GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (WST)  

Fall 2022

WST

Women’s Studies

WST 510: Gender and Culture
A variable topics course on the many ways in which culture and gender interact. Possible topics include women in multiethnic America, women in the labor movement, and women and social policy.

Co-scheduled with HIS 515.

Fall or Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

WST 511: Gender and Culture
A variable topics course on the many ways in which culture and gender interact. Possible topics include women in multiethnic America, women in the labor movement, and women and social policy.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

Fall or Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

WST 512: Advanced Topics in Gender Studies
This advanced course will continue the discussion of the graduate seminar on Sociology of Gender, by examining theoretical debates or controversies, examining specific gender identities, examining the gender of a specific institution (i.e., labor, law), or the gendered dynamics of social interaction (in for example, romantic relationships or sexuality).

Co-scheduled with WST 602.

Fall or Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

This course explores gender differences in physical and mental health through the study of psychology, sociology, medicine, and epidemiology.

Co-scheduled with PSY 559.

Fall or Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

WST 595: Reading Colloquium in Women’s History
A topics course dealing with such subjects as women in social movements, the place of gender in particular historical circumstances, imperialism and woman, changing views of sexuality, or relations between family policies and other political programs. This course offered as both HIS 595 and WST 595.

Fall or Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

WST 597: Directed Readings for M.S. Students
Directed Readings must be approved in writing by the Advisor, Director of Graduate Studies, and the supervising professor. 1-3 credits each semester, repetitive credit.

Fall or Spring, 1-3 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

WST 598: Thesis Research
Research and writing of M.A. thesis supervised by faculty advisor.

Offered Fall, Spring, 1-3 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

WST 599: Independent Study
A student and faculty member agree on a topic not offered in any seminars and a reading list to study at weekly or biweekly meetings. A final research paper or major annotated bibliography will be required. The syllabus must be filed with the program’s form before the add/drop period ends.

Fall and Spring, 1-3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

WST 600: Feminist Interdisciplinary Histories and Methods
Rather than beginning with an overview of the history of feminism or the feminist methodology, this course explores how feminist knowledges both settle and unsettle understandings of what counts as history, theory, method, and evidence. Since its emergence as a distinct academic field, feminism(s) have raised questions about how we know what we know, who gets to speak and for whom, and what constitutes a legitimate site or object of analysis.

What makes research trans, queer, anti-racist, decolonial, or transnational? In this course, instructors and students do not seek definite answers to these questions. Instead, they trace the ways feminist thinkers intervene in debates about interdisciplinary knowledge production. They examine the relationship between power and knowledge: the ethics of representation, questions of accountability, the importance of self-reflexivity, and the recognition of knowledge production as an embodied and emotional practice. By centering subjects and knowledges often relegated to academic peripheries, this course challenges the situating of the west as feminism’s epicenter and the racism, coloniality, and cis-heteronormativity often embedded in feminist methods and histories.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

WST 601: Feminist Theories
This course examines concepts and conversations that have played a key role in constituting the field of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies and queer, feminist, and trans scholarship more broadly. Far from promising a definitive or comprehensive overview of feminist theory, each iteration of this course focuses on particular topics, themes, and/or theoretical frameworks. As such, instructors model for students how to build reading lists that track conceptual debates within the field or trace the contestations and contradictions of particular feminist genealogies. Together, instructors and students situate these concepts and conversations within broader historical, geopolitical, and intellectual contexts in order to question the purpose of specific theories at the moment of their emergence and to evaluate their current usefulness for developing transnational and intersectional understandings of gender and sexuality. At its core, this course attends to the ways in which the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and cis-heteronormativity have conditioned western feminist thought and seeks to support students in developing theoretical tools for practicing distinctly anti-racist and decolonial women’s, gender, and sexuality studies.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

WST 602: Social Perspectives on Feminist Theory
This course introduces students to the main currents of feminist social, political, and intellectual theory. It will explore theories and texts and the linkages between developing feminism and such fields as economics, sociology, history, and philosophy.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.
WST 698: Practicing Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
This teaching practicum is designed for PhD, MA, and graduate certificate students in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies who anticipate teaching interdisciplinary trans, queer, or feminist studies courses. Students will consider the development and institutionalization of our rich, yet relatively nascent field by taking seriously the responsibilities we have to recount and challenge white western-centric feminist genealogies upheld in the Euro-American academy. Together, instructors and students center feminist pedagogical practices that attend to the imperial and ableist legacies that underscore mainstream conceptualizations of teaching and learning. They reflect on how, as educators, their unequal relationships to colonialism, racial capitalism, and socially constructed identity categories inform their teaching philosophies and approach to designing courses, syllabuses, and assessments. This course also examines the changing politics and economics of contemporary academia and how these shifts impact the production, distribution, and consumption of academic knowledge. Ultimately, students will uncover the historical implications of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies and start considering the role they wish to play in mapping the futures of the field.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

WST 699: Dissertation Research on Campus
Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy (G5). A portion of dissertation research must take place on SBU campus.

Fall or Spring, 3-9 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

WST 700: Dissertation Research off Campus
Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus. All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor. Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

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