WOMEN'S GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES (WGSS)

* WGSS 031a / AMST 031a, LGBTQ Spaces and Places  Terrell Herring
Overview of LGBTQ cultures and their relation to geography in literature, history, film, visual culture, and ethnography. Discussion topics include the historical emergence of urban communities; their tensions and intersections with rural locales; race, sexuality, gender, and suburbanization; and artistic visions of queer and trans places within the city and without. Emphasis is on the wide variety of U.S. metropolitan environments and regions, including New York City, Los Angeles, Miami, the Deep South, Appalachia, New England, and the Pacific Northwest.  HU

* 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 first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

WGSS 110a / AMST 134a / ER&M 264a / SOCY 134a, Sex and Gender in Society  Rene Almeling
Introduction to the social processes through which people are categorized in terms of sex and gender, and how these social processes shape individual experiences of the world. Sex and gender in relation to race/ethnicity, class, sexuality, nationality, education, work, family, reproduction, and health.  SO

WGSS 125b / AFAM 115b, “We Interrupt this Program: The Multidimensional Histories of Queer and Trans Politics”  Roderick Ferguson
In 1991, the arts organizations Visual AIDS and The Kitchen collaborated with video artist and filmmaker Charles Atlas to produce the live television broadcast “We Interrupt this Program.” Part educational presentation, part performance piece, the show was aired in millions of homes across the nation. The program, in The Kitchen’s words, “sought to feature voices that had often been marginalized within many discussions of AIDS, in particular people of color and women.” This course builds upon and is inspired by this aspect of Atlas’s visionary presentation, an aspect that used the show to produce a critically multicultural platform that could activate cultural histories and critical traditions from various communities. In effect, the course uses this aspect as a metonym for the racial, gender, sexual, and class heterogeneity of queer art and organizing. It conducts its investigation by looking at a variety of primary materials that illustrate the heterogeneous makeup of queer and trans politics. The course also draws on more recent texts and visual works that arose from the earlier contexts that the primary texts helped to illuminate and shape.  HU RP

WGSS 127a / ER&M 127a / EVST 127a / SOCY 127a, Health and Illness in Social Context  Alka Menon
Present-day medicine and health care provide solutions to an ever-increasing array of human problems. Yet the achievement of health can be elusive. This course provides a broad introduction to the domains of health and illness in the U.S., with some coverage of international trends and topics. Students analyze how our personal health and public health are shaped by social structures, political struggles, expert knowledge, and medical markets. Topics include the cultural and social meanings associated with health and illness; inequalities in health and health care access and provision; controversies surrounding healthcare, medical knowledge production, and medical decision-making; and the social institutions of the health care industry. None  SO

WGSS 145b / LING 146b / PSYC 329b, Language and Gender  Natalie Weber
An introduction to linguistics through the lens of gender. Topics include: gender as constructed through language; language variation as conditioned by gender and sexuality within and between languages across the world; real and perceived differences between male and female speech; language and (non)binarity; gender and noun class systems in language; pronouns and identity; role of language in encoding, reflecting, or reinforcing social attitudes and behavior.  SO

WGSS 194a / ENGL 194a, Queer Modernisms  Jill Richards
Study of modernist literature and the historical formation of homosexual identity from the late nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. Topics include: sexology as a medical and disciplinary practice; decadence and theories of degeneration; the criminalization of homosexuality in the Wilde and Pemberton-Billing trials; cross-dressing and drag balls in Harlem; transsexuality and sex-reassignment surgery; lesbian periodical cultures; nightlife and cruising; gay Berlin and the rise of fascism; colonial narratives of same-sex desire; and the salon cultures of expatriate Paris.  WR, HU

* WGSS 202a / AFAM 239a / AMST 461a / EDST 209a / ER&M 292a, Identity, Diversity, and Policy in U.S. Education  Craig Canfield
Introduction to critical theory (feminism, queer theory, critical race theory, disability studies, trans studies, indigenous studies) as a fundamental tool for understanding and critiquing identity, diversity, and policy in U.S. education. Exploration of identity politics and theory, as they figure in education policy. Methods for applying theory and interventions to interrogate issues in education. Application of theory and interventions to policy creation and reform.  WR, HU

