

Changes made after publication date are marked in blue.

WOMENSST 187      Introduction to Women's Studies (I,U)      [Banu Subramaniam](#)  
 Monday, Wednesday 10:10-11:00 - Spire #74802  
 Disc. at 9:05 a.m. (RAP – Focus Connections in Pierpont/Moore - #74795)  
 Disc. #1 at 9:05 a.m. (RAP – Option for any RAP in OH or Central - #74796)  
 Disc. #2 at 10:10 a.m. – Spire #74797  
 Disc. #3 at 10:10 a.m. – Spire #74799  
 Disc. #4 at 10:10 a.m. – Spire #74800  
 Disc. #5 at 10:10 a.m. (RAP–Quest in Pierpont/Moore - Spire #74801)  
 Disc. #6 at 10:10 a.m. (RAP–Focus Connections in Van Meter - Spire #74801)  
 Disc. #7 at 11:15 a.m. – Spire #74804  
 Disc. #8 at 11:15 a.m. – Spire #74798  
 Disc. #9 at 11:15 a.m. – Spire #74840  
 Disc. #10 at 11:15 a.m. – Spire #74852

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) – Spire #78100

Honors course with community service project. Same general description as WOMENSST 187. Taught in Orchard Hill.

WOMENSST 201      Critical Perspectives in Women's Studies      [Elizabeth Cahn](#)  
 Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45 – Spire #74847

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 201      Critical Perspectives in Women's Studies      [Joy Miller](#)  
 Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15 – Spire #74821

Same description as Section #1 above.

WOMENSST 290A      Biology of Difference (ISU)      Pamela Stone  
Tuesday, Thursday 11:15-12:30 – Spire #74848

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 291B      Gender, War and the State in Asia      Hikari Hori  
Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:45 – Spire #78215

This course focuses on issues of gender and war in 20th century East and Southeast Asia. Students will be introduced to discourses of gender in relation to war, nationalism, colonialism, violence, and sexuality through readings, classroom discussion, and visual materials. Film clips will also be shown in class to assist in understanding the materials and examining the politics of representation. Among the questions that will be addressed are the following: what are the relations between women and war? How do women work in battlefields and the military industry? How does the image of the family system construct and operate in the political sphere during social turmoil? How is women's citizenship conceived during war? How do class and ethnicity interact with gender during war? What kind of gendered war memories are constructed and circulated? Prior courses on the region are encouraged but not required. *Fulfills the Women of Color outside the U.S. requirement for Women's Studies majors and minors*, but is open to all students.

WOMENSST 295B      Asian American Women:  
Gender, Race and Immigration      Lili Kim  
Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:45 – Spire #74829

How are the cross-cutting categories of "Asian American" and "woman" integrated in the lives of women who claim these identities? How do the experiences of Asian American women vary by ethnic group, and how do they compare to those of white women, other women of color, and Asian American men? What can we learn about broader systems of power and inequality by examining the historical and contemporary locations of Asian American women? In exploring these questions, this course examines Asian American women's identities, educational achievement, economic incorporation political participation, and social positions within their families, ethnic communities and the U.S. mainstream. Analyzing the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, class, nation and sexuality, we will examine Asian American women's immigration experiences, families, work, cultural production and representation, and sexual politics. The course material will incorporate social science research, literature, political essays, film, poetry and art. The course has a strong comparative focus between women in the U.S. and women around the world, emphasizing transnational linkages and the processes of globalization. *Fulfills the Women of Color inside the U.S. requirement for Women's Studies majors and minors*, but is open to all students.

WOMENSST 295C      Career and Life Choices (2 credits)      Karen Lederer  
Monday 2:30-4:10 – Spire #78203

Women's Studies teaches critical thinking skills. How can students use these skills to make informed career choices? How is it possible to engage in planning one's career while conscious of the realities of race, sex, and class in today's corporate economy? What are career options for students whose values include working for a better society? Is it possible to put together a balanced life and pay the bills besides? How can pressured college seniors, particularly activists, get all the career tasks they need to do done (resume writing, budgeting, researching career opportunities, networking, informational interviewing) while finishing out their college degree? Students will formulate their own career questions and choices. The first part of the semester is self awareness, articulating interests, skills and values. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the semester focuses on workforce information and practical job search skills. Assignments include: self awareness exercises, informational interviews, budget, resume, cover letter and more.

WOMENSST 296Q      Navigating Sex, Writing Self:      Becky Hawes-Sivitz  
Transnational Feminist Approaches to Sex,  
Sexuality and Sex Work (2 credits)  
 Monday 4:00-5:30

This two-credit discussion based colloquium, taught by a Women's Studies senior, explores issues of biological sex, sexuality, and sex work through a transnational feminist perspective. Throughout the semester, we will examine these subjects and their intersections while simultaneously reading personal narratives as an alternative way of exploring identity. Students will draw from theories and narratives discussed in the course to develop their own alternative understandings of sex and sexuality through creative writing. Because this will be a smaller class, we will have the opportunity to work closely with each other developing new and exciting ways of conceptualizing our own identities, contexts and feminisms. Grading will be based on attendance, participation in discussions, journals, and constructive critiques of peer shared journals. Grading for this course is mandatory pass/fail. This course is not available for pre-registration through SPIRE. To enroll, please contact the instructor <rhawessi@student.umass.edu>.

