Summer & Fall 2020
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: Female Experience in America

Fall: This course is offered completely online (CRN 83443) with Megan Wiedeman, M.A.

Summer: This course is offered completely online (CRN 52189) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

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: Online (CRN 50674) with real-time course lectures on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:30—5:50 PM. Seats are reserved for first semester students until June 15th, at which time all remaining seats will be open for registration.

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 83442) 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, and videos that will allow students the opportunity to engage in problem-solving that embraces sex-positive and equitable answers to questions current issues faced across mainstream American culture.

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 and address real-world issues in a way that is grounded in human and civil rights in relation to sexuality.

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. This class also meets the FKL requirement for Social and Behavioral Science.

There are no textbooks required for this course; however, students must have the iClicker Cloud app. Questions? E-mail jellerma@usf.edu!
WST 3015: Intro to Women’s Studies

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 94841) with Melinda Mills, PhD.
Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 95364) with Tangela Serls, Ph.D.
Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM—10:45 AM (CRN 94123) with Melinda Mills, Ph.D.
Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 92834) with Melinda Mills, PhD.
Fall: This course is also offered completely online (CRN 84874) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

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 we all “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 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 3311: Issues in Feminism

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 AM—10:45 AM (CRN 81242) 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 3324: Women, Environment, and Gender

Summer C: This course is offered completely online (CRN 53125) with Zoe Fine, Ph.D.

Fall: This course is offered completely online (CRN 86821) 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 3334: Queer Film & Television

Summer B: This course is offered completely online (CRN 58522) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

Some people think movies and television shows are “just” entertainment, something we watch to relax or escape. But movies and TV shows are where we encounter ideas about ourselves and about the world. In this course, we’ll take a look at how sex, gender, and sexuality are constructed in popular movies and TV shows. We’ll learn how we use these same movies and TV shows to construct ideas about our own notions of self and world. We’ll think about how a single movie or TV show can mean different things to different people and why, as we learn to “resistently read” movies and TV shows ourselves. No textbook required. Questions about course content, accommodations, fitting this course into your summer schedule, or anything else? Email Dr. Milton Wendland at miltonw@usf.edu
ISS 3420: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Disability Studies

Summer A: This course is offered completely online CRN 58542) 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
WST 3370: Gender and Social Action

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 AM — 12:15 PM (CRN 94124) 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.
WST 4110: Women and Social Justice

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 AM—12:15 PM (89735) with Michelle Hughes Miller, Ph.D.

What do all those who identify as women want and need to be fully engaged citizens of our world? If your answer to this question is social justice, or the opportunity to be treated as peers in all aspects of social life, then this is the class for you! More importantly, if you want to talk about strategies to support social justice for women transnationally, welcome to the conversation.

All of the assignments and materials in the course address two goals: (1) recognizing and contextualizing women’s experiences of social injustice cross-nationally by analyzing the effects of global processes on the sociocultural context of their lives, and (2) exploring local, transnational, and global efforts to enhance social justice for women by learning about the work of feminist warriors. We will deeply consider the effects of patriarchy and neoliberalism through a critical read of insider accounts. We will explore educational (mis)opportunities, family rights, reproductive justice, and gender-based violence, interpreting each of these lived experiences within the ecological context of local, national and global institutions, structures and practices. Our readings and films will take us various places around the globe to consider the complexities and realities of women’s existence, survival, empowerment, and success, even as we return frequently to the United States to query this nation’s role in gendered global social justice.

WST 4110 is certified as a Global Citizens course and may be used to fulfill partial requirements of the Global Citizen Awards upon successful completion of the course (final grade of B or higher).
WST 4262: Literature by Women of Color

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 PM—1:45 PM (CRN 84274) 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.
WST 4336: Feminist Media Studies & Pop Culture

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 PM—3:15 PM (93240) with Kim Golombisky, Ph.D.

This course explores the ways that popular culture, technology, political economy, and intersectionality converge across production, representation, and consumption. Also known as race/class/sexuality/gender and the media, this course covers topics such as visual regimes, scopophilia, and the oppositional gaze. We’ll look at representation and appropriation from symbolic annihilation to fetishization. Then we’ll queer audience studies from fan culture and slash fiction to gaming and cybersex. We’ll also examine ideas about social justice and responsibility from free speech, citizenship, and privacy to sexting and celebrity. Because it’s an election year, we’ll learn about the politics of news framing and fame analysis. There are aliens, monsters, super heroes, and “The Final Girl” on the syllabus, too. The class will begin at the beginning of 20th century critical media studies to cover the classics and end up at contemporary culture jamming and pranking. There are no books to purchase.
WST 4561: Contemporary Feminist Theory