* WGSS 205a, Bodies and Pleasures, Sex and Genders  Regina Kunzel
This seminar engages cultural analyses of embodiment, its pleasures—and by extension its pains—to interrogate sex, sexuality, and gender as analytical categories. Its aim is to critically evaluate formative concepts and theories that have been subject to debates within gender studies, psychoanalysis, philosophy, anthropology, critical race studies, and history. Readings by Freud, Foucault, Berlant, Butler, Rubin, and others help explain how terms like “women” and “men,” “femininity” and “masculinity,” as well as “homosexuality” and “heterosexuality,” “gender” and “transgender” have structured people’s experiences and their perceptions of their bodies. The potential
our bodies have for “hanging on to ourselves” occupies a central position within scholarly canons, revealing also how these canons are always already imbricated in racialized hierarchies. So

**WGSS 207b / PLSC 298b, Gender, Justice, Power, Institutions** Joseph Fischel
Examination of how inequalities based on gender, race, caste, class, sexuality as well as a host of other identities are embedded in institutions that make up our social world. From the family and the home to the workplace, from the University, and the Corporation, to the Military and Media, we track how inequalities emerge and are sustained by power and institutional structures. We also see how they are challenged and what sorts of instruments are needed to challenge them. In particular, we focus on sexual politics and sexual violence as a key issue to understanding the gendered workings of institutions, in order to examine structures that sustain inequality. Through the semester, we hope to consider many domains of life—bedrooms and boardrooms, international borders and feminist movements—to understand the stubborn and sticky forms and hierarchies of power that are challenged and contested by activists, scholars, and communities. TR

* WGSS 209a / CLCV 216a / LITR 230a / MGRK 216a, Dionysus in Modernity  George Syrimis
Modernity’s fascination with the myth of Dionysus. Questions of agency, identity and community, and psychological integrity and the modern constitution of the self. Manifestations of Dionysus in literature, anthropology, and music; the Apollonian-Dionysiac dichotomy; twentieth-century variations of these themes in psychoanalysis, surrealism, and magical realism. HU

* WGSS 223b / ENGL 225b, Race and Gender in Transatlantic Literature, 1688–1818  Jill Campbell
Construction of race and gender in literatures of Great Britain, North America, and the Caribbean from the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth century. Focus on the role of literature in advancing and contesting concepts of race and gender as features of identity and systems of power, with particular attention to the circulation of goods, people, ideas, and literary works among regions. Some authors include Aphra Behn, Phillis Wheatley, Olaudah Equiano, Leanora Sansay, Maria Edgeworth, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Mary Shelley. First of a two-term sequence; each term may be taken independently. WR, HU

* WGSS 244a / ENGL 226a, Race and Gender in Transatlantic Literature, 1819 to the Present  Margaret Homans
Construction of race and gender in literatures of Great Britain, North America, and the Caribbean from the early nineteenth century to the present. Focus on the role of literature in advancing and contesting concepts of race and gender as features of identity and systems of power, with particular attention to the circulation of goods, people, ideas, and literary works among regions. Some authors include Charlotte Bronte, Sojourner Truth, Zora Neale Hurston, Virginia Woolf, Audre Lorde, Chimimanda Adichie, and Kabe Wilson. Second of a two-term sequence; each term may be taken independently. WR, HU

* WGSS 229b, Beyond Seneca Falls: Histories of Feminism and Social Change in the Long 20th Century  Salonee Bhaman
For much of the 21st century, “feminism” has been a controversial term, perceived by some as expansive and revolutionary, others as radical or dangerous, and still others as a philosophy deeply limited in who was included in its mandate. This writing intensive seminar explores the roots and development of feminism a dynamic and contested ideology over course of the long 20th century, foregrounding the writing of individuals, activists, and movements that have claimed or reclaimed it in service of disparate political ends. Beginning with the work of antiracist pioneer Ida B. Wells’s struggle against racialized violence and sexual assault, this course explores movements for universal suffrage, anti-violence, reproductive justice, welfare, workplace safety, sexual liberation, anti-war activism, and solidarity struggles through an intersectional lens. Understanding the work of Black feminists, Third World feminists, Woman of Color feminists, Indigenous feminists, and transfeminists as central rather than ancillary to the development of feminist theory, practice, and praxis in the United States, this course offers students chronological and thematic timeline that reframes the story of the feminist movement in the United States as one made up of interlocking and interrelated struggles for liberation. Students engage with a variety of primary and secondary sources in order to interrogate the ways that these individuals and groups made claims to freedom, autonomy, and justice that were rooted in their own positionality within American society. They also explore how these claims, when understood in relation to each other, defined the contours of feminist history across the contours of race, class, and gender identity. WR, HU

