
WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Director, Associate Professor *Sonja Thomas*

Appointments in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: *Associate Professors Lisa Arellano and Sonja Thomas; Assistant Professor Laura Fugikawa*

Program Faculty for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: *Professors Kimberly Besio (East Asian Studies), Lyn Mikel Brown (Education), Cedric Gael Bryant (English), Ben Fallaw (Latin American Studies), James Fleming (Science, Technology, and Society), Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (Sociology and African-American Studies), Jill Gordon (Philosophy), Paul Josephson (History), Mary Beth Mills (Anthropology), Laurie Osborne (English), Adrianna Paliyenko (French Studies), Nikky Singh (Religious Studies), Mark Tappan (Education), and Larissa Taylor (History); Associate Professors Dean Allbritton (Spanish), Lisa Arellano (American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies), Tarja Raag (Psychology), Anindyo Roy (English), Elizabeth Sagaser (English), Laura Saltz (American Studies), Betty Sasaki (Spanish), Katherine Stubbs (English), Sonja Thomas (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies), Andrea Tilden (Biology), and John Turner (History); Assistant Professors Laura Fugikawa (Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and American Studies) and Jay Sibara (English)*

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program is a feminist interdisciplinary program designed to acquaint students with scholarship on women, gender, sexuality, and feminist theory. The program mission is to teach students about the ways gender is culturally constructed and intersects with other systems of social difference such as race, caste, class, sexuality, religion, and ability.

A WGSS major graduates with a strong grounding in a variety of feminist research methodologies. Core courses train students in interdisciplinary methods and rigorous theoretical reading and writing. Students draw on courses in other programs and departments for training in empirical methods and for topical breadth. A WGSS major graduates having completed a program that is tailored to the student's developing interests. Our program's graduates are trained to think independently, courageously, and boldly about their own subjectivities and the world around them.

Requirements for the Major in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Twelve courses, including an introductory course (WGSS 201); a course in feminist theory (WGSS 311); a senior seminar (WGSS 493); and nine additional courses designated as WGSS courses or courses cross-listed under WGSS, at least two of which must be at the 300 or 400 level. Students may also petition the program director to have a non-listed course counted toward the major by demonstrating that the majority of their own course work is on WGSS topics.

Students may count toward fulfillment of the major requirements a maximum of one semester of independent study (WGSS 491 or 492) or four credits of Senior Scholars work (if approved by the WGSS coordinating committee).

The point scale for retention of the major applies to all courses taken toward fulfillment of the major. Courses counted toward the major may not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Honors in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Students majoring in WGSS may apply to participate in the honors program their senior year by submitting a formal statement of their intention to the WGSS coordinating committee by April 15 of their junior year. The written proposal must include a description of the proposed work, a timeline, and the agreement of a faculty sponsor and a secondary faculty reader. A 3.5 major average at the end of the junior year is a condition for entry into the program. By the beginning of the senior year, students must develop and circulate to the WGSS coordinating committee a prospectus for the project, written in consultation with the project's faculty advisor. A 3.50 major average at the end of the senior year and a public oral presentation of the project are conditions for successful completion of this program. Honors course credits do not count toward elective credits in the major. The final project will usually consist of 50 pages or more of superior quality.

Requirements for the Minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Six courses, including an introductory course (WGSS 201); a course in feminist theory (WGSS 311); and a senior seminar (WGSS 493); and three additional courses designated as WGSS courses or cross-listed under WGSS, at least two of which must be at the 300 or 400 level. No more than one semester of independent study (WGSS 491 or 492) may be counted toward fulfillment of the minor requirements.

The point scale for retention of the minor applies to all courses taken toward fulfillment of the minor. Courses counted toward the minor may not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Courses from Other Departments That May Be Applied to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major or Minor

Note: As course offerings change yearly, this list may not be comprehensive.

American Studies

- 342 Political Violence: American Cultures of Radicalism
- 375 Representing Difference in Visual Culture
- 397 Comparative Ethnic Studies

Anthropology

- 344 Black Radical Imagination
- 373 The Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality
- 397 Indigeneity and the Politics of Authenticity

Cinema Studies

- 215 The Image of Women and Men in American Film

East Asian Studies

- 251 Gender Politics in Chinese Drama and Film
- 278 Language and Gender

English

- 336 Early American Women Writers
- 369 Reading Race Now
- 412 Shakespeare (when appropriate)
- 413 Author Course (when appropriate)
- 413 Virginia Woolfe
- 422 Queer Theory and U.S. Literature and Cultures
- 493 Seminar (when appropriate)

