WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

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FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF WOMEN’S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Professors Julia Adams (Sociology), Elizabeth Alexander (African American Studies), Carol Armstrong (History of Art), Hannah Brueckner (Sociology), Jill Campbell (English), Hazel Carby (African American Studies, American Studies), Kang-i Sun Chang (East Asian Languages & Literatures), George Chauncey (History), Kamari Clarke (African American Studies, Anthropology), Deborah Davis (Sociology, East Asian Studies), Ron Eyerman (Sociology), Glenda Gilmore (History), Jacqueline Goldsby (African American Studies, English), Inderpal Grewal (American Studies, Anthropology, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Dolores Hayden (School of Architecture, American Studies), Margaret Homans (English, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Marcia Inhorn (Anthropology, Global Affairs), Jennifer Klein (History), Marianne LaFrance (Psychology, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Mary Lui (American Studies, History), Kobena Mercer (History of Art, African American Studies), Joanne Meyerowitz (American Studies, History), Priyamvada Natarajan (Astronomy), Sally Promey (American Studies, Institute of Sacred Music), Frances Rosenbluth (Political Science), Cynthia Russett (History), Alicia Schmidt Camacho (American Studies), William Summers (Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry), John Treat (East Asian Languages & Literatures), Michael Warner (English, American Studies), Laura Wexler (American Studies, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies)

Associate Professors Moira Fradinger (Comparative Literature), Janet Henrich (School of Medicine), Kathryn Lofton (American Studies, Religious Studies), Deb Margolin (Adjunct) (Theater Studies), Karen Nakamura (Anthropology, East Asian Studies), Naomi Rogers (History of Medicine, History), Sarah Weiss (Music)

Assistant Professors Jafari Allen (African American Studies, Anthropology), Rene Ahmeling (Sociology), GerShun Avilez (African American Studies), Crystal Feimster (African American Studies), Joseph Fischel (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Marcus Hunter (Sociology), Sam See (English, American Studies)

Senior Lecturers Geetanjali Singh Chanda (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Kathleen Cleaver (African American Studies), Becky Conekin (History), Ron Gregg (Film Studies), Rebecca Tannenbaum (History), Maria Trumpler (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies)

Lecturers Melanie Boyd (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), George Syrimis (Hellenic Studies)

Genders and sexualities are powerful organizing forces: they shape identities and institutions, nations and economies, cultures and political systems. Careful study of gender and sexuality thus explains crucial aspects of our everyday lives on both intimate and global scales. The scholarship in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is interdisciplinary and wide-ranging, drawing on history, literature, cultural studies, social sciences, and natural science to study genders and sexualities as they intersect with race, ethnicity, class, nationality, transnational processes, disability, and religion.

Students majoring in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies take a series of core courses, develop an individual area of concentration, and write a two-term senior essay. The program encourages work that is interdisciplinary, intersectional, international, and transnational. Individual concentrations evolve along with students’ intellectual growth and academic expertise. Recent examples of concentrations include literature and queer aesthetics; transnational feminist practices; the intellectual history of civil rights activism; AIDS health policies; gender, religion, and international NGOs; women’s health; food, sexuality, and lesbian community; and gender and sexuality in early education.

Requirements of the major Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies may be taken either as a primary major or as one of two majors. The major requires twelve term courses, including one gateway course, one intermediate course, one transnational perspectives course, one methodology course, the junior sequence, and the senior sequence. The area of concentration consists of at least five courses, the majority of which should be drawn from program offerings. Courses for the area of concentration may also fulfill the requirements in transnational perspectives and methodology. Substitutions to the major requirements may be made only with the written permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

Gateway course The gateway courses (WGSS <110>, <111>, 115, 120, 200, and 201) offer broad introductions to the fields of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. Potential majors should aim to take a gateway course during the freshman or sophomore year.

Intermediate course There are two intermediate courses: Globalizing Gender (WGSS 295) and Introduction to LGBT Studies (WGSS 296). Majors are encouraged to take both but need take only one, preferably after the gateway course and prior to the junior sequence.

Transnational perspectives course Ideally, each student’s course work engages a broad diversity of cultural contexts, ethnicities, and global locations. Such study illuminates the links among nations, states, cultures, regions, and global locations. Most students take several classes that focus on genders and sexualities outside the U.S. context; majors are required to take at least one. (WGSS 295 cannot fulfill both the transnational perspectives and the intermediate requirements.)

Methodology course Given its interdisciplinary nature, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies necessarily relies on a wide range of methodologies: literary criticism, ethnography, visual analysis, historiography, and quantitative data analysis, among others. Each student
is expected to acquire competence in at least one methodology relevant to his or her own concentration and planned senior essay. In preparation for the senior essay, students are advised to complete the methods requirement in the junior year.