* WGSS 230a / ANTH 230a, Evolutionary Biology of Women’s Reproductive Lives  Claudia Valeggia
Evolutionary and biosocial perspectives on female reproductive lives. Physiological, ecological, and social aspects of women’s development from puberty through menopause and aging, with special attention to reproductive processes such as pregnancy, birth, and lactation. Variation in female life histories in a variety of cultural and ecological settings. Examples from both traditional and modern societies. SC

* WGSS 233a / FILM 341a / MGRK 238a, Weird Greek Wave Cinema  George Syrimis
The course examines the cinematic production of Greece in the last fifteen years or so and looks critically at the popular term “weird Greek wave” applied to it. Noted for its absurd tropes, bizarre narratives, and quirky characters, the films question and disturb traditional gender and social roles, as well as international viewers’ expectations of national stereotypes of classical luminosity—the proverbial “Greek light”–Dionysian exuberance, or touristic leisure. Instead, these works frustrate not only a wholistic reading of Greece as a unified and coherent social construct, but also the physical or aesthetic pleasure of its landscape and its ‘quaint’ people with their insistence on grotesque, violent, or otherwise disturbing images or themes (incest, sexual otherness and violence, aggression, corporeality, and xenophobia). The course also pays particular attention on the economic and political climate of the Greek financial crisis during which these films are produced and consumed and to which they partake. None HU

* WGSS 260a, Food, Identity and Desire  Maria Trumpler
Exploration of how food—ingredients, cooking practices, and appetites—can intersect with gender, ethnicity, class, and national origin to produce profound experiences of identity and desire. Sources include memoir, cookbooks, movies, and fiction.
WGSS 272a / AMST 272a / ER&M 282a / HIST 183a, 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 293b / CLCV 319b / HIST 243jb / MGRK 300b, The Olympic Games, Ancient and Modern  George Syrimis
Introduction to the history of the Olympic Games from antiquity to the present. The mythology of athletic events in ancient Greece and the ritual, political, and social ramifications of the actual competitions. The revival of the modern Olympic movement in 1896, the political investment of the Greek state at the time, and specific games as they illustrate the convergence of athletic cultures and sociopolitical transformations in the twentieth century.  HU

* WGSS 298a / AFAM 326a / AMST 312a / ER&M 310a, Postcolonial Cities of the West  Fadila Habchi
Examination of various texts and films pertaining to the representation of postcolonial cities in the global north and a range of social, political, and cultural issues that concern those who inhabit these spaces.  HU

* WGSS 306b / AMST 314b / ER&M 314b, Gender and Transgender  Greta LaFleur
Introduction to transgender studies, an emergent field that draws on gender studies, queer theory, sociology, feminist science studies, literary studies, and history. Representations of gender nonconformity in a cultural context dominated by a two-sex model of human gender differentiation. Sources include novels, autobiographies, films, and philosophy and criticism.  RP

* WGSS 316a / CLCV 313a, Women Who Kill  Ariel Kroeber
Women in ancient Greek mythology are often figured as killers and destroyers: of enemies, husbands, children, and cities. We read the ancient plays and poetry that depict these women, as well as modern reworkings and retellings of these stories. We explore how these texts understand women and femininity, why the connection between women and murder is so ubiquitous in Greek mythology, and what it means that the ancient authors we read—all of whom were men—so often returned to this theme. In addition to ancient authors, we read contemporary works of poetry and fiction that draw on these mythological stories and rework them in new ways. In the ancient sources we see authors reworking still older variations of the same stories, revealing the modern adaptations as a continuation of this process, remaking the stories once again. What can the approaches taken by our contemporary mythmakers to the murderous woman tell us about our own societies?  WR, HU

