WST 6001: Feminist Issues, Research, and Methods

Fully online course (CRN 16395) with Helis Sikk, Ph.D.
Class will meet virtually via Microsoft Teams on Mondays, 5:30—8:15 PM.

Is your research feminist? Is your research intersectional? Why should it be? To find out, join me on this journey into feminist research methods as well as distinctive intersectional feminist 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.

Through advanced interdisciplinary readings and writing assignments you will 1) interrogate the relationship between your research and your subject position 2) learn how to collect and utilize data in an ethical way 3) consider the options available for the production of feminist knowledge—scholarly writing, fiction and creative writing, performance, popular media, and digital humanities approaches; 4) produce new knowledge that is grounded in feminist principles and strives to enact positive social change.

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.

To request a permit to register for this course, visit http://bit.ly/s21gradpermits
WST 6936: Gender, Crime, and Justice

Fully online course (CRN 13342) with Michelle Hughes Miller, Ph.D.
Class will meet on Microsoft Teams on Wednesdays, 5:30—8:15 PM.

Crime – from image to rhetoric – is everywhere. Crime plays out in social media and in the news while television shows about crime permeate our networks. But crime is much more nuanced than our media discourses. Is it a crime, for instance, to raise the price of a needed medicine in the name of corporate profit or to subvert ethical testing procedures of vaccines for political gain? Is it criminal to incarcerate a pregnant woman to prevent her from using drugs or having a legal abortion? Is it a crime to fail to prosecute an individual accused of sexual assault because the alleged offender is a respected member of the community? Why is defending ourselves from violence sometimes a crime, and sometimes not? Justice clearly is malleable, driven by gender, race/ethnicity, and social class, along with other interconnected identities like ability and nationality.

In Gender, Crime and Justice we ask, how does gender shape patterns of criminalization, enforcement and punishment? How do feminists critique and analyze conceptualizations of crime and systems of “justice”? We take on the criminalization and imprisonment of individuals of color in our society, and the ways that gender both constructs this process and is reinforced by it. We challenge the definition of violence to incorporate state and institutional processes that harm our lives. We consider victimization from the perspective of survivors and the context of their experiences. Queer justice, indigenous justice, and intersectional justice will all be part of our discussion. Join us as we explore crime and justice through the lens of gender!

To request a permit to register for this course, visit http://bit.ly/s21gradpermits
WST 6936: Queer Feminist Science Studies

Fully online course (CRN 17241) with David Rubin, Ph.D.
Class will meet virtually via Microsoft Teams on Thursdays, 3:30—6:15 PM.

What if biology, chemistry, zoology, and quantum physics are queerer than both conventional scientists and feminists have typically assumed? What if there is no intrinsic orthodoxy to biological matter, what if it can be “as perverse and wayward as any social, textual, cultural, affective, economic, historical, or philosophical arrangement” (Wilson 2014, 27)? Pursuing these questions, this seminar introduces students to Queer Feminist Science Studies (QFSS)—an exciting interdisciplinary field that queers—or denaturalizes and makes strange—dominant ideas in both the sciences and in women’s and gender studies. We will begin by reading foundational feminist works that critically analyze how scientific research has been historically shaped by and has reproduced sexism, racism, and other Western cultural biases. We will then take a brief survey of queer studies, focusing on how queer theory challenges accepted scientific and popular ideas about the nature of sexuality. Finally, we will practice “queer feminist science studies” by analyzing a variety of texts that reimagine and repurpose science to queer and/or feminist ends—including not only traditional lab work in the academy, but also indigenous knowledge systems, kitchen science, queer and trans pop-up gyms, and DIY science—queer projects indeed! Along the way, the course will provide multiple opportunities to rethink science through critical feminist, anti-racist, LGBTIQ, postcolonial, and disability perspectives.

To request a permit to register for this course, visit http://bit.ly/s21gradpermits