Spring 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 2600: Human Sexual Behavior

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 23123) 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 3006: Careers and Professionalism in Women’s & Gender Studies

Fridays, 11 AM—1:45 PM (CRN 23122) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

As a WGS major or minor, you encounter so many different ideas and concepts that it can be difficult to think about how it fits into the "real world" of life after college. In Careers & Professionalism in WGS we’ll explore quandaries like:

How do I take my WGS degree and actually find a job?

Am I selling out if I major in WGS and then take a “regular job” that doesn’t have much to do with WGS?

What if I’m applying for a job and I think my WGS degree and my feminist/queer/etc activities might count against me?

How can I enact my feminist, queer, and progressive principles in my daily life, like in a real way?

How does learning about income taxes and investments and retirement accounts and things like that fit with WGS? (Hint: Agency! Sex equity!)

How exactly does intersectionality or positionality or self-reflexivity or any of those other WGS concepts apply when I’m graduated and trying to create a post-college life?!?!

We’ll consider these and other questions through hands-on approaches that challenge traditional patriarchal ways of thinking and life-planning. We’ll touch base with feminists, queers, and others who are “living their ethics” in a variety of venues. In addition we’ll do hands-on activities to build our “professional portfolios” (fancy talk for job application letters, resumes, and statements that you can use in job, grant, and graduate school applications). Be prepared for some intense and intensive discussions and life prep! This course is open to WGS majors and minors of all levels.
WST 3015: Intro to Women’s Studies

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 24473) with Melinda Mills, PhD.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM—10:45 AM (CRN 23120) with Melinda Mills, Ph.D.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 23119) with Tangela Serls, Ph.D.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 24475) with Melinda Mills, PhD.
This course is also offered completely online (CRN 13746) with Milton Wendland, 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.
ISS 3420: Intro to Disability Studies

This course is offered completely online (CRN 24480) with Tangela Serls, Ph.D.

This course examines disability as an aspect of human and cultural diversity by exploring moral, religious, historical, cultural, social, medical, artistic, and legal perspectives on minds and bodies that do not fit neatly within the normative expectations associated with various social, cultural and political contexts. In this interdisciplinary course, students will explore a variety of disability experiences (e.g. those related to physical, developmental, sensory, and psychiatric impairments and chronic illnesses). Students will critically evaluate the intersecting impacts of social systems, institutions, professional understandings, cultural representations, and their own assumptions on the well-being of people who live with such differences. There are no prerequisites for this course. If you have questions about our readings or assignments, feel free to email me at serls@usf.edu
WST 3324: Women, Environment, and Gender

This course is offered completely online (CRN 16979) 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 3602: Intro to LGBTQ Cultures

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2—3:15 PM (CRN 24476) with Helis Sikk, Ph.D.

Intro to LGBTQ+ Cultures is an interdisciplinary course that brings together history, literary studies, queer theory, and visual culture. We will explore how gendered, racialized, and classed alternative sexualities have created new worlds through memoir, comics, film, and photography. We will contextualize readings in relation to the different genres we cover and place the authors and their work within cultural and historical frameworks, especially focusing on the relationship between oppression and expression. In addition to readings, we will explore 1 or 2 cultural productions per week (this may include film, photography, performance, and more traditional works of art). By the end of the term, you will have gained an understanding of the cultural, historical, artistic, and political significance of LGBTQ+ history and expressions. You will also have acquired the vocabulary to analyze an image, critique a film, and situate yourself as a new knowledge producer within global LGBTQ+ culture.
WST 4002: Feminist Research Methods

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 20316)
with Helis Sikk, Ph.D.

Is your research feminist? Why should it be? To find out, join me on this journey into feminist research methods as well as distinctive feminist critical approaches to issues in the social sciences and humanities. The primary goal of this class is to give you the tools you need to become a feminist researcher. This is a hands-on seminar, which requires you to produce original scholarship and present it to your colleagues.

Some of the questions we explore include: What counts as knowledge? What do you want to know and why do you want to know it? What research methods are best designed to meet your research goals? What should you do with the knowledge that you create? What do “interdisciplinary,” “collaborative,” “intersectional,” and “methodology” mean? How do these concepts shape our approach to your research? And finally, how can your research promote feminist activist goals within and beyond our communities?

By the end of the term, you will have gained an understanding of some of the key approaches to feminist research and be able to situate yourself as a new knowledge producer within contemporary culture.
WST 4310: History of Feminism in the U.S.

