FGSS SPRING 2017 Courses

FGSS 2010  Introduction to Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
TR  1:25-2:40  C.R. Snorton

Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary program focused on understanding the impact of gender and sexuality on the world around us and on the power hierarchies that structure it. This course provides an overview of key concepts, questions, and debates within feminist studies both locally and globally, focusing mainly on the experiences, historical conditions, and concerns of women as they are shaped by gender and sexuality. We will read a variety of texts--personal narratives, historical documents, and cultural criticism--across a range of disciplines, and will consider how larger structural systems of both privilege and oppression affect individuals' identities, experiences, and options. We will also examine forms of agency and action taken by women in the face of these larger systems.

FGSS 2230  Masculinities  
TR  10:10-11:25  C.R. Snorton

This course begins with the hypothesis that there is not one version of masculinity but rather multiple masculinities, as influenced by race, ethnicity, class, nationality, sexuality, disability and produced differently in various historical contexts. Exploring the relationship between sex and gender, as it appears across twentieth century U.S. cultural history, this class uses pop cultural texts, visual art, autobiography, and fiction to attend to the ways masculinities and femininities have been structured in dialogue with one another.

FGSS 2267  Women and Society in China  
MW  8:40-9:55  S. Son  GLO

This course offers a broad understanding of the active and dynamic cultural, economic, and social, and political roles played by Chinese women. By challenging the dominant stereotype of the passive and victimized Chinese woman, this course aims to examine women's struggles, negotiations, and challenges of the normative discourse of femininity and domesticity in terms of various disciplines, including philosophy, anthropology, history, and literature. Through a combination of reading original texts with secondary scholarship, this course will discuss the issues of Confucianism and patriarchal family, the female body and sexuality, education and self-expression, women's economic status and religious life, gender and the state, the modernization of women, etc.
FGSS 2350  Literature and Medicine  
MWF  1:25-2:15    E. Cohn  ISO, LGBT

How does literary language depict the experience of physical suffering? Can a poem or a novel palliate pain, illness, even the possibility of death? From darkly comic narratives of black plague and accounts of early modern melancholy to nineteenth century discourses of sex to twentieth century critiques of mental institutions and depictions of the AIDS crisis, this course examines literature centered on medical practices from the early modern period through the twentieth century. How have medical practices changed, and when do these changes have political implications? Readings will include a broad range of genres, including poetry (Keats, Coleridge, Whitman), fiction (Stevenson, Shelley, Gilman, Kafka), theater (Kushner), nonfiction prose (Defoe, Woolf), and critical theory (Scarry, Lacqueur, Foucault, Derrida, Sontag).

FGSS 2760  Desire  
MW  7:30-8:45    E. Hanson  LGBT

"Language is a skin," the critic Roland Barthes once wrote: "I rub my language against the other. It is as if I had words instead of fingers, or fingers at the tip of my words. My language trembles with desire." Sexual desire has a history, even a literary history, which we will examine through an introductory survey of European dramatic literature from Plato and Aristophanes to Jean Genet and Caryl Churchill, as well as a survey of classic readings in Western sexual theory from the Ancient Greeks through Freud and Foucault to contemporary feminism and queer theory.

FGSS 3206  Black Women and Political Leadership  
MW  2:55-4:10    C. Boyce Davies  ISO

This course studies the life experiences and political struggles of black women who have attained political leadership across the African Diaspora. It will study their rise to political power through an examination of the autobiographies of women political leaders from the Caribbean, the U.S., Africa and Brazil. The autobiographies of political figures such as Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Shirley Chisholm, Benedita da Silva will serve as some of the primary sources of analysis. Students will have the opportunity to meet current or past political figures where timely and available.
FGSS 3210  Gender and the Brain  
MW 2:55-4:10   S. Dietz   LGBT

Why are boys more likely than girls to suffer from autism, and women more likely than men to be diagnosed with depression? Are there different “gay” and “straight” brains? And how does brain science interact with gender and sexuality in popular debate? Reading and discussing the original scientific papers and related critical texts, we will delve into the neuroscience of gender.