* WGSS 317b / HUMS 210b / ITAL 317b / LITR 180b, 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.  HU

* WGSS 319b / RLST 119b, The Animal and Religion  Wendy Mallette
This interdisciplinary seminar analyzes key texts formulating the question of the (non)human and animal by examining the recent proliferation of work on animality, not only in religious studies, but also in Black studies, gender studies, philosophy, and anthropology. The course critically examines key accounts of religion and the animal in relation to colonialism, capitalism, race, gender, sexuality, and class. Questions explored include: What does animal religion or religious animality look like? How is the category of religion understood with respect to the nonhuman or less-than-human? What is the relationship of conceptions of the (non)human in modernity to the slave trade and colonialism? How do notions of personhood, spirituality, dominion, evolution, empathy, and cosmology relate to the (non)human and animal?  HU

* WGSS 332b / AFAM 348b / AMST 388b / ER&M 339b, James Baldwin 1964-1987: Transnationalism, Exile & Intimacy  Leah Mirakhor
The course explores Baldwin's oeuvre since 1964 until his death in 1987. As critics have noted, there has been a renaissance regarding the work of James Baldwin since 1999, with scholarly publications devoted to his work, public tributes, films, and publications of previously uncollected or out of print works. Critics had hailed Baldwin's earlier works—Go Tell It on the Mountain, Giovanni's Room, Notes of a Native Son—as his greatest literary accomplishments. After Baldwin's most celebrated work—The Fire Next Time—Baldwin appeared on the cover of Time magazine in 1963, under the heading “Birmingham and Beyond: The Negro's Push for Equality.” In this moment, Baldwin became a celebrated public figure in the U.S. and beyond. Our class investigates the period after this height of celebrity, when critics lambasted him for being too political, too angry, too bitter, and losing narrative control and rigor. This two-decade span is significant because Baldwin was witness to the deaths and incarceration of Civil Rights leaders (whom he mourned as friends), the increased surveillance and incarceration of black activists, the Vietnam war, the emergence of Black Power, feminist movements, and gay and queer liberations. During this time, Baldwin lived primarily in Turkey and France, and continued to travel globally. Baldwin's essays, novels, speeches, and poetry wrestled with how to formally capture and witness the violence of imperialism, homophobia, and racism. Since his death, Baldwin's work has continued to influence and inform theoretical insights in American studies, literary studies, Black studies, and queer studies. Our class engages with Baldwin's formal practices, political contexts, and critical interpretations across these fields. Preference given to students with a background in African American Studies, WGGS, ERM, and American Studies. Previous readings of James Baldwin's works recommended but not required.  HU

* WGSS 335a / AMST 336a, LGBTQ Life Spans  Terrell Herring
Interdisciplinary survey of LGBTQ life spans in the United States concentrating primarily on later life. Special attention paid to topics such as disability, aging, and ageism; queer and trans creative aging; longevity and life expectancy during the AIDS epidemic; intergenerational intimacy; age and activism; critiques of optimal aging; and the development of LGBTQ senior centers and affordable senior housing. We explore these topics across multiple contemporary genres: documentary film (The Joneses), graphic memoir (Alison
Bechdel's *Fun Home*, poetry (Essex Hemphill's "Vital Signs"), fabulation (Saidiya Hartman's *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*), and oral history. We also review archival documents of later LGBTQ lives—ordinary and iconic—held at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library as well as the Lesbian Herstory Archives.  

* WGSS 330b / ENGL 385b, Fiction and Sexual Politics  
Margaret Homans

Historical survey of works of fiction that have shaped and responded to feminist, queer, and transgender thought from the late eighteenth century to the present. Authors include Woolstoncraft, C. Bronte, H. Jacobs, C. P. Gilman, R. Hall, Woolf, Wittig, Walker, Anzaldua, Morrison, Kingston, Winterson, and Bechdel.  

