

Summer & Fall 2019 Undergraduate Course Offerings

For questions about permits, course registration, and degree requirements please make an appointment to see your academic advisor by visiting <http://usfweb.usf.edu/escheduler/student.aspx>.



WST 2250: The Female Experience in America

Fall: This course is offered completely online (CRN 83571) with Megan Wiedeman, M.A.

Our understanding of the past is transformed when considered through women's experiences. This course reexamines U.S. History through the lived experiences of women from the late 1800s to the present, providing alternate conceptions of what and whom constitutes "the U.S.," and thus "U.S. history." While we will identify common experiences between different groups of women, we will also notice the differences and divisions among them. We will highlight how women's identities cannot be separated along lines of gender, race, and class, but intersect to form unique and distinctive experiences.

We further investigate how a variety of women have created and responded to shifting and contested cultural, political, and social discourses and events. Positioning ourselves as both students and scholars, we link the historical journey of American women to current social and political conditions surrounding contemporary experiences, like voter identification mandates, immigration debates, and the impact of 9/11.

This course meets the FKL requirements for human historical context and humanities.

WST 2600: Human Sexual Behavior

Summer B: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 2:30—4:50 PM (CRN 50698) with Jennifer Ellerman-Queen, M.A.

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 83570) with Jennifer Ellerman-Queen, M.A.

Let's talk about sex!

Mainstream America is awash in mixed and often conflicting messages about sex. On one hand we are bombarded by sexually explicit imagery, yet there is a conspiracy of silence when it comes to having frank, honest discussions about sex. In this class we will begin to delve into and pull apart notions about sex and gender from historical, social, cultural, political, and biological perspectives in an effort to create a holistic and interdisciplinary paradigm that more accurately encompasses human experience.

We will touch on topics such as: sexual response, double standards, gender vs. sex, gender roles, masculinity, heteronormativity, gender non-conforming, birth control, sexually transmitted infections, sexy safer sex, sexual expression and variation, and sexual violence/coercion. In addition to spirited discussions, there will be in-class activities, role playing, and videos that will have you hungry for more!

Think of it as the sex education class that you only wish you would have taken in high school... only a lot more fun and thought-provoking! Upon completion, students will have the tools and knowledge necessary to make informed choices about their sexual health. This class also meets the FKL requirement for Social and Behavioral Science.

This course is part of the University of South Florida's General Education Curriculum. It is certified for Creative Thinking. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This will involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review via Canvas.

WST 3015: Intro to Women's Studies

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 AM—10:35 AM (CRN 95010) with Melinda Mills, Ph.D.

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00—3:15 PM (CRN 80572) with Helis Sikk, Ph.D.

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 93542) with Melinda Mills, PhD.

Fall: This course is offered completely online (CRN 85079) with Tangela Serls, Ph.D.

Gender and sex and power... Oh my!

In this course we develop critical frameworks for thinking about sex, gender, and sexuality. What do these words mean? Are these things "natural" or might they vary by person and time and place? Do our go-to ideas about sex, gender, and sexuality fit all experiences? What other ways of thinking about sex, gender, and sexuality exist – in our culture and in other cultures? Do sex, gender, and sexual orientation matter or are they "just human?" What roles have feminist movements and gender justice movements played in advancing these questions? And what do we make of the backlash that says "feminists are man-haters" or that "real men don't cry?" In what ways do gender norms control us all?

We also think about the ways that sex, gender, and sexual orientation are constructed and institutionalized – in our friendships and love lives, in our families and kin networks, in our schools and workplaces, in pop culture and politics, and in our culture more generally. Among the issues we might explore are the ongoing debates concerning public and private, the value of feminism and gender justice movements, equality and difference, and the intersection of gender with other axes of identity like class, religion, and race. This course is foundational if you're going into education, medicine, law, social welfare, journalism, parenthood, or any other career that involves...

Wait for it...! Wait for it...! Working with humans! Why? Because all humans have some relationship to sex, gender, and sexual orientation themselves and in our society. This course draws heavily on the notions that the personal is political and that the political is personal, connecting theory and academic thinking with "real life" and requiring that students become adept at doing the same.

This course meets the FKL requirement for social and behavioral science. This course is part of the University of South Florida's General Education Curriculum. It is certified for Human & Cultural Diversity. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This will involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review via Canvas.

