Summer Session I (May 29 – July 7):

WST 103: Women, Culture, Difference - CER & HUM
Shruti Mukherjee
ONLINE
An introductory humanities survey focusing on women’s traditional association with the home and men’s association with public life and how writers, artists, philosophers, and religious thinkers have reflected upon those relationships over the past 150 years. Through lectures and critical analyses of novels, poetry, art, philosophy, and religious texts, the course explores how changing intellectual, artistic, and religious precepts have affected gender identity and different genres in the humanities.

Feminism is for everyone

WST 103: WOMEN, CULTURE, AND DIFFERENCE

5/29/2018 to 7/7/2018
Summer Semester Online Course

Taught by: Shruti Mukherjee, PhD Candidate


This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the social construction of gender, sex, and sexuality, and the ways in which these constructions shape our realities. We will unpack how gender, race, class, sexuality, disability and other categories of identity and difference intersect in dominant power structures.

Goals of the course:

- Identify gender as a central organizing principle of human experience.
- Explain the category of gender as mutually constitutive with other socially constructed categories, including race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, disability, religion, and nationality.
- Analyze the connections and distinctions between the regulation of gender in different historical periods and different geographical settings.
- Discuss the interdisciplinary humanities approaches available for studying gender differences in a transnational world.
- Apply basic feminist theoretical concepts to analyze a wide range of texts, including literature, activist projects, government programs, and news media stories.
- Express critical and analytical thinking skills verbally and in writing.

Requirement Designation: DEC G. Required grade: A through D.
Class Attributes: CER Practice & Respect Critical/Ethical Reasoning, HUM Use Critical Analysis & Methods of Humanities
WST 111: Introduction to Queer Studies in the Humanities - CER & HUM
Andy Eicher
ONLINE
A survey of historical representations of queer difference from the late 19th century to the present. Through the examination of works of visual art, literary representations and philosophy, students develop an understanding of the moral and ethical issues surrounding lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered/queer identity. Themes include the construction of sexual and political difference, heterosexism and the nature of oppression, race/class/gender and sexuality, psychological theories of sexuality, and historical roots of these issues.
This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the construction of contemporary gendered social actors in Western culture, tracing the genealogy and political impacts from essentialist-based binary formations of Woman and Man through to current understandings of Transgender, Genderqueer and Non-Binary identities. We will explore the conversations and debates of non-normative gender profiles and bodies in the social realm by calling upon Feminist, Sociological and Cultural Studies theories, critical academic research, popular/social media platforms and first person trans/genderqueer/non-binary narratives. Through these assemblages we will trace the intersections of gender and other social identity indexes to locate larger structures of oppression, and therefore potential sites of solidarity work, resistance and liberation.
In recent decades, digital technologies have transformed the way in which history is written. Consider for a moment the range of tools at your disposal when you write papers, from google to a plethora of keyword searchable academic databases. This class will interrogate the relationship between digital technology and the writing of history. Specifically, this class will center on late twentieth century U.S. queer, lesbian, feminist, and trans* histories. We will use this historical topic as our common base from which to explore a range of popular digital tools. For example, we will read queer historian A. Finn Enke’s chapter on the local geography of Midwestern lesbian bars and, then, undertake our own queer mapping project, using google maps. Overall, this course will introduce cutting edge historical scholarship, while offering students the opportunity to do digital history.
Summer Session II (July 9 – August 18):

WST 210: Contemporary Issues in WaGS- "Transnational Islamic Feminism" -CER & SBS+
Yalda Hamidi

ONLINE

Islamic Feminism is a contemporary version of transnational feminism for Muslim women that has emerged in the early 1990s, both in America and in the Middle East, and has continued to grow academically and among communities of Muslim women activists. This course pays attention to the advocacies of Muslim women for their rights, on different topics, and the way they make a balance between their religious and feminist experiences; and pursues three goals:

1. Through reading a variety of texts produced by Muslim women, we deconstruct the Orientalist representation of Muslim womanhood, shown in Western media as victims of Islamic tradition, fundamentalism, and Muslim masculinities.

