

2014 Spring Course Offerings

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Associate Professor, Jackie Krasas, Director



WGSS 001 Women & Men in Society (4 credits) (SS)

Section 10, CRN 17859 - M, W, 2:35 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. Professor Edwards ⇨ **Section 11, CRN 17860 - T, TR, 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Professor Martell**

The course introduces students to key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and interdisciplinary research in the field of Women's and Gender Studies. Examines how gender interacts with race, age, class, sexuality, etc., to shape human consciousness and determine the social organization of human society. The course may include topics such as: gender and work; sexuality and reproduction; women's health; media constructions of gender and race; gender, law, and public policy.

WGSS, MLL, ASIA, HIST 198-10 Women in Pre-Industrial China, CRN 18850 (4 credits) (HU) M, W, 11:10 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

This class will look at readings in English about and by Chinese women from antiquity up to the 19th century. Readings will touch on women in the fields of history, literature, medicine, philosophy, religion, and sociology. Discussions will focus on understanding the traditional framework for Chinese women's experience, how it evolved over time and place, and how aspects of this gendered power structure are still salient today. *Professor Cook*

WGSS 271-10 Independent Reading and Research, CRN 17869 (1-4 credits) (SS/HU) Independent study of selected topics designated and executed in close collaboration with a member of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies faculty. Students taking this course as a requirement for the minor must elect at least the three-credit option. May be repeated for elective credit. Prerequisite: consent of the WGSS program director. *Professor Krasas*

WGSS, MLL, GCP, GERM 303-10 Grimms' Fairy Tales: Folklore, Feminism, Film, CRN 17871 (4 credits) (HU) M, W, 2:35 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

This intercultural history of the Grimms' fairy tales investigates how folktale types and gender stereotypes developed and became models for children and adults. The course covers the literary fairy tale in Germany as well as Europe and America. Versions of "Little Red Riding Hood", "Cinderella", or "Sleeping Beauty" exist not only in the Grimms' collection but in films and many forms of world literature. Modern authors have rewritten fairy tales in feminist ways, promoting social change. Taught in English. German language students may receive a German component. *Professor Stegmann*

WGSS, SSP, HIST 325 History of Sexuality and the Family in the U.S., (SS) M, W, 2:35 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Section 10 (4 credits) – CRN 18554 ⇨ **Section 11 (3 credits) – CRN 18891 Graduate Students Only**

Changing conceptions of sexuality and the role of women, men, and children in the family and society from the colonial to the post-World War II era. Emphasis on the significance of socioeconomic class and cultural background. Topics: family structure, birth control, legal constraints, marriage, divorce, and prostitution. *Professor Najjar*

WGSS 330-10 Internship in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, CRN 17875 (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 or WGSS 101 and consent of the WGSS program director. *Professor Krasas*

WGSS, PSYC, HMS 334-10 The Psychology of Body Image and Eating Disorders, CRN 18915 (4 credits) (SS) T, 7:10 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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. *HMS and WGSS majors/minors can register without permission. Professor Lomauro*

SSP, WGSS 365-10 Inequalities at Work, CRN 18845 (4 credits) (SS) M, W, 12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Primary focus is on race, gender, and class as axes of disadvantage and privilege in work and employment. We will explore both theories and empirical studies of inequality as well as their social, political, and practical ramifications for the workplace. The course will be conducted seminar-style and the class will rely heavily on student participation. *Professor Krasas*

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

Section 10, CRN 17878 Professor Jones ⇨ **Section 11, CRN 17879 Professor DeSipio**

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 or WGSS 101 and consent of the Women's Center director.

WGSS, AAS 396 Politics and Poetics of Black Feminist Thought, (HU) T, TR, 2:35 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Section 10 (4 credits) – CRN 18934 ⇨ **Section 11 (3 credits) – CRN 18935 Graduate Students Only**

An interdisciplinary examination of twentieth-century Black feminist thought, especially interested in how Black women writers have troubled hegemonic definitions of "theory," "activism," and "feminism." Exploring fiction, poetry, theory, music, and art we will delve into important issues such as the politics of respectability and the relationship among knowledge, consciousness, and empowerment. In addition to considering each artists' unique political and poetic aesthetic, we will also imagine possibilities for social justice emerging from intersections among readings. Course will including works by Zora Neale Hurston, Audre Lorde, Hortense Spillers, Joan Morgan, and bell hooks, among others. *Professor Martell*

WGSS, SSP 398-10 Sexual Identities, CRN 17880 (4 credits) (SS) T, TR, 2:35 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

This course will explore sexual identities that are often misunderstood and have been subjected to subjugation within mainstream society. We will use identity theories to explore how these identities are developed, how they intersect with other identities including race and gender, and how they interact with dominant sexual identities and dominant discourse. Topics include homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexualism, intersex, kink, fetishes and phobias. This course will explore sexual identities that are often misunderstood and have been subjected to subjugation within mainstream society. We will use identity theories to explore how these identities are developed, how they intersect with other identities including race and gender, and how they interact with dominant sexual identities and dominant discourse. Topics include homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexualism, intersex, kink, fetishes and phobias. *Professor DeSipio*

WGSS 399-10 Senior Thesis, CRN 17882 (2-4 credits) (ND) Research during senior year culminating in a senior thesis. May be repeated up to a total of 4 credits.

