Department of English

Spring 2020

Gender Studies Courses

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Information subject to change.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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These are course we know about. There may be others that count, as well. So feel free to contact professors and the gender studies advisor with inquiries.

76-241 Introduction to Gender Studies
Instructor: Section A: Ryan Mitchell
Section B: Professor Rachel Kravetz
Meetings: Section A: TR 10:30-11:50 a.m.
Section B: MW 12:00-1:20 p.m.
Units: 9
Sections A & B: Biological sex vs. gender roles. Intersectional feminism. LGBTQIA+ rights. Consent. Masculinity and gender roles. #metoo and gender-based violence. Economic inequity. Sexual politics. This course offers students a scholarly introduction to these social and political issues. Organized thematically, with interdisciplinary readings both foundational and contemporary, the class will combine theory, literature, and film with texts like law, public policy, and media representations. We will read critically and discuss openly. Readings will include work by Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler, Kimberlé Crenshaw, bell hooks, Michael Kimmel, Raewyn Connell, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Roxanne Gay, James Baldwin and Margaret Atwood.

76-280 Gender and Sexuality in Performance
Instructor: Professor Kristina Straub
Meetings: MW 1:30-2:50 p.m.
Units: 9
"Performance" describes a wide range of practices, from the everyday to the artistic. Gender and sexuality are key elements in everyday, political, and artistic performances, from the very personal--how you order a latte at Tazza D’Oro,
tell a lover goodbye at the airport or comfort a crying child--to the very public--performing a Bach cello suite or an iconic King Lear, staging a demonstration against police violence or marketing a new app. This course will to bring performance theory into a practical partnership artistic and literary texts in the creation and critique of social and individual narratives about gender and sexuality. How does everyday performance define gender and sexual identity? How do gender and sexuality define everyday performance? How does aesthetic performance--art, theater, film, digital media, poetry--intervene in the ways in which gender and sexuality are performed? Readings in theory at the intersection between gender studies and performance studies will help us explore these questions. We will also consider a variety of cultural and artistic practices. The addition of simple performances and exercises for students to incorporate into their research will blur theory and studio practices. Students will be encouraged to practice their theories surrounding performance within the classroom and in public space. This course counts towards the Gender Studies Minor.

79-320  Women, Politics, and Protest  
Instructor:  Professor Lisa Tetrault  
Meetings:  MW 12:00-1:20 p.m.  
Units:  9  
This course examines the history of women's rights agitation in the United States from the early nineteenth-century to the present. It investigates both well-known struggles for women's equality--including the battles for women's voting rights, an Equal Rights Amendment, and access to birth control--and also explores the history of lesser-known struggles for economic and racial justice. Because women often differed about what the most important issues facing their sex were, this course explores not only the issues that have united women, but also those that have divided them--keeping intersectionality and women's diversity at the center of the course.

79-325  U.S. Gay and Lesbian History -- Mini 4  
Instructor:  Timothy Haggerty  
Meetings:  TR 3:00-4:20 p.m.  
Units:  6  
US Gay and Lesbian History offers an overview of the changing context and circumstances of sexual minorities in American culture. From early constructions of moral opprobrium, criminal deviance or medical pathology, the LGBT community emerged in the twentieth and twenty-first century as a political constituency and a vital part of contemporary society. Students should be aware that this course will necessarily address issues of intimate relations and sexuality as well as broader historical issues.

79-331  Body Politics: Women & Health in America  
Instructor:  Professor Lisa Tetrault  
Meetings:  MW 10:30-11:50 a.m.  
Units:  9  
[Note: Students who have taken 79-178, Freshman Seminar: Body Politics: Women and Health in America, may not enroll.] This course takes a topical, intersectional approach to the history of U.S. women's health in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It is less about governmental politics, although we do some of that. Rather, it sees bodies as cultural texts through which power is built and contested. The course covers topics such as the history of anatomy, menstruation, reproductive rights, body image, mental health, sexuality, violence, childbirth, and menopause. We explore how science and American culture both have constructed these issues over time (some of it is super whacky!), while also examining women's organizing around them. This course is open to all students.
This course is devoted to the study of both traditional and more modern forms of prejudice and discrimination and the psychological processes that can arise from categorizations and stereotyping. The class provides an overview of the cognitive and emotional underpinnings of prejudice and discrimination as it pertains to many forms of inequality. The psychological theories underlying these behaviors will be examined as well as their impact on the lives of stigmatized individuals. Its goal is to examine a number of social differences and understand how prejudice can impact many areas of society. In addition to the traditional forms of prejudice based on such things as race, gender and age; other inequalities that result from less traditional groupings such as social class, appearance, and disability and will be explored. Research on issues of social identity, intergroup relations and the reduction of prejudice will be examined through readings and class activities.