

W.G.S.S. GRAD SEMINARS

FALL 2017

[Core Courses]

Liz Montegary

Feminist Theory: Governing Bodies (WST 601)

Thursday 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Rather than attempting to provide an exhaustive survey of feminist theory, this course explores the theoretical frameworks that feminist thinkers have developed to analyze gendered, racialized, and sexualized methods of social control. Specifically, we will focus on how scholars and activists have deployed feminist theory to make sense of the ways in which bodies are governed and to better understand the various institutional bodies engaged in the project of governance (including but not limited to the modern nation-state). One of our primary goals in this class is to track the shifts that have taken place in the operations of power over the course of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. We will pay particular attention to how the legacies of slavery and colonialism inform transnational economic formations and the contemporary geopolitics of securitization, and we will aim to account for the ways in which the governance of bodies marked as risky or at-risk has, in the past few decades, taken on more invasive and arguably more insidious forms. By approaching the work of governing bodies as involving the policing of embodied practices and affective formations, this course will sharpen our feminist analyses of how state and non-state modes of power function not just through brutally obvious means but also in far subtler and often hard-to-articulate ways.

Nancy Hiemstra

Interdisciplinary Research Design (WST 680)

Tuesday 1:00-3:50 p.m.

This seminar is designed as a workshop to apply knowledge of methods and methodologies in the interdisciplinary area of Women's and Gender Studies to students' own research. Course topics will include formulating and refining research questions; developing appropriate theoretical frameworks; articulating scholarly value; and thinking critically about the methods used in feminist interdisciplinary research, across the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences. Students are expected to work collaboratively, presenting their individual works-in-progress to the class for constructive critique. Over the semester, students will develop either a research proposal for funding agencies and/or their dissertation proposal (prospectus).

[Departmental Electives]

Lisa Diedrich

Object relating: Feminist bio-psycho-social science studies (WST 610)

Tuesday 4:00-6:50 p.m.

In this seminar, we will think and do object relating as an opening into feminist science studies. We will consider what an object is and how it comes into being by working through the conjunction of the biological, psychological, and social—or, the bio-psycho-social, a term coined by psychiatrist George Engel in 1977 in a generalist challenge to the hegemony of an increasingly scientized psychiatry. We will explore practices of object relating in several different yet interconnected spaces: therapeutic, experimental, aesthetic, and political. We will begin with some tools provided by the object relating theories and practices of psychoanalysis: Freud on the uncanny and mourning and melancholia, Klein on reparation, Winnicott on playing, and Fanon on de-colonization. Two important texts first published in the 1990s—an essay from Hortense Spillers on race and psychoanalysis and another from Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick on paranoid and reparative reading practices—will function as a vestibule into the second part of the course where we will take up examples of doing feminist bio-psycho-social science studies by writers/thinkers Sylvia Wynter,

Evelyn Fox Keller, Donna Haraway, Beatriz (Paul) Preciado, Mel Chen, Alondra Nelson, Ellen Samuels, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, Elizabeth Wilson, among others. Through these case studies, we will relate to a wide array of course themes: from Wynter's many genres of the human in history to Wilson's biological unconscious; from Haraway's making kin to Preciado's making sex; from Keller's take on McClintock's "feeling for the organism" to Nelson's take on the Black Panther Party's social health activism. Finally, we will consider the psychoanalytic unconscious in much contemporary techno-scientific thought.

Michael Kimmel

Sociology of Sexuality (SOC 519/WST 512)

Monday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

An examination of sexualities both across cultures and across disciplines. The course focuses on the different ways we have come to explain sexual identity and sexual behavior (and the relationship between them) and also the continuing politics of sexuality.

[Electives Outside of W.G.S.S.]

Pamela Block

Emerging Areas of Disability Studies (HAX 668)

Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Disability studies is an area study that focuses on the experiences and representation of disability across multiple realms – including social, environmental, cultural, regional, historical, economic and political. This is an emerging field with new research and topic areas developing constantly. This course will allow focus on the intersections of disability with other emerging area studies such as gender, class, sexuality, race and global studies. It will also encompass study of different emerging disciplinary areas of disability studies in the social sciences, health sciences, humanities, business, and technology. We will explore the connections between disability activism, art, and scholarship in the 21st century. Finally the course will trace emerging regional distinctions in disability studies research and scholarship, especially between Northern and Southern Countries.

Megan Craig

Language and Art in Kristeva (PHI 509)

Monday 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Is art a language of its own? Does art disrupt habituated patterns of speech and writing? Should language be celebrated as the hallmark of being human? This seminar focuses on the writings of philosopher/novelist/psychoanalyst and feminist theorist, Julia Kristeva to explore the tensions between language and art. Looking at her early work on feminine depression and the ways in which women are prone to disrupted, dislocated speech, we will discuss topics ranging from psychoanalysis to rhythm, melancholia, sublimation, semiotics, symbol, and poetic expression. Turning to more recent work, we will consider abjection, horror, the sacred, creativity, and maternity. Throughout the semester, we will pay careful attention to the particular artists and artistic examples Kristeva employs across her writings, including (but not limited to) Dostoyevsky, Giotto, Holbein, and Duras. This is a writing intensive seminar.

Megan Craig

Deleuze and the Concept of Art (PHI 610)

Wednesday 2:30- 5:30 p.m.