WST 3324: Women, Environment, and Gender

Fall: This course is offered completely online (CRN 87110) with Zoe Fine, Ph.D.

We are our environments. We concurrently create, consume, and are consumed by the images and messages about difference that bombard us every day. In Women, Environment, and Gender, students excavate and analyze their individual and collective experiences of sex, gender, race, socioeconomic status, sexuality, dis/able-bodiedness, age, and nationality in and through the lenses of the very environments we create and perpetuate. Students accomplish this all while having this multisensory, multimedia 100% online class count as an Exit Requirement Major Works, an FKL Natural Science (NS) Life Science core, and/or an Environmental Policy Concentration course!

In WST 3324, students will learn course content ranging from feminist and critical race theories to environmental and socioeconomic oriented scholarship, and from historically situated narratives to literature centered on difference, and apply it to their life experiences. Through these reflective and reflexive applications, students will illustrate in their course assignments how theory and practice inextricably coalesce in Women's and Gender Studies. This 100% online learning experience will give students the rare opportunity to discover strategies of resistance and subversion while gaining tools that will empower us to positively change our environments, to create a brighter 21st century for all. Join us on this journey of a lifetime!

WST 3311: Issues in Feminism

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 PM — 1:45 PM (CRN 88215) with Melinda Mills, Ph.D.

This course explores the following four core topics from feminist perspectives: marriage and family, sexuality, work, and creativity. Students will be introduced to contemporary family formations, debates about marriage, discussions about child-free choices, romantic and sexual relationships (including hook-up culture), normative and atypical sexual practices and behavior, in/formal labor market patterns and participation, workplace discrimination, and issues of harassment. Creativity will be explored and examined in assigned texts, and encouraged in student papers. The interconnections between these topics will be highlighted.

WST 3412: Women in the Developing World

Fall: This course is offered completely online (CRN 89212) with Raheleh Dayerizadeh, Ph.D.

This course covers a cross-cultural analysis of the lived experiences of women and their struggle for gender justice in the developing world. We will be examining current events, debates, and scholarly works mainly from the Global South to gain a non-Western perspective on the political, historical, cultural, geographical, social, educational, economical challenges and achievements that have shaped local gender politics. Topics to be covered include but are not limited to: social movements, cultural relativism, Neoliberalism, globalization, and human rights discourses.

A variety of examples and authors from across the Global South will be utilized to provide an interdisciplinary approach to understand the differences and similarities between the realities of women in these societies, to deconstruct the intersections of identity based on race/ethnicity, religion, age, class, gender and citizenship from a transnational context. Together through our readings and online discussions we will be critically analyzing the recent trends that have been shaping gender politics in developing countries. Ultimately, students will become more aware of global women's issues, and be introduced to feminist scholarship from the developing world.

WST 3370: Women & Social Action

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 PM—1:45 PM (CRN 95011) with Helis Sikk, Ph.D.

Do you ever feel like this world does not quite fit you? That's no accident. The norms and laws that shape our experiences are made to benefit only a few. The good news is that marginalized groups have always found creative ways to resist oppressive systems. In this class we will look at the different tactics that groups and individuals have used across the world to advocate for social justice, specifically in relation to sex, gender, and sexuality. This class will help you understand some of the key social justice pressure points of the 21st century: sexual harassment, reproductive justice, gender violence, the HIV/AIDS, (queer) immigration politics, trans rights, LGBTQ activism, labor rights/migration, environmental activism, sex work, and mass incarceration. Although this course will center women as social actors, we will consider all genders and challenge essentialist notions of cis womanhood. You will gain an understanding of how large-scale social and economic processes such as neoliberalism and globalization are intertwined with gender, sex, and sexuality, both on a grand scale and in your everyday lives. At the end of the term, you will have an understanding of some of these core social justice issues and will be able to articulate your own unique position as a social actor.

ISS 3420: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Disability Studies

Summer B: This course is offered completely online (CRN 58137) with Tangela Serls, Ph.D.