Prerequisite: consent of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program director. *Professor Krasas*

WGSS, MLL 403-10 Grimms' Fairy Tales: Folklore, Feminism, Film, CRN 17872 (3 credits) (HU) M, W, 2:35 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

See description under WGSS, MLL 303-10 *Professor Stegmann*

WGSS 430-10 Internship in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, CRN 17883 (1-3 credits) (SS) Internship related to women, gender, and sexuality studies. Supervised by WGSS faculty. Prerequisite: consent of the WGSS program director. *Professor Krasas*

WGSS, SSP 465-10 Inequalities at Work, CRN 18844 (3 credits) (SS) M, W, 12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

See description under WGSS, SSP 365-10 *Professor Krasas*

ENG 196-10 The American Horror Film, CRN 15058 (4 credits) (HU) T, TR, 1:10 p.m. - 12:25 p.m.

This course examines the changing shape of the American horror film from its inception in 1932 with *Dracula*. We will move from the classic horror of the 30s to the emergence of the slasher film in the 70s, the self-reflexive horror of the 90s, the faux-documentary horror at the end of the century, to the virulent renaissance of the genre in our post 9/11 world, including so-called "torture porn" and the "possession" film—the return of the angry dead. *Professor Keetley*

ENG 198- 10 Creativity and Identity on Screen, CRN 18492 (4 credits) (HU) T, TR, 2:35 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. with film screenings Tuesdays 7 – 9 p.m.

We'll watch films about liars, graffiti artists, Facebook relationships, YouTube diaries, and a would-be reality TV star who got eaten by a bear. We'll study autobiographical films, fiction films, and documentaries about how we create ourselves and the world around us. Films include *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, *Grizzly Man*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Catfish*, and *Rize*. You'll have the opportunity to explore the nature of creativity and identity both by analyzing films and through a creative project of your own. *Professor Handler*

ENG 201-11 Sirens and Mermaids: Myths and Tales, CRN 17686 (4 credits) (HU) T, TR, 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

From Greek mythology to "The Little Mermaid," the mermaid is a powerful symbol of gender, transformation, mystery, sensuality, the unknown, death—and Starbucks coffee—in contemporary culture. Like her ancient sister, the Siren, she is part-human and part-beast, beautiful, dangerous, and "appears" everywhere in the world. In this course students will read myths and tales—ancient and modern—about Sirens, mermaids, and other goddesses, and use them as inspirations and springboards for their own stories, which will be discussed in an informal, constructive workshop atmosphere. *Professor Setton*

ENG 364 Shakespeare to Milton: Gender, Poetry, and Politics in the 17th C, (HU) T, TR, 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Section 10 (4 credits) – CRN 18494 ↔ Section 11 (3 credits) – CRN 18496 Graduate Students Only

Seventeenth-century England was marked by intellectual, political, and religious upheaval. During this transformative period, poetry served multiple and sometimes conflicting ends: poems were crafted to seduce, to praise, to mourn, to mock, to overthrow, to rebuild. We will begin our course with the erotic epyllions written by William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe in the 1590s, wind our way through sonnet sequences and epic romance, compare the wit of Ben Jonson to that of Aemilia Lanyer, assess England from the New World with Anne Bradstreet, explore science and friendship with John Donne, Margaret Cavendish, and Katherine Philips, and ascend to the heavens through the Biblical epics of John Milton and Lucy Hutchinson. Our readings will be drawn from both canonical and non-canonical authors, and we will be attuned to the cultural contexts and historical events that influenced the production of poetry by individuals of different genders and social classes. We will pay particular attention to how ideas about gender—especially women's social and cultural positions—played a role in English poetic and political life. *Professor Lay*

ENG 372 The Victorian New Woman (HU) T, TR, 9:20 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

Section 10 (4 credits) – CRN 18499 ↔ Section 11 (3 credits) – CRN 18500 Graduate Students Only

Victorian discussions of the proper woman and appropriate feminine behavior and identity created what became known by the middle of the nineteenth century as the Woman Question. As various writers and thinkers attempted to delineate criteria for the proper female figure, designate the appropriate spaces for women, and categorize different kinds of proper and improper women, other writers and thinkers responded with alternative visions of feminized social/sexual subjectivity. This course will examine both these cultural and political discourses as well as the literary responses to such discourses. We will begin with mid-century tracts on the Woman Question and move through treatises that demonstrate compelling interrelationships between this conversation and topics such as female sexuality, racism, eugenics, and imperialism. We will read such cultural and political thinkers as Sarah Lewis, John Stuart Mill, Sarah Stickney Ellis, Charles Darwin, Sarah Grand, Charles Galton, Mona Caird, Thomas Huxley, and Matthew Arnold. We will consistently complement such reading with literary texts written by and about the emergence of the Victorian New Woman, including Eliza Lynn Linton's *The Rebel of the Family*, Amy Levy's *The Romance of a Shop*, Olive Schreiner's *Story of an African Farm*, George Gissing's *The Odd Woman*, Ella Hepworth Dixon's *Story of A Modern Woman*, Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*, and Grant Allen's *The Woman Who Did*. If we can locate an available text, I would like to end the course with Florence Dixie's late-Victorian feminist utopian novel, *Gloriana; or, the Revolution of 1900*. My hope is that the course will allow us to explore various ways in which literary discussions of the Victorian New Woman take up, respond to, and re-imagine cultural and political discussions of The Woman Question.