Spring 2021
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

Fully online with real-time meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 11016) 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 3006: Careers and Professionalism in Women’s & Gender Studies

Hybrid course (CRN 22359) with Kim Golombisky, Ph.D.

This course meets on Fridays, 11 AM—1:45 PM, half the semester face-to-face and half the semester online in real time.

How do you translate your WGS major or minor into a “real world” career after graduation? During a pandemic? Join us in the spring to find out! Selling yourself on the job market or to graduate school is not selling out. Your WGS education is valuable, and you needn’t give up your progressive politics to be successful. Learn how to convert your priorities into action steps to plan your future. You’ll finish the course with hope and a portfolio of resources, skills, and documents from networked contacts and interviewing confidence to a killer resume and letter-writing polish—and more. Get ready for some hands-on life prep! WGS majors and minors at all levels are welcome to enroll.

Students who enroll in this Friday course should plan to meet safely as scheduled at least 50% of the time in-person in-class on-campus, with the balance delivered remotely via synchronous Teams meetings. This plan, of course, can change depending on public health conditions.
WST 3015: Intro to Women’s Studies

Online with real-time meetings:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 22356) with Michelle Hughes Miller, Ph.D.
Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 23496) with Helis Sikk, Ph.D.

Fully online:
(CRN 22357) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D. and (CRN 23494) with Tangel Serls, Ph.D., (CRN 25588, 25589, 22591, 22593) with Melinda Mills, Ph.D.

Face to face:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1—2:15 PM (CRN 15559) at USFSP with Jill McCracken, 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 3324: Women, Environment, and Gender

This course is offered completely online (CRN 16780) 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 3380: Sexualities Studies

Hybrid course CRN (22358) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

The course will meet online primarily on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM with some face-to-face class sessions as conditions permit.

This course is a journey through some of the key concepts and issues in sexuality studies, looking at human sexuality from multiple angles to understand how sexualities both shape and are shaped by individuals and culture, especially in relation to power. Connections between sexualities and other social locators such as race, ethnicity, gender, social class, age, and dis/ability will be central. Please note that this course covers different material than WST 2600 Human Sexual Behavior. There is no prerequisite for this course.
ISS 3420: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Disability Studies

This course is offered completely online (CRN 23501) 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 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 4002: Feminist Research Methods

Fully online with class meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 19874) 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 4320: Politics of Women’s Health

Fully online (CRN 11643) with Diane Price Herndl, Ph.D.

How are gender inequalities manifest in health and healthcare? What roles do race, class, sexual orientation, or geography play in how we manage women’s health? How does gender matter when we are working through questions of genetic testing? How do corporate profits influence our treatment of cancer, pregnancy, and breast-feeding?

WST 4320: Politics and Issues in Women’s Health addresses these questions and more as we examine the system of healthcare in the United States and look at issues of gender and health from a global perspective. We will investigate:

- issues of health in the workplace (including when the workplace is the home),
- debates over whether we should be concerned about an “obesity epidemic” or whether we should work toward fat acceptance,
- the ways that domestic violence, rape, and human trafficking are health issues,
- the treatment of lesbians and transgendered people in the healthcare system,
- attitudes toward aging women (who make up a majority of the aged population) and how that has an impact on health,
- the culture of cosmetic surgery, and the ugly facts about dangerous beauty products.

At this moment in history when we are seeing tremendous changes in public policy toward healthcare for the poor and for women—who gets insurance? who pays for birth control? who regulates pregnant bodies?—we will pay especial attention to the political and corporate climates surrounding our health system. We will also address the question of finding reliable health information in an age of “fake news” and contested science.

WST 4320 will be offered in an asynchronous online format in Spring 2021. It fulfills the University FKL requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences Core Courses, counts toward the Social and Behavioral Health Sciences Concentration in the Health Sciences major, and counts toward both the major and minor in Women’s and Gender Studies. It is also open as an elective for all students.
WST 4930: Black Feminisms

Online course with meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 23490) 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: Queer Feminist Science Studies

Fully online (CRN 23491) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

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.
WST 4930: Sex Work and Trafficking

Wednesdays, 1—3:30 PM at USFSP (CRN 25544) with Jill McCracken, Ph.D.

What is sex work? And what is sex trafficking? Are they different and if so, how do we know? This course explores the answers to these questions and provides students with an understanding of the complexities related to defining, recognizing, and categorizing them. We will pay particular attention to the role discourse plays in how sex work and trafficking are represented and identified and how these differences impact the power individuals have to identify and represent themselves and their experiences. We will also examine the theories and discourses used to represent sex work and trafficking in the sex industry and the ways these theories represent, call attention to, and even create violence.

Inherent to these examinations, students explore and gain knowledge about gender, sexuality, and race and how representations and lived experiences of sex work and trafficking can and do instantiate racism, white supremacy, sexism, transphobia, and misogyny. Students will apply these theories to discussions and examples of sex work and trafficking and explore their real-world applications within sex work and anti-trafficking organizations and policies.

Note: As of October 2020, this class will be held face to face and students are required to be on campus during all classes.
WST 4930: Social Justice Marketing

Hybrid course CRN (22358) with Kim Golombisky, Ph.D.

This course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30—4:45 PM, half the semester face-to-face and half the semester online in real time.

Join us for a semester of learning to apply Social Marketing strategies to Social Justice causes. Social marketing uses marketing principles to change social behaviors for the public good—like wearing masks, social distancing, and washing hands during a pandemic. Social movements, such as Me Too and Black Lives Matter, organize people to improve society. Social justice causes address unjust and inequitable laws, policies, and public services that dis-privilege and marginalize groups of people. Think, for example, fighting voter suppression or abolishing legalized LGBTQ discrimination in education, employment, housing, and healthcare. Combine the principles of social marketing to social justice movements, and voilà, you have “Social Justice Marketing.” In this class, we’ll cover how to win hearts and minds to achieve social justice objectives.

Students who enroll in this section should plan to meet safely as scheduled at least 50% of the time in-person in-class on-campus, with the balance delivered remotely via synchronous Teams meetings. This plan, of course, can change depending on public health conditions.
WST 4940: Internship in Women’s and Gender Studies

Select meeting dates (CRN 18230) 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.