In this course we will examine disability as an aspect of human and cultural diversity by exploring perspectives on minds and bodies that do not fit neatly within normative expectations. This course was developed by faculty representing three different USF departments: Women's and Gender Studies, Sociology, and Communications Sciences and Disorders. Thus, it is interdisciplinary and will explore a variety of disability experiences (e.g. those related to physical, developmental, sensory, and psychiatric impairments and chronic illnesses). You will evaluate the intersecting impacts of social systems, institutions, professional understandings, and cultural representations of disability, while considering and interrogating your own assumptions on the well-being of people who live with such differences. Topics include (but are not limited to) moral, religious, historical, cultural, social, medical, artistic, and legal perspectives of disability. This course satisfies the Enhanced General Education Requirement: Human and Cultural Diversity.

WST 3602: Intro LGBTQ Cultures

Summer B: This course is offered completely online (CRN 58097) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

A valuable course for...

- Students who identify as LGBTQ+
- Students who have friends, roommates, or family who identify as LGBTQ+
- Students who will be entering careers where contact with clients, patients, and colleagues is important
- Students who are interested in history, psychology, sociology, sexuality, and more

Explores the experiences of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer (LGBTQ+) in the U.S. and how those experiences are shaped by individuals, the state, and artistic, legal, and medical discourses. Using primary and secondary texts as well as music, film, and literature, students (1) trace a general history of LGBTQ+ people in the U.S., (2) locate & analyze moments of personal and political cooperation and conflict in that history, and (3) recognize how race, class, religion, and other axes of identity inflect LGBTQ+ identities.

Questions about course content, accommodations, or other related matters? Drop Dr. Milton W. Wendland an email at miltonw@usf.edu.

WST 4106: Global and Transnational Feminisms

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 PM—3:15 PM (CRN 95012) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

How do we think about feminism in an era where borders of many kinds have become sites of intensive movement, surveillance, and policing, on the one hand, and contestation, resistance, and transgression, on the other? When conservative ethno-nationalisms and their populist, protectionist, and anti-immigrant policies appear to be ascendant in the global north? When collective faith in the cherished promises of global civil society (for instance, sustainable development, free trade, nuclear de-escalation, and multilateral cooperation) seems to be waning? When globalization—the uneven circulation of information, goods, people, and capital across borders—both enables and constrains the prospects for cross-border solidarity, movement building, and human flourishing? When women’s human rights are used as a justification for interminable imperial wars? When the dispossession of minoritized populations (whether by slow death, targeted biopolitical surveillance, state-sanctioned anti-black, anti-brown, anti-gay, and anti-trans violence, and/or forced removals and relocations) constitutes the ground of citizenship and freedom for privileged groups? When consumerism is equated with liberty? When the gap between the wealthy and the poor continues to grow, within nations and between them? When the ghosts of slavery and empire haunt efforts to craft democratic, multicultural, and decolonial feminist futures? When struggles for equality and justice are exposed as complicit with structures of exploitation and oppression? How do we think about feminism, in other words, in a transnational world—a world, that is, of many interdependencies, vulnerabilities, and contradictions?

Pursuing these questions, this course will explore the histories, theories, methods, and politics of transnational feminisms, an established subfield in gender, women’s, and sexuality studies, literature, anthropology, sociology, history, political science, area studies, and numerous other disciplines. Interdisciplinary in scope, the course will trace how feminist ideas and practices travel within and across various political, economic, cultural, and epistemological borders. We will examine the many forms of transnational feminism—as social movement, political imaginary, cultural critique, activist strategy, analytic paradigm, interdisciplinary methodology, and philosophical position. Our inquiries will span the global north and global south, focusing on case studies from developing and developed nation-states, their borderlands/fronteras, as well as settler colonial and postcolonial societies. Along the way, we will critically attend to the intersections of gender with nation, race, class, sexuality, and ability in a variety of contexts. We will also investigate how transnational feminist frameworks reconfigure critical understandings of embodiment, subjectivity, agency, human rights, neoliberalism, religion and secularism, democracy, and the politics of difference more broadly. Finally, we will consider what alternative visions of a more just world transnational feminisms articulate.



WST 4262: Literature by Women of Color

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 PM—3:15 PM (CRN 84453) with Tangela Serls, Ph.D.