* WR, HU

* WGSS 340b / ENGL 291b, Feminist and Queer Theory  
Craig Canfield

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 343a / AFAM 352a / AMST 438a / ER&M 291a / LITR 295a, Caribbean Diasporic Literature  
Fadila Habchi

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.  

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* WGSS 347b / GMAN 375b / HIST 455b / HUMS 287b, Resistance in Theory and Practice  
Terence Renaud

Exploration of the histories and theories of resistance in the modern world. How liberation movements, guerrillas, and oppressed groups appeal to resistance as an organizational strategy and as moral justification. Readings include Kant, Thoreau, Nietzsche, Luxemburg, Lenin, Gandhi, Fanon, Arendt, Marcuse, Foucault, A. Lorde, Said, and J. Butler. Themes include antifascism to terrorism; violence to nonviolence, the New Left to Black Lives Matter.  

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* WGSS 348a / PHIL 344a, Feminist Ethics  
Moya Mapps

In this course, we explore questions at the intersection of moral philosophy and feminist philosophy. Is there a distinctively feminine way to approach moral reasoning? If so, should we resist this feminine moral orientation as patriarchal, overly demanding, or otherwise oppressive? Or should we embrace it? This writing-intensive course is designed to strengthen writing skills. We also discuss meta-philosophical questions about the methods of mainstream moral philosophy, and about the analytic philosophy paper as a genre of writing. Prerequisite: At least one essay-based philosophy course. (Ideally in moral philosophy, feminist philosophy, or a related subject.)  

* WR, HU

* WGSS 372a / AMST 382a, Theory and Politics of Sexual Consent  
Joseph Fischel

Political, legal, and feminist theory and critiques of the concept of sexual consent. Topics such as sex work, normative sex, and sex across age differences explored through film, autobiography, literature, queer commentary, and legal theory. U.S. and Connecticut legal cases regarding sexual violence and assault.  

* SO

* WGSS 378a / ANTH 381a, Sex and Global Politics  
Graeme Reid


* SO

* WGSS 386a / AFAM 456a / AMST 457a, American Abolition: From Slavery to Mass Incarceration  
Micah Khater

This seminar is an interdisciplinary, historically-grounded examination of Black abolitionism in the United States from the mid-nineteenth century to the twenty-first century. Students engage deeply with readings in Black Feminist Theory, social and cultural history, literature, Disability Studies, and queer theory in order to investigate how abolitionist frameworks changed over time and, sometimes, remained the same. While this course focuses explicitly on Black activists who espoused abolitionism; it is important to remember that abolition did not always figure into the Black Freedom Struggle. As we navigate the expansion and contraction of abolitionism, we also consider why criminal justice—rather than abolition, was a central demand of Black political organizing. In order to better understand the complicated history of twenty-first century abolitionism—including its epistemological ties to histories of slavery—we engage with major paradigms in Black history. AFAM 162 is highly encouraged.  

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* WGSS 398b, Junior Research Seminar  
Staff

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, SO

* WGSS 403a / SPAN 323a, Women Writers of Spain  
Noel Valis

The development of women's writing in Spain, with a focus on the modern era. Equal attention to the sociohistorical and cultural contexts of women writers and to the narrative and poetic strategies the authors employed. Some readings from critical and theoretical works.  

* 15, HU

* WGSS 407b / ANTH 308b, Feminist & Queer Ethnographies: Family, Community, Nation  
Eda Pepi

This seminar centers the analytics and methods that feminist and queer ethnographic analyses have brought to the fore to revisit a cluster of topical issues, this year assembled around the theme: Family, Community, Nation. As a site in which personhood is distributed and contested, the “family” is one of the building blocks of social scientific analysis—along with “community” and “nation.” Seen as ideological lynchpins for the reproduction of the social order, processes of family-making—like marriage, divorce, childbirth, and intergenerational flows—have been codified differently across historical and cultural contexts. This course engages the feminist and queer ethnographies that revealed the political hierarchies that emerge from seemingly natural categories and distinctions of kinship. We trace
the gendered, sexualized, class-making, and racialized concepts, processes, and implicit understandings of family-making that chart the public and private spheres of community and national terrains. Students grapple with the processes of naturalization and denaturalization through which the “political” is mobilized and dyads like kin/kith, blood/soil, human/nonhuman, citizen/noncitizen, us/them, are made to appear. We also engage with feminist and queer methodologies that conjure up speculative fabulations for, what Saidiya Hartman has called, “the radical hope for living otherwise.” We do so at a time when the global Covid-19 pandemic has demanded the resurgence of the state, tested community ties, transformed family arrangements, and isolated most of the world’s population within domestic domains.