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 88721) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

This course will explore both classics and innovative recent contributions to the interdisciplinary field of feminist theory. We will examine in detail how feminist theories challenge and reconfigure received understandings of ontology (being), epistemology (knowledge), embodiment (bodies), identity and difference (intersectionality, intersubjectivity, indigeneity), affect (feelings, emotions, moods), freedom (agency), ethics (moral principles and debates), and politics (power relations, discipline, the governance of communities), as well as the relationships between them. Students will leave the course with a solid critical understanding of key concepts and debates in feminist theory, and will also develop their own research projects using a writing workshop format. Along the way, we will read texts that productively blur the boundaries between disciplines and between feminist theory and a range of adjacent fields, including black studies, postcolonial studies, indigenous studies, queer theory, transgender studies, disability studies, media and cultural studies, science and technology studies, and others.
WST 4930: Gender, Crime, and the Law

Fall: Fridays, 11:00 AM—1:45 PM (CRN 88725) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

This course focuses on how sex, gender, and sexuality operate in and are understood by the legal system in the United State, with attention paid to how these elements intersect with race, class, ability, age, and other axes of our identities. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the intricate interactions between law and culture with a focus on how law both affects and reflects social norms. Course materials include case law and statutes but also popular culture texts and interdisciplinary work in the humanities and social sciences. This course is designed for undergraduates in any major although having taken other WGS courses (like Intro to Women’s & Gender Studies) will be helpful. This is not a “pre-law course” and no prior knowledge of legal concepts is necessary. Questions? Contact Dr. Milton W. Wendland at miltonw@usf.edu.
WST 4930: Queer Comics

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 PM—3:15 PM (CRN 85180) with Helis Sikk, Ph.D.

Queer comics were once an illicit art form that circulated from person to person through underground networks. Although comics have always been a little queer (Batman and Robin, anyone?), not all superheroes wear capes. When censorship began to loosen in the late 1960s and 1970s, comics emerged as a powerful medium in lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) meaning-making and provided visibility to a world that—even today—often remains hidden.

This course brings together queer theory, 20th century history, literary criticism, media, and comics studies to explore the cultural significance of queer comics as a form of activism from the late 1950s to the present day. Since comics often fail to stay within the confines of just one medium, will look at the ways in which comics have crossed over to film, musicals, museums, and fashion. Our focus in this class will be mostly on the United States, but we will also consider the rich transnational culture of queer comics through the works of artists such as Gengoroh Tagame and Minami Ozaki in Japan. At the end of the term, you will have gained an understanding of the importance of queer comics as a form of practical communication and the particular social, economic, and political conditions under which they have been produced.
WST 4935: Capstone

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 PM—4:45 PM (CRN 86829) with Tangela 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. This course helps you identify the transferable skills an undergraduate degree in Women’s and Gender Studies affords. Additionally, this course is designed to help you establish 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 instructor. 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.
WST 4940: Internship in Women’s and Gender Studies

Fall: Select meeting dates (CRN 87263) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

What the heck is an internship?!
Do you ever wonder, "What will I do with a WGS degree?!"
Do you want some real world experience putting your WGS knowledge into action?
Do you want a rockin’ resume when you start applying for jobs or graduate school?

A WGS Internship is your chance to connect your educational experiences with feminism and social justice in a professional business and non-profit environment beyond the classroom. Um. Okay. What does that mean?

It means – You’ll work on-site with a local organization for the entire semester – earning 1-3 hours of academic credit that count toward your degree and toward graduation (oh yeah!), contributing to the success of our communities (um social justice for the win!), and gaining valuable skills for your own career (skills to pay the bills!) – all within the context of a feminist and social justice framework. Yeah, that’s right! REAL WORLD experience with a FEMINIST flavor!

And best of all, the internship is keyed to YOUR specific career interests and skills, with Dr. Wendland helping you along the way to sort your internship experiences into valuable job skills. And don’t worry! A moment of frustration can become a key skill on your resume. If you find out that “Ew, yeah... I don’t like working with children after all,” then that helps us discuss your job search. Regular check-in chats with Dr. Wendland keep the whole experience focused on your success.

WGS Interns have made connections with important Florida politicians, lobbied the state legislature, assisted with ACA “Obamacare” education, written sex-positive blogs, become trained self-defense instructors, done art therapy with young girls, organized food banks, developed outreach presentations for young voters, assisted Latino/a immigrants, web designed for a sexual assault crisis center, and more. And here’s the thing – THOSE experiences help YOU meet the CONTACTS you need on the job market!

To learn more (even if you’re still not quite sure what an internship is!), drop Dr. Wendland an email at miltonw@usf.edu