the fantastical worlds they inhabit. Often, the gender norms that are revealed and conveyed within these works remain surprisingly confined to the rigid social boundaries that the traditional gender binary upholds. This course will ask us to consider how these sci-fi and fantasy heroes and heroines are portrayed within these texts. Do these narratives create or perpetuate gender stereotypes? Or do they resist or challenge them? And finally, how do the fantastical worlds of these stories structure the kind of symbolism that they impart regarding the process of growing up and coming to terms with the world, and thus communicate ideas about masculinity and femininity, and potentially male and female forms of heroism? The literary texts and films that this course will likely examine are: *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Ender's Game*, *The Golden Compass*, *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*. We will also utilize theoretical texts to frame our discussion of gender within these works.

On-line; Professor Heffner

WGSS, ENGL 104-11 Made to Kill: Female Violence in Popular Cinema 4 credits (HU)

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.

T, R 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Professor Handler

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

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On-line; Professor Hoelscher

WGSS, AAS, GS, HIST 195-10 Women, Gender, Sexuality and Race in African Societies 4 credits (HU) *GCP, BUD attribute*

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. **On-line; Professor Essien**

WGSS 330/430 Internship in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 1-4 credits (SS)

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WGSS, HMS, PSYCH 334 The Psychology of Body Image and Eating Disorders 4 credits (SS)

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. (Open only to declared HMS minors, declared WGSS minors, or those who have taken WGSS 001)

T, R 6:00 – 8:50 p.m.; Professor Lomauro

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

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WGSS 491 Independent Study 3 credits (SS)

Individually supervised course in area of women, gender, and sexuality studies not ordinarily covered in regularly listed courses. Prerequisite: consent of the WGSS program director.