French Studies

- 297 Indigenous Resistances to Petrocapitalism
- 358 Passionate Discontent: The 19th-Century Epidemic
- 379 Race, Gender, and Class in French Cinema and New Media

History

- 120B Spotlight on History: America's First Ladies
- 231 American Women's History, to 1870
- 232 American Women's History, 1870 to the Present
- 245 Science, Race, and Gender
- 313 Women in Medieval and Early Modern Europe
- 319 History of Sexuality and Disease in Premodern Europe
- 320 Joan of Arc: History, Legend, and Film
- 324 History of Gender and Sexuality in Antiquity

Philosophy

- 215 Feminist Philosophies
- 217 Feminism and Science

Religious Studies

- 257 Women in American Religion
- 275 Contemporary Witchcraft: Formalists, Feminists, and Free Spirits
- 312 South Asians and Global Literature, Film, Art, Environmentalism

Sociology

- 276 Sociology of Gender
- 344 Sociology of Sexualities
- 355 African-American Women and Social Change

Spanish

- 276 U.S. Latina/Chicana Women Writers
- 362 All about Almodóvar
- 364 Gender, Sex, and the Spanish Body
- 493 Seminar: Queer Spain

Course Offerings

[WG101] Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies An introduction to the interdisciplinary field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies, using classical and contemporary texts. An examination of the variety of feminist and queer theoretical approaches to understanding gendered and sexual lives in historical contexts. Previously listed as WG201. *Four credit hours.* **U.**

WG120f Gender and Film: Narrative Film, Resistance, and Revolt How is resistance imagined? Using feminist and queer film critique, this writing intensive course centers on narrative films that depict resistance and revolt. Through short essay assignments and group workshops, this course is designed to fine tune arguments, hone writing skills, and develop the critical analytical skills to write about gender and film within the film's socio-historical context. The course introduces key theories in feminist, race, and queer film theory film analysis. Weekly film viewings, course readings, and writing assignments are required. *Four credit hours.* **W1.** FUGIKAWA

WG201fs Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies An introduction to the interdisciplinary field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies, using classical and contemporary texts. An examination of the variety of feminist and queer theoretical approaches to understanding gendered and sexual lives in historical contexts. *Four credit hours.* **U.** FUGIKAWA, THOMAS

[WG211] Women in Myth and Fairy Tale How are women represented in the myths and fairy tales of U.S. cultures? What is the impact of these images on our selves and our societies? What are some alternatives to the images we are familiar with? How are women using myths and fairy tales to deconstruct oppressive images based on cultural stereotypes? These questions are explored through close examination of ancient and contemporary versions of the stories of Psyche, Beauty, and Inanna. American Indian stories and feminist fairy tales provide alternative images for discussion, as do various video versions of the stories. Normally offered every other year. *Three credit hours.* **L.**

WG223s Critical Race Feminisms and Tap Dance An introduction to critical race feminism and tap dance. Students will learn about the history of tap dance in the United States and abroad, black feminist thought, the concept of intersectionality, and the hypervisibility of raced bodies. Students will learn to perform and name basic tap skills and the "shim sham shimmy," a dance historically performed by African-American female tap dancers in Harlem; to perform a visual cultural analysis; to understand and think critically about concepts from critical race theory, black feminist thought, and feminist performance theory; and to know the history of tap dance and its significance to racial politics in the United States. *Four credit hours.* **A, U.** THOMAS

[WG225] Gender and Politicized Religion An analysis of gender, politicized religion, and secularism in a global context. We will look at justifications for patriarchal state practices that stem from particular interpretations of religious texts. We will explore feminist critiques of religious fundamentalisms, ways in which religion shapes gender roles, and international networking for both religious freedom and women's empowerment. Students will understand the concept of politicized religion in different nation-state contexts, locate how secularism is practiced differently based on particular religious, historical, and political contexts, and critically examine feminist activism globally. *Four credit hours.* **I.**

WG232s Queer Identities and Politics Discussion-based course considering central writers in queer studies, with an emphasis on historical and theoretical work on sex, gender, and sexuality. Topics include gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersexual, and queer political movement and theory; sexual identities and feminism; sexual identities and the law; alternative family practices; and queer theory in academia. *Four credit hours.* **U.** FUGIKAWA

WG276f Sociology of Gender Listed as Sociology 276. *Four credit hours.* **S, U.** HIKIDO

[WG293] Methods in American Studies Listed as American Studies 293. *Four credit hours.*