FGSS 3400  Refugees and The Politics of Vulnerability: Intersections of Feminist Theory and Practice  
MWF  10:10-11:00  J. Juffer  ISO, GLO

“We’re undone by each other. And if we’re not, we’re missing something,” writes Judith Butler in Precarious Life. Can our mutual vulnerability serve as the basis for political intervention and social justice? More specifically, how does a politics of vulnerability help us address the worldwide refugee crisis? How does it limit or preclude an understanding of certain conditions? How might the notion of precarity / precarious lives supplement vulnerability? We will use the growing body of feminist scholarship on vulnerability in law, philosophy, migration studies, and other fields to analyze the refugee crisis in particular locations, including Central American refugees being detained in the U.S. and Syrian refugees fleeing to Europe. We will focus on the intersections of media representation, immigration policy, and activism.

FGSS 3550  Decadence  
MW  2:55-4:10   E. Hanson   LGBT

"My existence is a scandal," Oscar Wilde once wrote, summing up in an epigram the effect of his carefully cultivated style of perversity and paradox. Through their valorization of aestheticism and all that was considered artificial, unnatural, or perverse, the so-called "Decadent" writers of the late-nineteenth century sought to free the pleasures of beauty, spirituality, and sexual desire from their more conventional ethical moorings. We will discuss literary and visual texts by Charles Baudelaire, Edgar Allan Poe, J.-K. Huysmans, Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, A. C. Swinburne, Walter Pater, Renée Vivien, James McNeill Whistler, and Aubrey Beardsley, with a particular focus on Oscar Wilde. Students may read French and German texts in the original or in English translation.
FGSS 3581  Twentieth Century Women Writers of Color in the Americas
TR   2:55-4:10   S. Wong  ISO

In this course, we'll be reading literature—primarily novels—produced by hemispheric American women writers of the mid- to late twentieth-century. We will look at how these writings articulate concerns with language, home, mobility, and memory, and at how the work is informed by the specificities of gender, race, region and class. Readings may include work by Leslie Marmon Silko, Sandra Cisneros, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Jamaica Kincaid, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ann Petry, Fae Myenne Ng, Carolivia Herron, Helena Maria Viramontes, and Shani Mootoo.

FGSS 3591  Kids Rule! Children in Popular Culture
MWF 12:20-1:10   J. Juffer  LGBT

How is the figure of the child constructed in popular culture? When and to what degree do children participate in the construction of these representations? This course surveys a variety of contemporary media texts (television, film, and the internet) aimed at children ranging in age from pre-kindergarten to young adults. We explore how these texts seek to construct children as empowered consumers, contesting adult conformity. Our theoretical approach complicates definitions of childhood as a time of innocence and potential victimhood and challenges normative constructions of childhood as a time for establishing “proper” sexual and gender identities. Taking a cultural studies approach, the class will consider the connections between the cultural texts and the realms of advertising, toys, and gaming.

FGSS 3725  Femininity as Masquerade
TR   1:25-2:40   M. Raskolnikov  ISO, LGBT

“One is not born a woman, but rather becomes one” wrote Simone de Beauvoir. How does such an odd becoming happen? What can literature teach us about it? Does anyone ever achieve “being a woman” and how do we ("we"??) survive always falling short of the implicit ideal? We will think about the power afforded by receptivity, passivity, bottoming, emotionality and openness, whether or not these are enacted by people born, designated or living as female. What are some of the dimensions of femininity’s diversity, even in the United States, today? This course is intimately informed by intersectional queer, women of color and trans* perspectives, which will be at the center of our inquiry. It will cover film, literature, personal essays and gender theory.
FGSS 3806  Uncanny Figures and Unsettled Places: Postcolonial and Transnational Drama
TR 11:40-12:55 A. Stratford GLO, ISO

This course introduces students to some of the foundational concepts of postcolonialism through a wide selection of postcolonial plays (by necessity, primarily published in English) and theoretical texts. We’ll read essays by Freud and Fanon, Said and Spivak and ask how their ideas are exemplified, staged, countered and complicated in plays from postcolonial nations like South Africa, India, Jamaica, Nigeria, New Zealand and Ireland. We’ll explore how plays from England re-examine Britain’s engagement with its own Imperial past. We’ll ask how the (un)settled places and uncanny figures of postcolonial drama stage the histories of slavery in French Canada, for example, or reimagine the plight of an Aboriginal girl in the formative years of Australia’s penal colony. Full of social anxieties about place, power, and Otherness, these texts require us to turn a keen eye to issues of gender and race and to the ways in which these plays stage marginalized bodies, invite and implicate the spectator’s gaze, and call into question hierarchies of power. We will concern ourselves with theatrical form and performance history, as well as subject matter. We will consider these plays in their cultural and historical moments and in relation to the histories they stage and resist as well as in relation to questions of social change, diversity, transnationalism and globalization shaping our theatre and our thinking today.

