

SPRING 2009 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GSC 27999-01 (CRN 24276) Gender Studies Gateway Course

For all Majors & Minors

No Hours/No Credits Co-Requisite Course for Pre-approval Registration

All Gender Studies Majors and Minors are pre-approved for this Gateway Course. Every Gender Studies Major and Minor **MUST REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE ONCE A SEMESTER** in order to obtain pre-approved permission to register for Gender Studies Courses other than those specifically requesting Department Approval.

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### **GSC 10002/20002 Introduction to Feminist/Gender Theory**

**TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**Fulfills Introductory Course Requirement for Minors**

**Fulfills Theory Requirement for Majors**

**Jacquilyn Weeks/GSC**

This course surveys developments in contemporary feminist theory. Although many people assume that “feminism” refers to a single, stable ideology, we will see how second-wave feminist arguments about political voice and psychological development blossom into highly fragmented third-wave schools of thought. Feminists continue to argue extensively about how gender relates to power, economics, social interaction, sexuality, identity, and the environment. And because all good theoretical discussions need a fun test case, we’ll be using these competing theories to perform a close reading of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* season four. By the end of the course, we will be able to conduct an informed discussion about major feminist arguments and ask insightful questions like: “What does it mean to be a Prada clad-superhero(ine)?” “How does ecofeminism apply to Willow’s practice of witchcraft?” “What kind of conflict in masculinity is enacted by Spike as he negotiates life with a behavior modification chip?”

Tentatively, the course will be structured around two exams, one short paper, small homework assignments, and mini-quizzes.

### **GSC 20102 Theories of Sexual Difference**

**MWF 5:10 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Janet Kourany/PHIL**

An examination of the following questions: What kind of differences separate men and women? Are these differences natural or are they socially produced, and are these differences beneficial to us or are they limiting? Most important, what does equality mean for people characterized by such differences? These are the questions we shall pursue in this course, and we shall pursue them systematically, devoting attention even to the male/female sex difference itself and the current debates over intersexuals, transsexuals, and transgendered persons. Our goal will be to formulate a clear and well-justified philosophical outlook on sex/gender difference, drawing on work within the natural and social sciences as well as philosophy, and within such areas as feminist theory and men’s studies.

### **GSC 20178 Women in Islamic Societies**

**TR 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Majors**

**Asma Afsaruddin/MELC**

This course is a broad survey of women's and gender issues in various Islamic societies, with a focus on the Arab Middle East. The first half of the semester will concentrate on the historical position of women in Islamic societies, defined by the normative values of Islam and by cultural traditions and norms. We will discuss how the interpretations of these values in diverse circumstances and who gets to do the interpreting have had an

important impact on women's societal roles. The second half of the course will privilege women's voices and agency in articulating their gendered identities and roles in a number of pre-modern and modern Islamic societies. Our sources for discovering these voices are women's memoirs, fiction, magazine articles, and public speeches. We will also focus on how historical phenomena such as Western colonialism, nationalist liberation movements, civil and other forms of war have given rise to women's organized movements and a feminist socio-political consciousness in many cases.

**GSC 20466-02                      Marriage and the Family**

**MW 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Fulfills Social Science Requirement for Majors**

**Juliana Sobolewski/SOC**

The family is often agreed to be the primary and most fundamental of social institutions. It is within this institution that early socialization and care-giving usually take place, and therefore, many of our ideas about the world are closely tied to our families. This course will give students the opportunity to learn about the diverse forms the family has taken over time and across different groups. This knowledge will be useful in examining the ongoing debate about the place of the family in social life. By taking a sociological approach to learning about the family and by gaining knowledge about national family trends and patterns in the U.S., this course will give students the theoretical and empirical tools for understanding how family life is linked to the social structure, to economic, cultural, and historical events and transitions, and to societal factors like race, class, and gender.