In this course we will use a queer of color critique to critically analyze literary works by women of color. We will interrogate the social formations of race, class, gender, sexuality and ability, while paying particular attention the ways in which those aspects of one's identity correspond with and diverge from nationalist ideals and practices. In what ways do women of color use their writing to dismantle the racist, sexist, heterosexist, classist, and ableist power structures that crowd contemporary consciousness? How have women of color survived and thrived in environments where constant attacks on our bodies and psyches loom? We will extend the queer of color critique by examining authors' subtle and overt critiques of systems, institutions, and structures. Topics include (but are not limited to): colonization, state-sanctioned violence, trauma, movement and community building, sisterhood, and friendship. We will approach each literary work with empathy and a willingness to tolerate uncertainty, otherness, and our own ignorance. This course satisfies the FKL Writing Intensive and Gordon Rule requirements. This course satisfies the Exit FKL and Gordon Rule requirements.

Questions about our readings? Assignments? Feel free to email me at serlst@usf.edu.

WST 4565: Queer Theory

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 85402) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

This course explores the intellectual and political genealogies of the field of queer theory. Since its institutional emergence in the US academy nearly three decades ago, queer theory has been a perennial troublemaker and site of contestation, as its namesake aptly suggests. Queer scholarship and activism have called into question and challenged antigay and anti-trans ideology, normalizing cultural and economic processes, and identitarian logics within and across diverse contexts. Unsettling and denaturalizing—in other words, queering—commonplace ideas and assumptions about the nature of sex, racialized sexuality, subjectivity, and sociality, the field has profoundly transformed the academic and cultural landscape, both domestically and internationally. Queer theory has thereby opened up difficult, fundamental questions about the unequal distribution of life chances in a world where all political positions are by definition impure, where categories of difference are constituted intersectionally in and through relations of power and knowledge, where the lines between pleasure and danger often blur, and where freedom (for some) seems to be habitually and perpetually forged through violence (against various others). As this brief discussion suggests, the institutionalization of queer theory in the global north and in some parts of the global south has not been entirely progressive or unproblematic, as indexed by the growing circulation of critiques of homonormativity and homonationalism, transnormativity, compulsory able-bodiedness, westcentrism, settler colonialism, and neoliberalism in recent queer scholarly work.

In 1993, Judith Butler wrote: “If the term ‘queer’ is to be a site of collective contestation, the point of departure for a set of historical reflections and futural imaginings, it will have to remain that which is, in the present, never fully owned, but always and only redeployed, twisted, queered from a prior usage and in the direction of urgent and expanding political purposes, and perhaps also yielded in favor of terms that do that political work more effectively” (“Critically Queer,” 19).

As Butler astutely predicted, in recent years the term queer has increasingly found itself modified by and, in some cases, yielding to intellectual and political projects that crystalize under different signs, such as trans*, women of color, intersectionality, transnational feminisms, crip, and decoloniality, in various formulations and combinations. Attending to these shifts, this course will explore both the possibilities and the limitations of diverse queer theoretical frameworks and their relationships to adjacent interdisciplinary identity knowledges and field formations, including women’s and gender studies, ethnic studies, postcolonial studies, transgender studies, disability studies, and indigenous studies.

In particular, the course will pursue the following questions: how does queer theory transform understandings of concepts of normality and deviance and processes of normalization and pathologization? If queering—as a critical practice—reveals the strangeness, contingency, instability, and incoherence of relations of power and knowledge, how does queer theory arrest, transform, and tax received accounts of history, science, embodiment, health and illness, politics, affect, borders, and human rights? Taken as a whole, the aim of the course is not only to familiarize students with the history and major areas of research in queer theory, but also to provide a deep appreciation of the broad relevance of queer theory for approaching vital interdisciplinary questions of life, death, work, pleasure, pain, inequality, injustice, social change, and democratic freedom through diverse critical modalities and approaches.

WST 4935: Capstone

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 87120) with Tangel Serls, Ph.D.

Capstone is the senior experience for Women's and Gender Studies students who are ready to take their education off campus and out into the world. Recognizing the transferable skills an undergraduate degree in Women's and Gender Studies affords, this course is designed to help you establish some post-graduation goals and successfully leverage your WGS knowledge toward achieving said goals. What can I do with a WGS degree? How do I translate my WGS academic knowledge to a broader audience? What can I contribute to the WGS academic field, society as a whole, and/or an organization or company? We will explore these questions and more in a series of projects and assignments designed to help you clarify and refine your WGS knowledge. There is a culminating final project, negotiated between you and the professor. This culminating project by design becomes a major portfolio piece for demonstrating your intellect, skills, and ability to succeed, whether in graduate school, social justice advocacy and activism, and/or in another world of work.