FGSS 3820  The Gendered Workplace
W 2:55-4:10 I. DeVault

This course will examine the range of issues surrounding the experience of gender in the modern workplace. Topics may include the historical role of women in the workplace; sex segregation in the workplace; norms of masculinity; the intersectionality of issues including race, lgbtq, and disability; gendered legal issues; work-family issues; pay equity; gender discrimination; harassment and bullying; union representation; and many others. Students will be exposed to both research and practical applications of various topics. This class will have a different guest speaker each week. Each speaker will assign readings for their topic, to be read before their class meeting.
**FGSS 3991  Undergraduate Independent Study**  
TBA    TBA    various  

Individual study program intended for juniors and seniors working on special topics with selected reading or research projects not covered in regularly scheduled courses. Students select a topic in consultation with a FGSS faculty member who has agreed to supervise the independent study. Prerequisites: FGSS 2010 or FGSS 3000, and one additional 3000-level FGSS course. 1-4 credits.

**FGSS 4000  Senior Seminar in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**  
M    2:30-4:25    S. Hodzic  

This senior seminar is only open to, and is required by, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors. In this seminar, we will focus on the intersection of gender, sexuality, and human rights. Although issues of gender and sexuality have always been integral to human rights, in the last 40 years, they have become an increasingly articulated component of human rights activism, law, and policy making. This gendering of the international human rights agenda has run parallel to the growing institutionalization of feminist, gender, and sexuality studies in the academy. We explore this convergence between human rights theory and its practice in order to think about how feminist scholarship both emerges from and informs everyday lives around the world, especially those of women and sexual minorities. Within this rather broad rubric, we will consider various case studies and use these as examples for student research papers; these case studies will focus on central figures in human rights discourse—children, sex workers, garment workers, migrant agricultural labor, and transnational athletes. Throughout the semester, we will also consider how this course and others in FGSS prepare one to pursue jobs in human rights organizations and other advocacy fields.

**FGSS 4035  Disability and Intersectionality**  
L. Cook and A. Weiner Heinemann    ISO  

A recognition of the importance of intersectionality, or the understanding of how identities such as disability, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic class, and national origin, among others, multiply overlap and connect, is becoming increasingly key to combat discrimination and oppression. This course will examine how intersectional disability experiences, in particular, impact and are impacted by access to employment, education, and health care. We will explore the efficacy of legal and policy initiatives that are already in place, and in doing so, strongly consider the growing need for, and value of, intersectional approaches to disability discrimination.
Sex and sex work exist not on the fringes, but at the very heart of the social order. In China and Japan, the pleasures, perils, and duties of sexual life have preoccupied rulers and ruled alike, and prompted campaigns for moral reform during periods of both stability and revolution. This course examines how sex constituted, undermined, and redefined politics, economics, and social values from the sixteenth century to the present in China and Japan, with secondary attention to South Asia, Korea, and the West. Topics include the Confucian family system, homoeroticism, the impact of Western empires on Asian families and sexualities, and varieties of sexual labor ranging from commercialized prostitution to military slavery to the family itself.

Marriage was the widely expected norm within African societies. The institution was an important marker of adulthood, linking individuals and lineages in a network of mutual cooperation and support. Marriage practices and the concomitant gender expectations varied significantly between societies, and over time. As a result, marriage and divorce are especially rich terrain for exploring social history, women's agency, discursive constructions of 'women', masculinity and gender relations of power. This course explores some of the newest scholarship on marriage by Africanist scholars. The readings demonstrate the wide cultural variety in marriage as well as the dynamic relationship between marriage and historical change. They especially highlight women's roles and expectations in marriage, masculinity and the ways men and women negotiated the rules and boundaries of marriage.