HU, SO

* WGSS 408a / AMST 345a / ER&M 409a, Latinx Ethnicity  Ana Ramos-Zayas

Consideration of ethnography within the genealogy and intellectual traditions of Latinx Studies. Topics include: questions of knowledge production and epistemological traditions in Latin America and U.S. Latino communities; conceptions of migration, transnationalism, and space; perspectives on “(il)legality” and criminalization; labor, wealth, and class identities; contextual understandings of gender and sexuality; theorizations of affect and intimate lives; and the politics of race and inequality under white liberalism and conservatism in the United States.  SO

* WGSS 416b / ER&M 335b / FREN 416b, Social Mobility and Migration  Morgane Cadieu

Exploration of mobility in the French social landscape and its representations in contemporary French and Francophone texts and films; the intersectionality of class, race, gender, and sexuality; emancipation, migration, demotion, and precarity; labor and the workplace; the interaction between social class and literary style. Works by: Angot, Eribon, Ernaux, Kechiche, Louis, Mukasonga, NDiaye, Taïa. Theoretical excerpts by: Berlant, Bourdieau, Delphy, Fraser, Rancière, Piketty. Students have the possibility to put the corpus in dialogue with the literature of other countries.  15, HU

* WGSS 425b / ENGL 238b, Disability & Sexuality  Joseph Fischel and Jill Richards

The course examines how intimacies, pleasures, bodies, genders, and sexualities take shape across the spectrum of ability. The course draws from an array of scholarly approaches to dis/ability to theorize normative parameters around sex and sociality, and to imagine alternatives. Most weeks integrate scholarly heuristic texts with cultural artifacts, including poetry, visual art, cinema, podcasts, and other media. Topics include embodiment and gender pluralism, the social model and its discontents, pregnancy and reproductive justice, HIV/AIDS, pornography and representation, toxicity and contagion, care work and dependency, and vulnerability.  HU, SO

* WGSS 426a / ENGL 344a, Virginia Woolf  Margaret Homans

A study of the major novels and other writings by Virginia Woolf, with additional readings in historical contexts and in Woolf biography and criticism. Focus on Woolf’s modernist formal experimentation and on her responses and contributions to political movements of her day, principally feminism and pacifism; attention also to the critical reception of her work, with emphasis on feminist and queer literary criticism and theory.  WR, HU

* WGSS 427a / AMST 427a / PLSC 269a, Politics of Gender and Sexuality in the United States  Dara Strolovitch

The 2016 Presidential election made clear that gender matters a great deal in American politics, but it also revealed that how gender matters is far from obvious. This course explores the ways in which gender and sexuality shape and are shaped by American politics and public policy. We explore the history, findings, and controversies in research about gender and sexuality in American politics from a range of approaches, examining what political science research helps us understand about questions such as: Does gender influence political campaigns and whether people will vote for particular candidates? Once elected, are gender and sexuality related to legislators’ behavior in office? How are norms related to race, class, gender, and sexuality reflected in and constructed by public policy? We also explore feminist, queer, and intersectional theories and methodologies and important work from other disciplines and interdisciplines, paying particular attention to the implications of intersectionality for understanding gender, sexuality, and politics. We also analyze the ways in which gender and sexuality intersect with other politically salient categories, identities, and forms of marginalization, including race, ethnicity, class, and ideological and partisan identification, paying particular attention to their implications for the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections.  SO

* WGSS 430a / ANTH 441a / MMES 399a / MMES 430a, Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East  Eda Pepi