WOMENSST 297D      Women and Health      Pamela Stone  
 Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45 a.m. – Spire #79001

The main goal of this course is to examine the health issues/risks women face in the United States. We will examine the roles of medical research and the public health community in setting the health care agenda for women. Through the course students will gain a clearer understanding of the biology of life cycle changes, how health inequalities are generated and perpetuated, and how to think critically about their own health choices. From infancy to old age we will explore perceptions of wellness and illness across the life span focusing on such areas as: growth and development, menstruation, contraception, pregnancy and birth, menopause, osteoporosis and heart disease (to name a few). We start with women's health in antiquity and move through to contemporary times, charting the major trends in patterns of disease and poor health. We will look at women and health in an interdisciplinary perspective asking questions about how biology and culture interact and how does culture construct perceptions of health. We will examine the ways in which gender inequality is socially constructed, and the important role that social institutions, ideology, and cultural practices play in creating and perpetuating various forms of inequality, particularly in regards to health and wellness for women. We will also look at the diversity of the health care delivery across race and class, asking such questions as: How does poverty impact women's wellness, maternal and child morbidity and mortality, breast cancer rates, understanding of heart disease in women, the effects of obesity on incidences of diabetes, and osteoporosis as a disease. We will use a series of case studies that that will clarify the way to go about studying women's health. For example we will look at the historical underpinnings of pregnancy as an illness needing management by health care professionals versus pregnancy as a natural process that may not need as much support as it is

assumed. We will also look at the increasing rates of obesity and the subsequent effects on women's wellness.

WOMENSST 301      Theorizing Womens Issues      Dayo Gore  
Tuesday, Thursday 11:15-12:30 – Spire #74794

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 391B      Travels and Translations of Feminist Theories      Claudia de Lima Costa  
Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45      Spire #78153~~

~~In the face of the increasing entrapment of local cultures and knowledges in the global flows of capital and commodities, there is a growing need for feminists to engage in productive dialogues and negotiations across multiple geopolitical and theoretical borders. These negotiations are often characterized as processes of cultural translation. To explore such feminist exchanges, with special emphasis on the context of the Americas, this course will examine the travels of feminist theories/ideas/discourses/practices across different locations and their subsequent translations in order to highlight elements of appropriation and subversion occurring in different institutional, discursive, and ideological domains.~~

WOMENSST 391E/      Political Economy of Women      Nancy Folbre  
ECON 348      Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:45 p.m. – Spire #74803

Contact the Economics department for description.

WOMENSST 391M      African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement      Dayo Gore  
Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:45 – Spire #74849

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      Kirsten Isgro  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10-11:00 – Spire #74839

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.

PHILOS 381H                      Philosophy of Women, Gender & Sexuality                      Ann Ferguson  
Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15 – Spire #78197

A comparison of philosophical theories of gender and sexuality, including Natural Purpose theory (ancient Greek and Christian thought), biological determinism, Freudianism and Foucault. We will investigate the ways that women and their bodies have been viewed by feminist theorists on female embodiment such as Beauvoir, Rich, Wittig and Butler. Issues will include: the relation between sex, gender and sexuality; dichotomies between ideals of masculinity and femininity; connection between oppression by race, class, sexuality and gender, representations of women and theories of self, identity and subjectivity. Texts will include Conboy, Medina and Stanbury, eds. Writing on the Body: Female Embodiment and Feminist Theory, Foucault History of Sexuality, v. 1, Federici Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation, and selected readings. Prerequisites include either a 100 level Philosophy class or WOST 201 or permission of the instructor. Course requirements include class participation, including a class report, 2 short papers, and an 8-10 page term paper. The class is an honors course which receives 4 credits, so it requires additional class preparation, discussion, and written work.

WOMENSST 395C/597B Interrogating Fear:                      Banu Subramaniam  
Bioterror, the Environment and the Construction of Threats  
Wednesday 3:35-6:05 – Spire #78150

We live in a world filled with fear and anxiety about potential biological and environmental threats such as the bird flu, bioterrorism, and global warming. Should we be afraid of these threats? Are they exaggerated or genuine? This course systematically explores the construction of threats and addresses how historical assumptions of gender, race, class, sexuality, national security, nations and nationalism have profoundly shaped how we come to fear certain things and not others. Drawing on popular, academic and policy literature, we will examine the facts and fictions that go into the construction of threats and the analytical tools we can use to discern them. We also look at how different understandings of the same threat, e.g. bioterrorism and global warming, lead to divergent policy responses. In particular, we will explore how the construction of post-Cold War security threats draws on deep-seated discourses of danger about the Third World. Some of the topics include: population; immigration; fears of invasive species and pathogens; naturalizing ethnicity and tribalism; terrorism; and the nuclear threat. We will conclude the course by looking at how neglected threats, such as the environmental contamination caused by nuclear weapons and other chemical and biological pollutants, are often obscured. The course will be offered simultaneously at Hampshire College by Betsy Hartmann. Students will have opportunities to interact with each other and both professors.

WOMENSST 499F                      Culminating Experience:                      Alexandrina Deschamps  
Transnational Debates: Gender & Activism (6 credits)  
Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-5:00 – Spire #74851

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. Women's Studies juniors by permission of instructor.

WOMENSST 591B      Women's Studies Five College Seminar (1 credit)

Graduate collaborative seminar with the Five College Women's Studies Research Center. Offline. To register contact Nancy Patteson in the Women's Studies office.

WOMENSST 791B      Feminist Theory      Ann Ferguson  
Tuesday 4:00-6:30 – Spire #74837

Course off-line. Contact Women's Studies office to register. See instructor for course description.

WOMENSST 793A      Graduate Research Project

Final research project for Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies. Offline. To register contact Nancy Patteson in the Women's Studies office.