WG311f Feminist Theories and Methodologies Takes an interdisciplinary, intersectional, and progressively transnational approach to feminist theory of the past three decades. Equally premised in the convictions that the "personal is political" and "the political is gendered." Fosters critical consciousness of the many and varied ways in which sex, gender, and sexuality shape our daily lives. Taking seriously the challenges posed from within and outside feminism to acknowledge and grapple with the gaps between theory and practice born of the many and varied differences between and among women, we closely examine not only what Estelle Freedman terms the "historical case for feminism" but also the historical case for feminist theory. *Prerequisite:* Junior standing as a WGSS major or minor. *Four credit hours.* **U.** THOMAS

WG317f Boys to Men A focus on the thoughts, feelings, physical responses, life choices, and aspirations of boys and men. Explores, from an explicitly feminist and social justice perspective, how power, privilege, and difference shape boys' and men's lives, and how the

social construction and reproduction of masculinity differ based on sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, social class, and age. Particular attention to the problem of men's violence against women and other men. Students lead discussion groups with boys in local schools and after-school programs. *Four credit hours.* **U.** TAPPAN

[WG341] Gender and Human Rights Examines gender and human rights through articles in the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Focusing each week on a particular article of the declaration, we will examine feminist activism in the context of women's rights as human rights; question how, who, and what are protected by the declaration; and bring the particular into conversation with the universal. Students will understand the concept of universal human rights, analyze human rights abuses from multidisciplinary perspectives, and critically analyze feminist activism for social justice across local and global contexts. *Four credit hours.* **S, I.**

[WG342] Political Violence: American Cultures of Radicalism Focuses on the complex history of "revolutionary" American political behavior with emphasis on practices and representations of political violence. Draws together case studies of 20th-century radical and militant political movements and actors to engage the following questions: What is political violence? How and why do different periods and political visions produce different forms of political violence? How have these activists and organizations been represented within the broader context of U.S. political cultures and mythologies about American democracy? Examples include union violence, armed feminist resistant, black militancy, and radical land reclamation movements. *Prerequisite:* American Studies 171 or Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 201. *Four credit hours.* **U.**

[WG343] Native and Postcolonial Feminisms Covers many canonical postcolonial and indigenous feminist texts. While indigenous and postcolonial feminists share a gendered analysis of colonial practices, there are also inherent tensions between them wrought from the geographic and historic particularities of state formations. We will question how coloniality, decoloniality, and settler governance circulate (or not) between indigenous and postcolonial feminisms. How is decoloniality similar/different? What do these similarities/differences mean for transnational feminist organizing? What types of competing imaginaries are at play in decolonial futures? Previously listed as WG398 (Spring 2017). *Four credit hours.* **I.**

[WG344] Sociology of Sexualities Listed as Sociology 344. *Four credit hours.*

[WG345] South Asian Feminisms An examination of the history and trajectory of South Asian feminisms, including the colonial, nationalist, and post-colonial/contemporary periods. Topics include the history of religious communalisms, gendered citizenship and women's relationship to the state, violence against women, issues of caste and gender, militarism and borders, globalization and NGOs, and the South Asian diaspora in South Africa, the United States, and Canada. From examining key early texts to looking at South Asian feminisms now, an interdisciplinary approach is emphasized with particular attention to sexuality, caste, and class. Previously listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 397 (Fall 2018). *Four credit hours.* **I.**

[WG348] Race, Sex, and Violence in Popular Culture Listed as American Studies 348. *Four credit hours.* **U.**

WG483fj Senior Honors Project An independent research project on an approved topic, conducted in close consultation with a faculty tutor and culminating in a substantial written thesis. Students are responsible for selecting their faculty tutor and submitting their proposal by April 15 of their junior year. A 3.5 major average at the end of the senior year is a condition of successful completion of the program. *Prerequisite:* Senior standing, a 3.5 major average at the end of the junior year, and permission of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. *Three or four credit hours.* **FACULTY**

WG491f, 492s Independent Study Individual study of special problems in women's, gender, and sexuality studies in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. The instructor must be one of the faculty members in the program. *Prerequisite:* Women's, gender, and sexuality studies major or minor, permission of the instructor, and approval of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. *Three or four credit hours.* **FACULTY**

WG493s Seminar: Identity Formation, Social Movement, and Gender An examination of current debates about social and political identity in an effort to understand the terrain of these debates by examining (and in some cases forcing) conversations between and among projects that attempt to offer ways of thinking about the relationship between identity formation and social movements. Students will complete an independent project on a topic of their own choosing. *Prerequisite:* Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major or minor. *Four credit hours.* **THOMAS**