Although the wounded, often feminine, body is the most powerful way of imagining border space in both the Indian subcontinent and the Americas, it is seldom coupled with the embodied practices and performances through which borders define everyday life and shape geographical and historical consciousness in the two regions. Drawing upon texts, media, and theory generated from South Asia and Latin America, the course will develop new comparative approaches to the constitutive role that bodies play in creating, maintaining, and imagining borders in the global South.
FGSS 4504  The City: Asia
TR  2:55-4:10  A. Fuhrmann  GLO

This course uses the lens of temporality to track transformations in notions of urban personhood and collective life engendered by recent trans-Asia economic shifts. We will develop tools that help unpack the spatial and cultural forms of density and the layered histories that define the contemporary urban fabric of cities such as Hanoi, Bangkok, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. The course combines the investigation of the cinemas and literatures of the region with the study of recent writing on cities from Asian studies, film studies, queer theory, urban studies, political theory, religious studies, cultural geography, literary theory, and anthropology.

FGSS 4521  Gender, Memory, and History in 20th-Century Fiction
M  10:10-12:05  K. McCullough  ISO

This seminar will investigate the narrative uses of history and memory in US fiction, focusing particularly on the impact of gender on these representations. How do US writers use history in their fiction, and to what ends? What are the effects on drawing on received historical narratives and what are the effects of constructing one's own history to fill a void in the received historical narrative? What's the difference between history and fiction, anyway? We will start from such questions in order to explore the extent to which history—personal or public—is produced by memory and reshaped by fiction. Authors under consideration may include: Julia Alvarez, Alison Bechdel, Pat Barker, Joy Kogawa, Toni Morrison, Monique Truong, and August Wilson.

FGSS 4601  Space, Gender, Body in Early Modern Art
T  2:30-4:25  L. Pincus

The body is a universal. How we construct our understandings of it is not. In this class we will investigate conceptions and treatment of the early-modern body (1400-1700) mainly in Europe with excursions to China, Japan, Africa. Among our topics will be: classical understanding of the body and gender; cross-cultural practices of medicine and anatomy; aesthetics and the nude; definitions of beauty and the grotesque. Criminal, sinful and saintly bodies; death, the macabre, and the mortal, divine body of Christ; the ambiguous gender of children; the formation of identity through portraiture; the science of sexuality and art of erotics as well as correspondences among bodies, domestic and public spaces, the macrocosm and microcosm will round out our study. We will work with historical materials with an eye for current practices in bodily identities.
FGSS 4608  Victorian Masculinities  
R  2:30-4:25  P. Gilbert

This course will focus on Victorian genders with a special emphasis on masculinities. Additionally, we will spend time reading and thinking about secondary works which interrogate and historicize our principal terms. By the end of the course, you will have read a substantial amount of important secondary work regarding mid-century masculinities, as well as a good selection of both canonical and less-known Victorian works. The course will focus on novels and secondary readings about gender and especially masculinity. Most of these readings will be critical and historical, rather than theoretical in the strict sense. Although the course will focus on the construction of masculinity in the period, that topic cannot be discussed without reference to female identity, class, and sexuality, among other issues.

FGSS 4640  Women in the Modern Middle East  
T  10:10-12:05  Z. Fahmy  GLO

The primary emphasis of this discussion seminar is the historical development of gendered identities and the fluid manner in which different Middle Eastern communities responded to shifting ideas of sexuality, reproduction, and the family. Our focus of inquiry will be on themes that involve and relate to women, both directly and indirectly. We will particularly examine how and why women's status differs from one Middle Eastern country or region to another. From both theoretical and topical points of view, we will consider some of the most recent literature about women and gender. Since this is a history course, we will also examine how women's roles, as well as gendered systems and institutions, have changed over time.
**FGSS 4652  Bodies and Diseases in the Middle East (1500-2000)**

R 10:10-12:05  S. Yilmaz  GLO

Bodies and Diseases in the Middle East (1500-2000) will explore the history of medicine and science in the Middle East from the early modern period to the present. It covers the main topics and questions regarding bodies, diseases, and medical institutions within the framework of major historical developments. The course investigates how medicine and knowledge about diseases and bodies changed political and social conditions as well as how the latter defined and transformed the ways in which people imagined health, life, and environment. Scholars have often analyzed the history of medicine in the Middle Eastern societies either in relation to Islamic culture in the early modern period or in relation to more recent Westernization. This course seeks to challenge these fixed paradigms and shed light on questions and research agendas that will unearth the encounters, connections and mobility of bacteria, bodies, and medical methods among various communities. It will highlight that the history of medicine in the colonial world itself is varied and wide ranging, investigating how medical missions intersected with civilizing missions, how colonial discourses were used to explain disease prevalence, and the relationship between the metropole and colony in propagating certain medical theories and practices. The course seeks to facilitate student engagement with various primary and secondary sources and new technologies to teach both historiographical methods and the content of the history of medicine in the Middle East.