**GSC 20466-04                      Marriage and the Family**

**MW 8:00 am – 9:15 am**

**Fulfills Social Science Requirement for Majors**

**Clint Elison/SOC**

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**GSC 20500                      Work and Desire in the Victorian Novel**

**MWF 1:55 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Sally Brooke Cameron/ENG**

This course will look at different representations of work and desire in a wide range of Victorian novels. Gender and sexuality studies will play a central role in our discussions of these novels and their representations of work and desire. We will, for example, consider the interconnections among constructions of masculinity and working men's collectives. And we will ask how heterosexuality and models of femininity inform representations of the division of labor and gendered separate spheres. Readings include novels by Elizabeth Gaskell (*North and South*), George Eliot (*Felix Holt the Radical*), William Morris (*News From Nowhere*), Oscar Wilde (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*), Isabella Ford (*On The Threshold*) and H. G. Wells (*Ann Veronica*). Course requirements include 2 papers (one 6-8 page paper and one 10-12 page research paper) and four short (2-page) response papers.

**GSC 20501 Mary in the Catholic Tradition**

**TR 9:30 am – 10:45 am**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Neil Roy/THEO**

A study of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, as her figure and role in the history of salvation emerge in Scripture and the Tradition of the Church. An examination of the Church's understanding of Mary as expressed in sacred and historical text, theological reflection, liturgical expression, iconographic representation, magisterial pronouncement, and the life of devotion. The course will also consider the relationship of Mariology to other branches of theology, such as protology, christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology, as well as the impact of the *cultus* of the Virgin Mary on western art, music, and literature.

**GSC 20502 From Bernard to Bernadette: The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception**

**TR 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Ann Astell/THEO**

On February 11, 2008, the Church observed the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparition of our Lady in Lourdes, France. To Saint Bernadette, the "beautiful lady" declared, "I am the Immaculate Conception," thus confirming the dogma promulgated shortly before by Pope Pius IX in 1854. This Marian dogma deserves serious study from multiple perspectives: its historical development as a contested belief, its relation to other dogmas (Original Sin, the Virgin Birth, Redemption, the Assumption), its liturgical expressions, its crucial link to the understanding of Christian marriage as a sacrament, its representations in visual art and poetry, its special significance for women, and its general importance to Christian anthropology, as well as its particular connection to Lourdes. The syllabus will include readings from all these perspectives, film sessions, and a class trip to the Lourdes grotto on Notre Dame's campus.

**GSC 20602 Pirates, Planters and Peasants: Caribbean Experiences in the Past**

**MW 11:45 am – 1:00 pm**

**Fulfills Social Science or Diversity Requirement for Majors**

**Mark Hauser/AFST**

The Caribbean is often depicted as a sea inhabited by pirates, filled with exotic islands, picturesque beaches and bucolic landscapes. What is often overlooked is the culture and history of the people who actually lived there. Who were the pirates of the Caribbean, why were the islands so important to European powers, and what were the effects of slavery? Focusing on Jamaica, Belize, and Barbados, this course charts the emergence of a multi-ethnic anglophone Caribbean through an examination of plantation colonies and the aftermath of slavery. Specifically it will focus on cultural encounters between Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans through a combination of ethnography, gender, history and archaeology.

**GSC 30255 Men and Women in Modern Japanese Literature**

**MW 11:45 am – 1:00 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Deborah Shamoon/LLEA**

In 20<sup>th</sup> century Japan, as old roles such as samurai and geisha waned, both men and women had to re-define the characteristics and meaning of masculinity and femininity. This course will look at constructions of gender in modern Japanese literature by both female and male authors. As we discuss both normative and deviant depictions of male and female roles, some topics we will address include: men and women at work and at war, marriage and family life, homosociality and homosexuality. We will also cover some of the major authors, genres, and literary movements of modern Japanese literature.

The primary goal of this class is to become familiar with major works of modern Japanese fiction, and to analyze those works in terms of feminist, queer, and gender theory. In addition to the primary texts, we will also read some short selections by prominent theorists in these fields. The secondary goal is to practice writing analytically about what you have read, and to learn how to incorporate critical theory into your writing.











**GSC 40503** **Film and Television Theory**

**TR 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm**

**GSC 41503 (Lab)**

**W 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Pamela Wojcik/FTT**

This course offers an introduction to the philosophical, aesthetic, cultural and historical issues that inform current scholarship and production in film and television, including auteurist, psychoanalytic, semiotic, and cultural studies approaches to film, with attention to cinema ideology, including issues of gender and sexuality.