2. This course introduces students to a spectrum of writings, scholarships, and activism of Muslim women, from different social class, nationality, racial, and ethnic groups. Moreover, students will read about the complexities of issues of sex, gender, and sexualities in Muslim communities, and the ways Islamic feminists have framed any of these issues.

3. Finally, this course is designed as an adaptation of transnational feminist curriculum. Since Islamic feminists have never primarily identified by their national origins, their movement is an inherently transnational one. Through comparative readings of Islamic and transnational feminist texts, this course develops students’ understanding of transnational feminism to include advocacies of Muslim women under the same conceptual umbrella. It deepens students’ knowledge on the dynamics of both Islamic and transnational feminism/s, and help them to distinguish anti-feminist issues like fundamentalism and its disruptive effects on the lives of Muslim communities from Islamic feminism.

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TRANSGENDER

ISLAMIC FEMINISM

About this course:
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Goals:

1. Deconstructing the Orientalist representation of Muslim womanhood, and Muslim masculinities;

2. Introducing a spectrum of writings, scholarships, and activism of Muslim women, from different social class, nationality, racial, and ethnic groups;

3. And understanding Islamic Feminism in a transnational scale!
WST 291: Introduction to Feminist Theory - ESI & HFA+
Melis Umut
ONLINE
This course provides an introductory survey of historical and contemporary interdisciplinary feminist theory. The class is designed to introduce you to a wide variety of feminist theories from different perspectives and areas of knowledge production. One of our goals for the semester will be to create a “theory toolbox” through our engagement with a range of theoretical perspectives on questions of sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, knowledge, discourse, and representation as they effect and shape social and economic forms of power including, nationalism, capitalism, imperialism, and war. The emphasis of the course will remain focused on the theories produced by feminists to help explain and resist dominant or exploitative forms of power. We will also pay attention to the variety of theories produced and the contradictions and conflicts that may arise between feminists as a result. There has never been just one way of being a feminist, nor has there been only one feminist theory. A primary aim of the course is to map the diversity of feminist theoretical interests and solutions from different times and places. This course will provide a strong theoretical foundation for further studies in Women’s and Gender Studies.

WST 392: Special Topics in Women and Science - "Politics of Test-Tube Babies" - STAS
Annu Daftuar
ONLINE
In this course, we will read about how “scientific progress” made in the field of reproduction is closely tied to social, political and economic structures. New reproductive technologies like freezing of eggs and sperm, in-vitro-fertilization, making “designer babies” etc have drastically changed our perception of family making and parenting. How do these technologies interact with structures of unequal power relations? Have these new technologies and medical markets helped eliminate social and economic oppression or exacerbated it? We will address these questions by first looking into the history reproductive rights movement(s) and scientific discourses around it by drawing on perspectives from both within and outside the US. Then, we will discuss how the growth of medical markets and medical understanding of bodies has impacted the already existing system of inequalities. Finally, we will consider the ways in which reproductive justice politics allows a framework to critically address those inequalities.
This course will trace the emergence of queer of color critique by foregrounding black feminist texts which center their analyses on interlocking systems of oppression. For example, we will begin by reading essays, prose, and manifestos from Gloria Anzaldúa, The Combahee River Collective, Audre Lorde, and Angela Davis. After laying this foundation, we will then explore the ways in which queer of color theorists challenge canonical (white) discourses surrounding race, class, gender, and sexuality through the reading of Jose Esteban Munoz, Roderick Ferguson, Jasbir Puar, Gayatri Gopinath, among others. This course seeks to examine the field of queer theory and its overlap with projects of critical race theory, ethnic studies, and antiracist sociopolitical efforts in order to investigate how various categories of social identity come to affect the ways race and sexuality are understood in our contemporary moment. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to explore the ways queer theory is revised, reformulated, and expanded when questions of race, ethnicity, and class are foregrounded.