Deleuze described the task of philosophy as the generation of concepts. Alternatively, he envisioned the role of art as the building of monuments. This seminar explores the meaning and role of art in Deleuze (and Deleuze and Guattari's) writings. Through close readings and discussion, we will explore the meaning of and relationship between concept and monument, and we will consider the particular artists and artworks central to Deleuze's thinking (Francis Bacon, Oliver Messiaen, Charlie Chaplin, Proust, and others). Topics for

investigation include desire, sensation, rhythm, force, materiality, repetition, hysteria, schizophrenia, and color. Primary texts include *The Logic of Sensation*, *A Thousand Plateaus*, *Desert Islands*, and *Cinema I: The Movement-Image*, with secondary readings by Nietzsche, Bergson, Leibnitz, and Grosz. This is a writing intensive seminar.

Leonie Huddy

Passionate Politics: Mobilization, Interest Groups, and Social Movements (POL 562)

Wednesday 2:30-5:30 p.m.

This course discusses political mobilization: the factors that motivate political involvement and the consequences that high levels of public engagement have on elections and the development of public policy. The course begins with information on current levels of citizen engagement in the U.S. and elsewhere. This first section of the course covers the various ways in which Americans can be mobilized from involvement in election campaigns to the distribution of political information via social networks. The course then shifts focus to cover the psychology of political mobilization in detail, including the importance of group memberships and identities, emotions, and values. Finally the last section of the course deals more specifically with electoral engagement in the U.S. and the psychology of persuasion and electoral mobilization, including current partisan polarization. Overall, the course is designed to illuminate the psychology of political mobilization and apply these principles to contemporary politics in the U.S. and other countries.

Sara Lipton

Religion and the State (HIS 532)

Wednesday 4:30-7:30 p.m.

This course examines how governments, polities, and states have interacted with religious authorities and communities in a range of periods and geographical regions, with an emphasis on the western (European) tradition and its heirs. We will start by examining ancient, late antique, and medieval theory, and then look at selected historical episodes in which church-state relations entered into crisis, or were rethought or reconfigured.

Marci Lobel

Psychology of Women's Health (PSY 559)

Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m.- 12:50 p.m.

This course covers psychologically important topics in women's health based on current theoretical perspectives and research findings. We examine psychological contributors to and consequences of women's health and illness, focusing on 1) diseases that affect women differently or disproportionately than men (including cardiovascular disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, and autoimmune diseases), 2) reproductive health (including menstruation, pregnancy, and birth), 3) health behaviors (including substance abuse, exercise, eating, and sleep), 4) violence against women, and 5) mental health.

Gary Marker

Imperial Peripheries and Contact Zones (HIS 553)

Tuesday 4:30-7:30 p.m.

This course will explore key topics in the experiences of populations within the geographic peripheries of empires during the early modern and modern eras (roughly 1450-1914), i.e., the territories at the edges of imperial states, typically populated by groups ethnically or religiously distinct from those in the metropolitan center. What did empire mean in such places? How did local populations--mostly elites--interact with the center in pursuit of local agency or subjectivity? Did these residents of imperial borderlands play a particular role in inter-imperial relations especially vis-a-vis populations just across the border with whom, more often than not, they shared a common language, religion, economy or ethnicity, not to mention kinship ties? Discussions will be organized topically and thematically rather than geographically. Examples include commodity production and traders; multi-confessionalism and religious domination on the periphery; peripheries as engendered spaces; the impacts of capitalism and nationalism. In addition to a few relatively recent works on the significance and typologies of empire in general (Barkey, Burbank and Cooper, etc.),

most of the reading will be drawn from scholarship on the Russian, Ottoman, and Austrian empires, but there will also be some material on South Asia and perhaps the Americas. Students will be asked to write two papers at least one of which will focus on their own area of geographic concentration.

Andrew Newman

Digital Humanities: The Book Unbound (EGL 608)

Thursday 2:30- 5:20 p.m.

In this course, in addition to theoretical readings, we'll be drawing on the Library and the community of scholars at Stony Brook to learn about resources and current work in the digital humanities. Participants will develop DH projects to present at an end-of-semester symposium at the library.

Joseph Pierce

Thirst: Sex and Being (SPN 612)

Wednesday 4:00-7:00 p.m.

This course will investigate diverse ways of desiring, embodying sensuality, and being. It is about the appetites that populate our lives—on which we depend for survival—, as well as those that have inspired historical moments of conflict and resolution. Thirst in this course is as much about lived experiences of desire as it is about historical structures of race, class, gender, colonialism, art, and philosophy. Our inquiry into this thirst will focus on 19th and 20th century Latin American prose, and will also incorporate thirsty queer texts from both the US and Latin America. The thirst is real.

Note: Students must have a reading knowledge of Spanish to take this course. Successful completion of the course can be used to fulfill the language requirement for W.G.S.S. graduate students. Joseph Pierce (joseph.pierce@stonybrook.edu) is happy to speak with students on an individual basis if they are interested in taking the course.

Benjamin Tausig

Race and Gender in Electronic Music (MUS 536)

Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The category of "electronic music" describes at least a century of genres and sonic practices. Both in possession of and possessed by instruments that function as mighty totems of modernity, human actors have discovered in electronic music a means of refiguring identity, sexuality, and even the human itself. This course is an empirically-focused examination of bodies and sex in a variety of electronic music cultures, from early 20th-century South India to 1980s Paisley Park, from the hypermodernity of South African studios to the BBC Radiophonic Workshop.