**GSC 40504** **Contemporary Women Writers**

**TR 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Valerie Sayers/ENG**

We'll read, discuss, and write about a wide range of contemporary writing by women, with a particular concentration on the short story and the writers visiting Notre Dame's Women Writers Festival. Our readings will include realistic fiction as well as innovative and experimental work, including graphic fiction; some of our readings will focus on women's experiences and perspectives, but some will "make the leap" to imagine men's consciousness and reality. We'll also read critical essays and reflections by the writers themselves to situate the work within the history of women writers; we'll be especially interested in the publishing and critical realities facing women writers today. Reading journal, midterm and final, brief presentation, and 8-10 page critical paper.

**GSC 40555** **History of Sport and the Cold War**

**MW 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Majors**

**John Soares/HIST**

This course explores the ways that sport reflected the political, ideological, social, economic and military struggle known as the Cold War. Sport permitted opportunities to defeat hated rivals or to develop competition more peacefully. It reflected the internal politics and societies of nations, and also illuminated relations among allies. Using a variety of readings, media accounts and film clips, this course looks at a number of crucial teams, athletes and events from the Cold War, including the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team, the controversial 1972 Olympic basketball final, "ping pong diplomacy," Olympic boycotts, East German figure skater Katarina Witt, Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, the ferocious Soviet-Czechoslovakian hockey rivalry following the Soviet invasion of 1968, and more. The role of gender in the Cold War will be considered in the ways Communist societies sought to develop successful female athletes to bolster Communist claims to gender equality while enhancing the "sex appeal" of Communism among various Western constituencies. We will explore gender construction in the United States and other democracies in discourses idealizing "girl-next-door" Western athletes, and related criticisms of drug use, extreme training and the resultant "mannishness" of Communist bloc athletes which challenged the gender expectations of the mostly white male elites who wielded so much influence in Olympic sports.

**GSC 40556** **Gender, Sex and Colonization in Latin America**

**MW 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Majors**

**Karen Graubart/HIST**

In this seminar we will examine the historical construction of gendered roles in the Spanish colonial world. This will entail thinking about gender in the societies which "encountered" each other in the New World, and also thinking about how that encounter produced new forms of gendered relations. Among the questions we'll consider: how was the conquest gendered? How did colonial society produce masculinity as well as femininity? What gendered forms of power were available to women? How did ethnicity and caste, as well as gender,

determine people's sense of themselves and their "others"? The course will look at a mixture of primary and secondary materials, including letters and chronicles written by men and women, testimony before the Spanish Inquisition, poetry, and novels. While there are no prerequisites for this seminar, some familiarity with colonial Latin American history is recommended.

**GSC 40558 American Feminist Fiction**

**MW 11:45 am – 1:00 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Majors**

**Jacqueline Brogan/ENG**

In this course we will read a number of works, by both women and men, which may be described as feminist fiction. In so doing, we will raise issues about the relation of aesthetics to politics, about the process of canonization, and about aesthetic integrity. Ultimately, we will also be examining the place of women within American culture during the twentieth century - how it has changed, how it has remained the same. At the end of the course, students should feel that they have discovered a new body of exciting literature, as well as new ways of reading some of our best-known literature.

Texts: Kate Chopin, "The Awakening", Edith Wharton, "The Age of Innocence", Zora Neale Hurston, "Their Eyes Were Watching God", William Faulkner, "The Sound and the Fury", F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby", Alice Walker, "The Color Purple" and "The Temple of My Familiar"; Toni Morrison, "Sula" and "Song of Solomon"; possibly Elizabeth Dewberry Vaughn, "Many Things Have Happened Since He Died."

Requirements: Two papers, a mid-term, and a final examination (25% each).