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30—10:45 AM (15647) with Melinda Mills, Ph.D.

In this course, we will learn about first, second, and third wave feminism, as well as the emergent fourth wave. Together, we will consider the contributions of various feminists in different historical moments, looking at the continuity of the aforementioned waves, complementarity with other social movements, and many of the productive tensions within feminist movement/s. The core text for the course covers everything from women’s suffrage to “the personal is political” to queer theory, body and sex positivity, and the importance of diversity, inclusivity, and intersectionality to feminism.
WST 4320: Politics of Women’s Health

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 11675) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

What factors inform and mitigate women’s health? How do sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, nation, age, and ability interact to shape understandings of women’s health and approaches to health policy? How do issues such as access to health care and insurance, structural inequalities, nutrition, reproductive status, genetic and environmental factors, technology, consumer beauty culture, globalization, security, and violence affect health? And what roles does women’s health play in the making of identities, nations, economies, and social relations more broadly?

This course will use interdisciplinary, intersectional, and transnational frameworks to investigate several dimensions of women’s health, and will address historical, sociological, empirical, biological, and feminist perspectives. Topics covered include: history and biology of sex and gender; medicalization of health; history of women as healers and the women’s health movement; intersex and transgender health; fitness, nutrition, and consumer beauty culture; fat studies and body positivity; and health disparities.
WST 4930: Gender and SciFi

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM (24469) with Diane Price Herndl, Ph.D.

Believe it or not, feminism and science fiction are related by birth. One of the first feminist writers in English, Mary Wollstonecraft, was the mother of Mary Shelley, the author of Frankenstein, the novel most people regard as the first book of science fiction. So science fiction is really the grandchild of feminism.

This course will examine various traces of gender in science fiction, from that very first monstrous “birth” in 1818 to the present. Science fiction allows us to imagine the world as it might be—for better and for worse—and a lot of folk have asked questions about how gender might play out in a future time or space. We’ll read some classics of feminist science fiction and some new works that ask questions not only of gender, but of race, colonialism, bodies, and technology. We’ll spend a couple of days looking at how women have fared in science fiction film and how new artists are using science fiction film, but for the most part, we’ll be reading novels and short stories. Course assignments will include extensive reading and in-depth class discussion, in-class presentations, short response papers, a mid-term and a final exam.

Reading List*

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)


Marge Piercy, *He, She, and It* (1991)


Plus a few short stories by Anne McCaffrey, N. K. Jemisin and Rebecca Roanhorse (on Canvas)

*Electronic texts and other editions of these books are allowed by the instructor.*
WST 4930: Black Feminisms

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 13742) with Tangela Serls, Ph.D.

Black feminisms will use Black feminist theory and womanist theory to explore the ways in which black women in the United States and across the African diaspora have been defined historically and contemporarily. The course will take an interdisciplinary approach as we think through various cultural illustrations of black womanhood. Additionally, we will consider the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability (among others) as they relate to black women. We will utilize a variety of texts (e.g. scholarly/academic texts, films, fiction, personal narratives, and popular cultural examples) as we examine how Black women are defined in various sites such (e.g. activism, media, social media, religious institutions, etc.). There are no prerequisites for this course. If you have questions about our readings or assignments, feel free to email me at serlst@usf.edu
WST 4930: Gender, Crime, and Justice

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 24470 ) with Michelle Hughes Miller, Ph.D.

Crime – from image to rhetoric – is everywhere. Television shows about crime permeate our networks, while “real” crime dramas play out in social media and in the news. At the same time, we have concerns about the effects of crime on victims and society, and we also wonder about the outcomes of crime, such as whether and how justice is “served.” Is justice fair or biased? We think we know the answer to that question, but do we? And we think we know who are the criminals and who are the victims. But the world is not a television show.

In Gender, Crime and Justice we consider each of these issues: media portrayals, criminal involvement, victimization, and justice. But our focus is narrow, because we target our analysis on the effects of gender on each of these topics: How are criminals portrayed as gendered actors in popular culture? How do our conceptualizations of gender and our gendered lives affect the choices we make to engage in crime? How does gender affect victimization patterns and experiences? How does gender shape the patterns of enforcement and punishment? Our task this semester will be to make gender transparent as we assess its effects on crime and justice. Join me as we explore crime and justice through the lens of gender!
WST 4940: Internship in Women’s and Gender Studies

Select meeting dates (CRN 18491) 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