

WOMENSST 187      Introduction to Women's Studies (I,U)      Banu Subramaniam  
 Monday, Wednesday 10:10-11:00  
 Friday discussions at 9:05, 10:10, and 11:15

Placing women's experiences at the center of interpretation, this class introduces basic concepts and key areas of women's lives both historically and contemporaneously. It is an inter-disciplinary, trans-disciplinary, and cross cultural study of women's roles and relations but it is also an overview of theoretical perspectives on gender and its intersection with other social constructs of difference (race/ethnicity, class, sexuality, and age). The central aim is to foster critical reading and thinking about these interlocking systems which have shaped and influenced the historical, cultural, social, political, and economic contexts of our lives. Specific attention will be given to women's resistance of those gendered inequalities, and the various ways they have worked to create new systems of change by engaging in national and global transformational politics.

WOMENSST 187H      Introduction to Women's Studies      Alexandrina Deschamps  
 Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45 (Orchard Hill)

See previous description.

WOMENSST 201      Critical Perspectives in Women's Studies      Alexandrina Deschamps  
 Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15

An introduction to the vibrant field of women's studies, this course introduces students to the basic concepts in the field as well as making connections to our lives. An interdisciplinary field grounded in a commitment to both intellectual rigor and individual and social transformation - to the world of ideas and the material world in which we live - women's studies asks fundamental questions about the world and our lives. What does it mean to be a woman? How is the category "woman" constructed differently across social groups, cultures and historical periods? Are there common experiences and essential characteristics that define all women? How do the differences among women according to race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and nationality complicate our commonalities? How do we analyze women's multiple identities and social positions? How can an understanding of women's lives empower us to act as agents of personal and social change? Readings include a range of women thinkers both in the U.S. and around the world, grounding our analyses in multiple voices, highlighting both the diversity, richness and power of women's ideas and reflecting the diverse and interdisciplinary perspectives in the field.

WOMENSST 290A      Biology of Difference (ISU)      Banu Subramaniam  
 Monday, Wednesday 11:15-12:05  
 Friday discussions 9:05 & 11:15

The course centrally examines our understanding of the "body". While humans have many similarities and differences, we are organized around certain axes of "difference" that have profound consequences - sex, gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, nationality etc. These differences can shape not only group affiliation and identity, but also claims about intellectual and behavioral capacities. This course will explore popular claims, critiques and understandings of "difference" as well as academic research, its claims, debates and critiques. This is an interdisciplinary course that will draw from the biological and social sciences and the humanities. We will explore principles of human biology - anatomy, physiology, sex/gender/sexuality, reproductive biology, genetics, as well as the scientific method(s) and experimental designs. The course will give students the tools to analyze scientific studies, to understand the relationship of nature and culture, science and society, biology and politics.

WOMENSST 291A      Gender, Race and Immigration in Contemporary Western Europe      Beverly Weber  
 Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the lives of “women of color” (a term that we will complicate and contextualize) in contemporary Western Europe. Drawing on critical perspectives such as postcolonial theory, feminist transnational cultural studies, and integrative analysis we will explore topics central to the lives of women of color and immigrant women in Western Europe today, including: working lives, political participation and organization, experiences of violence, citizenship rights, and cultural identity (including discussions of Islam in Europe). By looking at texts from a variety of academic fields together with cultural productions such as film and literature, our explorations will carefully consider how the intersections of politics, economics and cultural representations impact women’s lives. Though we will primarily explore contemporary issues (since the 1970s) in the lives of women of color and immigrant women, it will be crucial to draw on historical perspectives, particularly histories of colonization. We will further frame our discussions in the context of the processes of globalization, as well as seek to gain an understanding of how discourses of race and gender differ from those of the United States. *Fulfills the Women of Color outside the U.S. requirement for Women’s Studies majors and minors.*

WOMENSST 295B      Asian American Women: Gender, Race and Immigration      Juliette Lee  
 Monday, Wednesday 3:35-4:50

The term “Asian American Women” represents a diverse group of people, including Hmong refugee garment workers, second-generation Chinese-American debutantes, domestic workers from the Philippines, and novelists from Calcutta. This class will look at how race, gender, patriarchy, immigration history, class, and globalization have shaped the lives of Asian American women. Some of the topics that will be covered in class include immigration and settlement, family and career choices, representations of the Asian female body, militarized prostitution, and organizing for social change. We’ll read social science research, personal essays, fiction, and poetry as well as watch documentaries. Students will have the opportunity to respond creatively to several of the assignments. *Fulfills the Women of Color inside the U.S. requirement for Women’s Studies majors and minors.*

WOMENSST 301      Theorizing Womens Issues      Dayo Gore  
 Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15

Ways of analyzing and reflecting on current issues and controversies in feminist thought within an international context sensitive to class, race, and sexual power concerns. Topics may include work and international economic development, violence against women, racism, class and poverty, heterosexism, the social construction of gender, race and sexuality, global feminism, women, nationalism and the state, reproductive issues, pornography and media representations of women. Prerequisite: WOST 201 or consent of instructor.

WOMENSST 391E      Political Economy of Women      Lisa Saunders  
 Thursday 1:00-3:45

Contact the Economics department for description.

WOMENSST 391M     African American Women  
in the Civil Rights Movement     Dayo Gore  
Tuesday, Thursday 11:15-12:30

This course examines black women's participation in and influence on the civil rights movement from the 1940s to the 1970s as well as the impact of these civil rights struggles on black women's daily lives, status and politics in the United States. Centering black women's experiences as grassroots organizers, political leadership and civil rights activists this course explores significant events, organizations and political debates that helped to form and transform the civil rights movement during the latter part of the Twentieth Century. In addition we will examine debates over leadership styles and political goals, the dynamics of class, sexuality, race, gender and region that shaped civil rights activism, and the cultural politics of the movement. From this vantage point we will begin the process of exploring a range of issues that have plagued activists and theorists alike including building solidarity and sustaining political commitments, creating viable organizations, and developing strategies for long-term social change. *This course fulfills the Women of Color inside the US requirement for Women's Studies majors and minors.*

WOMENSST 391W     Writing for Majors     Claire Schomp  
Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45

Fulfills University's Junior Year Writing Requirement. Offered fall semester only. Course acquaints students with the many genres of writing within Women's Studies and is structured around a set of readings selected to represent a large variety of stylistic approaches including scholarly writings in a number of fields, book and film reviews, journal writing, letters to the editor, zines, web pages, personal and self-reflexive prose, newsletter prose, and conference reports. The readings will be short, and each will be intended to serve as a model of its kind to be analyzed, emulated, and/or critiqued. The course allows students to hone skills on modes of expository writing and argumentation useful for research and writing in a variety of fields.

WOMENSST 499E     Culminating Experience:  
Transnational Women's Economic and Political Activisms     Alexandrina Deschamps  
Tuesday 2:30-5:15

This course will research the geographies of development, gendered violence, and resistance. We will do a survey of the field of feminist research and praxis locating transnational practices of resistance and development and explore the implementation of feminist gendered projects that have been successful in ensuring some measurable social, cultural, and economic success. Students will have the opportunity to assess which of these practices can be applicable, transferable, but not necessarily replicable on a global basis. The relationship between academic theorizing and community organizing for productive social and political change is a vital, complex and an ever-changing source of feminist inquiry. Among other issues, this course will build on that relationship by juxtaposing activist social and political work with the theoretical, intersectionalities, feminist research methodology, and how these arenas inform and transform each other.

WOMENSST 791B     Feminist Theory     Ann Ferguson  
Wednesday 3:35-6:05 p.m.

Permission of Instructor required. See instructor for course description.