**GSC 40559 Contemporary American Women Poets**

**MW 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Majors**

**Jacqueline Brogan/ENG**

Although the range and productivity of American women writers over the last two centuries has been enormous, the proliferation of extremely accomplished and important women writers has virtually mushroomed in the last few decades, embracing leading poets (such as Elizabeth Bishop and Adrienne Rich), leading novelists (such as Alice Walker, Joyce Carol Oates, and Toni Morrison) and altogether new voices such as the Chicana poet Lorna Dee Cervantes, the Asian-American novelist Amy Tan, and the Native-American Susan Power (to name only a few). To narrow the range of this explosive development in American literature, we will primarily focus on the work of women written in this country after WW II, with special interest on the last two decades. In addition to a small sampling of a number of different writers to be found in our class reader, we will ultimately focus on 7 writers: Elizabeth Bishop (poetry), Adrienne Rich (poetry and essays), June Jordan (poetry and essays), Amy Tan (fiction), Lorna Dee Cervantes (poetry), Susan Power (fiction), and Sandra Gilbert (poetry and essays). REQUIREMENTS: Students will be expected to participate in genuine class discussion, to develop a rationale for how to interpret these works (i.e., the most suitable critical perspective for given works or authors), and to do some external readings by and/or on one author of their choice for the final project. Written assignments will range from an occasional one-page response to the longer, final project, with two shorter papers in between. At the end of the course, I hope students will have been inspired by these writers to produce creative work of their own. If this is true, students' own creative work (if of high quality and if also clearly related to the themes of the course and the writers studied) can be substituted for one of the assignments.

TEXTS: Elizabeth Bishop, The Complete Poems, Adrienne Rich, An Atlas of the Difficult World and selected essays, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Emplumada, June Jordan, Naming Our Destiny and selected essays, Amy Tan, The Joy Luck Club, Susan Power, The Grass Dancer, Sandra Gilbert, Belongings and selected essays.



**GSC 43301 Seminar: Narratives of Modern Art**

**MW 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Kathleen Pyne/ARHI**

In this seminar we will examine several of the most engaging recent approaches to European and American art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The selected readings will explore a broad range of artists and topics in this field, and they will introduce us to the cultural theories of modernism that drive these art historical studies. We will focus especially on current debates about the role of gender in impressionist and modernist art; the roles of formalism and abstraction in modernist art; the relation between modern art and late capitalism; and theories of sexuality, primitivism, and the avant-garde.

**GSC 43651 Divorce and Remarriage**

**MW 11:45 am – 1:00 pm**

**Fulfills Social Science Requirement for Majors**

**Juliana Sobolewski/SOC**

This course describes the adversity and reorganization of family life through marital discord, divorce, non-marital births, single parenthood, remarriage, and economic hardship with a particular focus on how these processes affect children. Through weekly lectures, readings, and discussions, students will become familiar with current research and policy related to these topics. Students are strongly encouraged to take SOC 20342 prior to enrolling in this course.

**GSC 43652 Families, Employment and Their Interrelations with Gender**

**TR 9:30 am – 10:45 am**

**Fulfills Social Science Requirement for Majors**

**Joan Aldous/SOC**

The title of the course, which is cross-listed in Sociology and Gender Studies, is “Families, Employment, and Their Interrelations with Gender”. The purpose of the course is to look at how the two genders’ relations in the paid labor force are affecting family behaviors, and the reverse. The expectations we have learned from childhood, and the education we are receiving about the tasks men and women should do with respect to household and childcare affect the kind of jobs we look for.

The kinds of jobs people seek and obtain vary according to gender, even though women and men have the same education. Recently, however, women have been obtaining more education than men, but they still tend to go into jobs that pay less money and have fewer opportunities for promotions than those of men. Women continue to be the persons most involved in the household work and childcare. Thus, as we will learn, women with families tend to have less freedom and less opportunity to choose applying within a range of jobs, and women’s wages even within the same jobs tend to be less.

This course gives you the opportunity to discuss the assigned reading material and to see whether it applies to a woman and man job holder, each in a different partnership whom you will be interviewing for an interview report. This latter report will be based upon your initial study of the research that is done on some aspect of family life and paid work relations. The latter would include such programs as family leave, varying hours on the job, childcare opportunities, and flexibility of job requirements. All in all, the course can be a demanding one but one that also expands your perspectives on the interrelations of family life, employment requirements and opportunities as they are affected by gender.

**GSC 45001 Gender Studies Senior Internship**

**Department Approval Required**

**Fulfills Senior Capstone Project Requirement for Majors**

**Jacquilyn Weeks/GSC**

In collaboration with the Gender Studies internship advisor, students choose an organization or business in the South Bend area for which they serve as a non-paid intern. In addition to performing 6-8 hours of internship service per week for their chosen internship site, students write either a research paper which analyzes the roles

