

Women's Studies Program Courses - 4

Any text in **red** constitutes new information that came in after publication of the paper course guide. New information will also be added to the addenda.

WOMENSST 187 Introduction to Women's Studies Beverly Weber
Monday, Wednesday 10:10-11:00 Kirsten Isgro
Friday discussions at 9:05, 10:10, and 11:15 a.m.

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 economical 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

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

WOMENSST 201 Critical Perspectives in Women's Studies Banu Subramaniam
Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Introduction to fundamental questions and concepts of feminist thought and to the basic intellectual tools of analysis integrating economic and cultural imperialism, gender, class, race, and sexual orientation. Also addresses the multifaceted dimensions of women's lived experiences within a global context.

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

Introduction to fundamental questions and concepts of feminist thought and to the basic intellectual tools of analysis integrating economic and cultural imperialism, gender, class, race, and sexual orientation. Also addresses the multifaceted dimensions of women's lived experiences within a global context.

WOMENSST 294B Intersectionalities Among Latin American Women estheR Cuesta
and U.S. Latinas Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45

This interdisciplinary course traces the dynamic historical transformations of women's lives in Latin America and those who identify themselves or may be seen as U.S. Latinas. We will explore Latin American and U.S. Latina women's lives within their specific cultural and social contexts, and how their respective struggles as women have been intimately linked to other social movements that affected their communities as a whole—including the Civil Rights movement, the Chicano movement, the Nuyorican movement, indigenous movements, Las madres de Plaza de Mayo, among other movements. As the course progresses, we will find intersectionalities and differences among Latin American women, U.S. Latinas, and other women of color in the U.S. We will read Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Soledad Acosta de Samper, Rosario Castellanos, Alicia Partnoy, Sandra Cisneros, Cherríe Moraga, Naomi Ayala, among other authors. By examining works ranging from non-fiction, fiction, poetry, film, and music, we will also challenge society's and the authors' conceptualizations of Latin American women and U.S. Latinas as a way to critique underlying issues of race, class, gender, and other power structures. **Fulfills women of color inside the U.S. requirement for UMass Women's Studies majors and minors.**

Women's Studies Program Courses - 5

WOMENSST 295C Career and Life Choices for Women (2 credits) Karen Lederer
Monday 2:30-4:10 p. m.

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 interviews) 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 2nd 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 Asian American Women Writers:
Identity and Language, a Writing Workshop Juliette Lee
Tuesday, Thursdays 4:00-5:15 p.m. Pallavi Sharma
3 credit Independent Study/Colloquium

Reading literary and critical texts in concert, we will explore how Asian-American women writers negotiate language and identity. The class will be organized thematically, allowing us to inspect the various contexts in which gender and ethnic identity frequently collide in the experience of Asian American women. We will discuss issues such as: the family/performing and redefining tradition; labor and gender; sexuality and the body; history/politics and agency; cultural hybridity; and sexual relationships/gender relations. Concurrent with the discussion of readings, students will also produce their own creative work that will contribute to the ongoing dialogue. Contact the Women's Studies office to add the course.

WOMENSST 296Q A Multi-Lens Approach to Discussing
Lesbian Feminism Shannon Farrington
Independent Study/Colloquium

A two-credit discussion based colloquium for junior and senior WOST majors and minors will meet once a week (day and time TBA) to discuss issues and raise questions of lesbian feminism. The goal of this colloquium is to re-examine texts familiar to Women's Studies majors and minors in the context of lesbian feminism while introducing new texts. There will be a major emphasis on race and class within a discussion of lesbian feminism. Authors read will include Audre Lorde, Joan Nestle, Cherrie Moraga, Barbara Smith, Pat Parker, Gloria Anzaldúa and Amber Hollibaugh. Discussion is essential to this colloquium. Contact the WOST department to register for the course, or email sefarrin@student.umass.edu.

WOMENSST 297E Black Women in the U.S. Jeannine Marks
Tuesday, Thursday 11:15-12:30

This course will be a topical exploration of the lives of Black women in the United States. Traveling between the era of slavery and the present day, we will investigate and discuss how certain aspects of Black women's lives have evolved with the passage of time. Central topics include motherhood, womanhood, citizenship and nationalism, sexuality, reproductive freedom, healthcare, work, education and technology. These will be explored in an interdisciplinary manner using theory, literature and historical documents. *Fulfills women of color inside the U.S. requirement for UMass Women's Studies majors and minors.*

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WOMENSST 297L Clones & the Politics of Cloning Banu Subramaniam
Tuesday, Thursday 11:15-12:30

In recent years, we have seen a proliferation of reproductive technologies. Who uses these technologies, who do they impact and who benefits from them? How does cloning fit into this history of reproductive technology? In particular, in what ways is it similar and how is it different? How does it impact women? Which women? This course will explore the biology of cloning as well as its social, political, ethical, economic, and cultural implications.

WOMENSST 391E/
ECON 348 Political Economy of Women Nancy Folbre
Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:45

A critical review of neoclassical, Marxist, and feminist economic theories pertaining to inequality between men and women in both the family and the firm.

WOMENSST 394H/594 Theorizing Black Feminisms Alexandrina Deschamps
Wednesday 3:35-6:05

To understand Black Feminist thinking, it is important to explore the context out of which it emerges. We will analyze the evolution of Black Feminist Consciousness and Thought in the U.S. as far back as the 1930's to contemporary time, since the struggle for black women's liberation which emerged in the mid-1960's is a construction of both intellectual and activist tradition during slavery and during the anti-slavery movement. *Fulfills women of color inside or outside the U.S. requirement for Women's Studies majors or minors and WOMENSST 594 fulfills the Intercultural requirement for graduate Certificate students.*

WOMENSST 397L Social Construction of Whiteness and Women Arlene Avakian
Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:45

Exploration of the social construction of whiteness, its interaction with gender, and the historical and contemporary political resistance to white privilege focusing primarily on the US. Course goals: (1) understanding of the historical, economic and political forces responsible for the construction and maintenance of whiteness; (2) exploration of the mechanisms which insure that whiteness is experienced as the norm and not as a race; (3) exploration of the critical role of gender in the construction of whiteness; (4) foster students' ability to position themselves on the multiple axes of race, gender and class and to help them gain an understanding of the role they play in maintaining the privileges they have; (5) exploration of effective action to challenge white privilege. Prerequisites: Course work in race and gender or permission of instructor. *STUDENTS MUST ALSO ENROLL IN A MANDATORY 1-CREDIT P/F PRACTICUM. Register for practicum in the first class.*

WOMENSST 691B Issues in Feminist Research Miliann Kang
Wednesday 3:35-6:05

This seminar is organized around graduate student presentations of their own research and will include some readings on general questions of feminist methodology and ethics of research.