**Junior sequence** The two-term junior sequence consists of Feminist and Queer Theory (WGSS 340) and Junior Seminar: Theory and Method (WGSS 398). All students must take both courses. (Individualized alternatives are found for students who study abroad during the junior year.)

**Senior sequence and senior essay** The two-term senior sequence consists of the Senior Colloquium (WGSS 490), in which students begin researching and writing a senior essay, followed by the Senior Essay (WGSS 491), in which students complete the essay. The senior essay is developed and written under the guidance and supervision of a WGSS-affiliated faculty member with expertise in the area of concentration. Students are expected to meet with their essay advisers on a regular basis.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

**Prerequisites** None

**Number of courses** 12 term courses (incl senior req)

**Specific courses required** WGSS 340, 398

**Distribution of courses** 1 gateway course; 1 intermediate course; 1 transnational perspectives course; 1 methodology course; 5 electives in area of concentration

**Senior requirement** Senior colloq and senior essay (WGSS 490, 491)

*WGSS 317b / HUMS 210b / ITAL 317b / LITR 180b / RLST 335b, Women in the Middle Ages*  Christiana Purdy Moudarres
Medieval understandings of womanhood examined through analysis of writings by and/or about women, from antiquity through the Middle Ages. Introduction to the premodern Western canon and assessment of the role that women played in its construction. Tr

**Gateway Courses**

**WGSS 115b / AMST 115b / ANTH 115b, Gender in a Transnational World**  Inderpal Grewal
Gender and sex as constituted in modern nation-states through the divisions between domestic and foreign spheres. Ways in which the interactions between international and national issues shape gender and sexuality in everyday life. Topics include science, race, and empire; nation and identity formation; media, representation, and art practices; and migration, displacement, and globalization. SO

**WGSS 120a, Women, Food, and Culture**  Maria Trumpler
Interdisciplinary exploration of the gendering of food production, preparation, and consumption in cross-cultural perspective. Topics include agricultural practices, cooking, pasteurization, kitchen technology, food storage, home economics, hunger, anorexia, breastfeeding, meals, and ethnic identity. SO

**WGSS 200a / AMST 135a / HIST 127a, U.S. Lesbian and Gay History**  George Chauncey
Introduction to the social, cultural, and political history of lesbians, gay men, and other socially constituted sexual minorities. Focus on understanding categories of sexuality in relation to shifting normative regimes, primarily in the twentieth century. The emergence of homosexuality and heterosexuality as categories of experience and identity; the changing relationship between homosexuality and transgenderism; the development of diverse lesbian and gay subcultures and their representation in popular culture; religion and sexual science; generational change and everyday life; AIDS; and gay, antigay, feminist, and queer movements. HU

**WGSS 201b / AMST 271b / HIST 171b, Women in Modern America**  Joanne Meyerowitz
U.S. women’s history and the history of gender from 1900 to the present. Changing meanings of femininity, masculinity, sex, gender, and sexuality; intersections of class, race, ethnicity, and gender; women’s labor in industrial and postindustrial economies; women’s participation in politics and social movements; trends in sexual expression, gender presentation, reproduction, child rearing, and marriage; and feminist and other gender-equity movements. HU

**Intermediate Courses**

*WGSS 295a, Globalizing Gender*  Geetanjali Singh Chanda and Maya Judd
The use of gender as an analytical tool to understand a wide range of contemporary issues. Themes include nature versus culture, daily life, economic globalization, war, and fundamentalism; emphasis on connections between women’s experiences across national borders. Authors include Woolf, Enloe, Kincaid, Freedman, Mernissi, and Heilbrun. WR, HU

*WGSS 296b, Introduction to LGBT Studies*  Joseph Fischel
Sexuality explored as a historical production. Focus on the dynamic, contested relationship between the concepts of gender and sexuality. Investigation of sexuality at the sites of racial difference, psychoanalysis, AIDS, transnationality, U.S. law, publicity, and politics. Includes guest lectures and four screenings on Thursday evenings. SO
Junior Seminars

*WGSS 340a / ENGL 357a, Feminist and Queer Theory  Margaret Homans
Historical survey of feminist and queer theory from the Enlightenment to the present, with readings from key British, French, and American works. Focus on the foundations and development of contemporary theory. Shared intellectual origins and concepts, as well as divergences and conflicts, among different ways of approaching gender and sexuality.  WR, HU

*WGSS 398b, Junior Seminar: Theory and Method  Joseph Fischel and Inderpal Grewal
An interdisciplinary approach to studying gender and sexuality. Exploration of a range of relevant theoretical frameworks and methodologies. Prepares students for the senior essay.  WR, HU, SO

Senior Courses

*WGSS 490a or b, The Senior Colloquium  Joseph Fischel
A research seminar taken during the senior year. Students with diverse research interests and experience discuss common problems and tactics in doing independent research.