**FGSS 4947  Bio-Politics and the Poetics of Nakedness**

T 12:20-2:15  N. Diabate  LGBT

In this course, you will explore nakedness as a form of protest by various social movements and in compelling fictional texts. As you analyze nakedness from ancient Greece to 21st century Africa, Asia, and Latin America, you will also be attentive to the variables of race, gender, and bodily abilities and how they complicate this mode of speaking. Primary texts include Devi’s “Draupadi,” Ngugi’s Wizard of the Crow, Andersen’s The Emperor’s New Clothes, Tennyson’s “Godiva,” Auden’s “Cave of Nakedness,” videos of Femen, gay parades, and Occupy Wall Street. You will read these visual and literary texts in conjunction with theoretical reflections on shame/injury, exposure, and humanity by Freud, Foucault, Derrida, Levinas, Nancy, and Berger. Assignments will clarify and build upon the readings and films and include reflection papers, analytical, and argumentative essays.
FGSS 4991  Senior Honors Thesis II  
TBA  TBA  Staff  

Students must submit a completed Honors Thesis Application within the first week of classes before they will be allowed to enroll in the course.

To graduate with honors a major must complete a senior thesis under the supervision of a faculty member in Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, and defend that thesis orally before an honors committee. Students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 in all course work and a 3.5 average in all courses applying to the FGSS major. Interested students should consult the DUS in the spring semester of their junior year or very early in the fall semester of their senior year. Prerequisite: successful completion of FGSS 4990.

FGSS 6291  Marriage and Divorce in the African Context  
W  10:10-12:05  J Byfield  GLO  

Marriage was the widely expected norm within African societies. The institution was an important marker of adulthood, linking individuals and lineages in a network of mutual cooperation and support. Marriage practices and the concomitant gender expectations varied significantly between societies, and over time. As a result, marriage and divorce are especially rich terrain for exploring social history, women's agency, discursive constructions of 'women', masculinity and gender relations of power. This course explores some of the newest scholarship on marriage by Africanist scholars. The readings demonstrate the wide cultural variety in marriage as well as the dynamic relationship between marriage and historical change. They especially highlight women's roles and expectations in marriage, masculinity and the ways men and women negotiated the rules and boundaries of marriage.

FGSS 6339  Bodies at the Border  
W  10:10-12:05  A. Banerjee and D. Castillo  GLO  

Although the wounded, often feminine, body is the most powerful way of imagining border space in both the Indian subcontinent and the Americas, it is seldom coupled with the embodied practices and performances through which borders define everyday life and shape geographical and historical consciousness in the two regions. Drawing upon texts, media, and theory generated from South Asia and Latin America, the course will develop new comparative approaches to the constitutive role that bodies play in creating, maintaining, and imagining borders in the global South.
FGSS 6504  The City: Asia  
TR  2:55-4:10  A. Furhmann  NONE  

This course uses the lens of temporality to track transformations in notions of urban personhood and collective life engendered by recent trans-Asia economic shifts. We will develop tools that help unpack the spatial and cultural forms of density and the layered histories that define the contemporary urban fabric of cities such as Hanoi, Bangkok, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. The course combines the investigation of the cinemas and literatures of the region with the study of recent writing on cities from Asian studies, film studies, queer theory, urban studies, political theory, religious studies, cultural geography, literary theory, and anthropology.

FGSS 6601  Space, Gender, Body in Early Modern Art  
T  2:30-4:25  L. Pincus  

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FGSS 6880  FGSS Colloquium  
W  10:10-12:05  K. McCullough

This course offers an introduction to theoretical and practical aspects of the interdisciplinary field of Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies, providing students with a range of disciplinary approaches and issues. Our discussions will be enhanced by regular visits by FGSS scholars from various CU departments, enabling us to experience both the disciplinary specifics of FGSS scholarship and the interdisciplinary breadth of gender/sexuality's reach as an analytic lens.

FGSS 6990  Topics in Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
TBA  TBA  Staff

Independent reading course for graduate students on topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses. Students develop a course of readings in consultation with a faculty member in the field of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies who has agreed to supervise the course work.