This seminar explores the gendered and ethnic-based social processes and forms of power that citizenship, statelessness, and migration crises fuel, and are fueled by, in the Middle East and North Africa. The history of gender and citizenship in the region is imbricated in ethnosexual and orientalist colonial legacies that articulate a racialized problematic of “modernity.” Part of these legacies involve obscuring the role that women, sexual minorities, and gender, more broadly, have played in framing citizenship and statehood in the Middle East in global, regional, and local imaginaries not only as border policing and legal doctrine, but as signifier—and referent—of culture, race, and ethnicity. By examining the gendered and sexual dimensions of war, conflict, and partition, and the formation of modern citizenship in the Middle East, the seminar presents ethnographic, historical, literary and visual scholarship that theorizes the role of kinship and citizenship in gendered and racialized narratives of the nation and political sovereignty.  SO

* 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 438a, Subjectivity and its Discontents: Psychosocial Explorations in Black, Feminist, Queer  Gail Lewis

Questions of subjectivity stand at the base of much feminist, black, queer scholarship yet how subjectivity is constituted, whether it is fixed or fluid, how it links to narratives of experience, and how it can be apprehended in critical inquiry is often left implicit. Beginning
with a brief consideration of psychoanalytic conceptions of ‘the subject’, ‘subjectivity’ and their relation to social formations, this course examines some of the ways in which subjectivity has been theorized and brought under critical scrutiny by black diasporic, feminist and queer scholars. It draws on work produced in reference to multiple sites, including the UK, the USA and the Caribbean within the fields of psychoanalysis, social science, the humanities and critical art practice. It aims to critique the divide between ‘interior’ psychic life and ‘exterior’ social selves, as well as considering the relation between ‘freedom’ and subjectivity, including the extent to which ‘freedom’ might require rejection of ‘subjectivity’ as a mode of personhood.

* WGSS 462a / AMST 484a / ER&M 405a / FILM 402a / HSAR 493a, Visual Kinship, Families, and Photography  Laura Wexler
Exploration of the history and practice of family photography from an interdisciplinary perspective. Study of family photographs from the analog to the digital era, from snapshots to portraits, and from instrumental images to art exhibitions. Particular attention to the ways in which family photographs have helped establish gendered and racial hierarchies and examination of recent ways of reconceiving these images. HU

* WGSS 463b / AMST 462b / ER&M 462b, The Study of Privilege in the Americas  Ana Ramos-Zayas
Examination of inequality, not only through experiences of the poor and marginal, but also through institutions, beliefs, social norms, and everyday practices of the privileged. Topics include: critical examination of key concepts like “studying up,” “elite,” and “privilege,” as well as variations in forms of capital; institutional sites of privilege (elite prep schools, Wall Street); living spaces and social networks (gated communities, private clubs); privilege in intersectional contexts (privilege and race, class, and gender); and everyday practices of intimacy and affect that characterize, solidify, and promote privilege. HU

* WGSS 471a or b, Independent Directed Study  Staff
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 481a / HSAR 480a, Woman/Artist  Carol Armstrong
This seminar focuses on women artists of the 19th and 20th centuries in Western Europe and the United States, while also looking back to the Renaissance through the 18th centuries, and forward to our own “global” moment. Beginning with the advent of feminist art history, it moves chronologically, intertwining the history of women artists with such questions as: What are the pros and cons of singling out women artists? What were the institutional restraints on women’s entering the the canon of “great” art? How did conceptions of “femininity,” female agency, and the “male gaze” intersect with the history of art by women? How did women’s roles as artist’s patrons or models inflect their own or others’ activities as artists? How did the political revolutions of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries change things for women artists? How did the public and private spheres of modernity shape the role of women in the story of “modernism”? How did the first, second, and third waves of feminism address the problem of the women artist? How did/do matters of sex and gender intersect with those of race and class in the identity politics of contemporary world art? What is feminist art? This class is offered in tandem with the YUAG exhibition “On the Basis of Art: 150 Years of Women at Yale,” and culminates in a conference addressed to the two key terms of “Woman/Artist.” HU

* WGSS 490a or b, The Senior Colloquium  Staff
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  Staff
Independent research on, and writing of, the senior essay.