*WGSS 491a or b, The Senior Essay  Joseph Fischel
Independent research on, and writing of, the senior essay.

Electives

*WGSS 032b, History of Sexuality  Maria Trumpler
Exploration of scientific and medical writings on sexuality over the past century. Focus on the tension between nature and culture in shaping theories, the construction of heterosexuality and homosexuality, the role of scientific studies in moral discourse, and the rise of sexology as a scientific discipline. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU

*WGSS 145b, Cross-Cultural Narratives of Desire  William Summers
Discourses of desire as reflected in literature, history, popular culture, medicine, and science, with both Western and non-Western examples. Connections with shifting notions of gender and sexuality; intersections with race, class, and culture. Enrollment limited to freshmen and sophomores.  HU

*WGSS 204a / ART 202a / HSAR 207a, Feminist Theory and Feminist Art  Susan Cahan
Major issues in feminist theory and art practice since the 1960s. Topics include women’s art of the 1960s and 1970s, performance and body art, representation and the social construction of gender, and the intersection of gender, race, sexuality, and class.  HU, RP

WGSS 21b / AFAM 140b / AMST 211b / ENGL 293b / ER&M 210b, Race and Gender in American Literature  Birgit Brander Rasmussen
The role of literature in constructing representations of America as an idea, a nation, a colonial settlement, and a participant in world affairs. What kind of place America is and who belongs there; the consequences of America’s history for its national literature. Emphasis on the ways texts represent and contest social concepts of race and gender difference.  WR, HU

WGSS 226b / ARCG 223b / NELC 220b, Lives in Ancient Egypt  Colleen Manassa
Introduction to the social history of ancient Egypt from 3,100 to 30 B.C.E. Focus on the lives of particular individuals attested in the textual and archaeological record, from pharaohs and queens to artists, soldiers, and farmers. Reading of primary sources in translation; course projects integrate ancient objects in Yale collections.  HU

*WGSS 234a / ANTH 234a, Disability and Culture  Karen Nakamura
Exploration of disability from a cross-cultural perspective, using examples from around the globe. Disability as it relates to identity, culture, law, and politics. Case studies may include deafness in Japan, wheelchair mobility in the United States, and mental illness in the former Soviet republics.  SO, RP

*WGSS 245a / FILM 243a / HUMS 206a / LITR 312a / MGRK 218a, Family in Greek Literature and Film  George Syrimis
The structure and multiple appropriations of the family unit, with a focus on the Greek tradition. The influence of aesthetic forms, including folk literature, short stories, novels, and film, and of political ideologies such as nationalism, Marxism, and totalitarianism. Issues related to gender, sibling rivalry, dowries and other economic factors, political allegories, feminism, and sexual and social violence both within and beyond the family.  WR, HU, Tr

*WGSS 261a / FILM 421a / HUMS 414a / MGRK 213a, Cinema of Migration  George Syrimis
Cinematic representations of the migrant experience in the past thirty years, with some emphasis on the post–Cold War period. Focus on southeastern Europe and its migrant populations. Topics include identity, gender, sexual exploitation and violence, and nationalism and ethnicity.  WR, HU, Tr

WGSS 272b / AMST 272b / ER&M 282b / HIST 183b, Asian American History, 1800 to the Present  Mary Lui
An introduction to the history of East, South, and Southeast Asian migrations and settlement to the United States from the late eighteenth century to the present. Major themes include labor migration, community formation, U.S. imperialism, legal exclusion, racial segregation, gender and sexuality, cultural representations, and political resistance.  HU
WGSS 343b / AFAM 352b / AMST 438b / ER&M 291b / LITR 295b, Caribbean Diasporic Literature
Hazel Carby
An examination of contemporary literature written by Caribbean writers who have migrated to, or who journey between, different countries around the Atlantic rim. Focus on literature written in English in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, both fiction and nonfiction. Writers include Caryl Phillips, Nalo Hopkinson, and Jamaica Kincaid.

WGSS 330a / AMST 333a, Sex before Sexuality
Greta LaFleur
The history of sexuality in North America prior to the emergence of modern definitions of sexuality and sexual identity. What counted as "sex" in early North America; forms of sexual behavior that were discussed, defined, disciplined, and prohibited; comparison with contemporary understandings of sex and sexuality. Literary, historical, and scientific texts from the seventeenth through early nineteenth centuries; historical, critical, and theoretical writings on the history of sexuality and on the challenges of sexual historiography more generally.

WGSS 339b / GLBL 391b, Women in Global Affairs
Michele Malvesti
Gender in international relations, with a focus on the roles of women in peace, war, and defense. The effects of armed conflict on women, including characterizations of women as warriors and as victims; perspectives and capabilities that women bring to international negotiations, peace accords, postconflict reconstruction, and the building of civil society; gender and governance, with attention to stereotypes and challenges that female leaders face.

WGSS 411a / AFAM 411a / AMST 426a / ER&M 413a, The Fiction of Imaginary or Imminent Futures
Hazel Carby
Consideration of the nature of utopian and dystopian ideas and the relation between early science fiction and the political project of colonization. Readings of speculative fiction and critical essays from the middle of the twentieth century to the present, including a survey of writing by African American authors.
*WGSS 428b / HIST 169Jb, Labor, Migration, and Democracy in the Twentieth-Century United States  Jennifer Klein
A history of work, labor relations, social movements, immigration, and labor policy in the United States since 1890; the history of class politics and economic development in modern America. Racial and gender hierarchies from farms to factories to sweatshops; labor rights as part of broader struggles over citizenship rights and democracy. Topics include various forms of labor organizing and protest, limits and possibilities of solidarity, braceros and migrant workers, civil rights, the Cold War, politics and policy, and Wal-Mart.  WR, HU

*WGSS 431b / ANTH 451b, Intersectionality and Women’s Health  Marcia Inhorn
The intersections of race, class, gender, and other axes of "difference" and their effects on women’s health, primarily in the contemporary United States. Recent feminist approaches to intersectionality and multiplicity of oppressions theory. Ways in which anthropologists studying women’s health issues have contributed to social and feminist theory at the intersections of race, class, and gender.  SO

*WGSS 438b / AFAM 414b, Women, Law, and the Black Freedom Movement  Kathleen Cleaver
Writings and scholarship of women are used to examine struggles against slavery, racial segregation, economic exploitation, and gender discrimination in the United States. Focus on women who were abolitionists, civil rights leaders, and freedom fighters.  SO

*WGSS 452a / AMST 473a, Affect in the Writing of History  Laura Wexler and Michael Amico
Methods for analyzing, interpreting, and writing about emotion experienced in the past. Focus on ways in which lived sexuality has shaped the feelings of people and the emotional tone of events in history. Psychoanalytical and affect theories as tools for studying the ephemeral, the ineffable, and what can be seen only in emotional reflections. Broader understandings of evidence and causality in historical analysis.  HU

*WGSS 454a / AMST 352a / FILM 377a, Postwar Queer Avant-Garde Film  Ron Gregg
Production, exhibition, and aesthetic practices in postwar queer underground cinema in the United States as it developed from the 1930s to the early 1970s. The films of gay or bisexual filmmakers such as Willard Maas, Andy Warhol, Jack Smith, Kenneth Anger, and José Rodriguez-Soltero; the work of antiheteronormative female filmmakers such as Barbara Rubin and Marie Menken; the links between avant-garde cinema, theater, and other arts, as well as the political context.  HU

*WGSS 457b / HIST 139Jb / HSHM 465b, Reproductive Health, Gender, and Power in the United States  Ziv Eisenberg
U.S. women’s and men’s reproductive health from the nineteenth century to the present. Ways in which gender norms and social power structures have shaped medical knowledge, scientific investigation, political regulation, and private reproductive experiences. Topics include abortion, activism, childbirth, contraceptives, eugenics, fertility, pregnancy, reproductive science and technology, sexual health, and sterilization.  WR, HU

*WGSS 459b / ANTH 455b, Masculinity and Men’s Health  Marcia Inhorn
Ethnographic approaches to masculinity and men’s health around the globe. Issues of ethnographic research design and methodology; interdisciplinary theories of masculinity; contributions of men’s health studies from Western and non-Western sites to social theory, ethnographic scholarship, and health policy.  SO RP

*WGSS 466a / PSYC 414a, Gender Images: A Psychological Perspective  Marianne LaFrance
The nature and effects of gender images (males and females, sexual orientation, gender identities) on the construction of self-identity, stereotypes, aspirations, and interpersonal relationships. Focus on contemporary media, with attention to how, when, and why gender images change with time.  SO

*WGSS 471a or b, Independent Directed Study  Joseph Fischel
For students who wish to explore an aspect of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies not covered by existing courses. The course may be used for research or directed readings and should include one lengthy or several short essays. Students meet with their adviser regularly. To apply for admission, students present a prospectus to the director of undergraduate studies along with a letter of support from the adviser. The prospectus must include a description of the research area, a core bibliography, and the expected sequence and scope of written assignments.

*WGSS 486a / ANTH 486a, Digital Anthropologies  Karen Nakamura
Ethnographic perspectives on the generation of adults who have grown up entirely immersed in a digitally connected world. The development of social networks and computer-mediated communication, from dial-up bulletin board systems to contemporary crowdsourced databases. Replacement of the telephone, postal mail, and even real-world interactions by digital communication methods.  SO RP