Colby

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Director, *Associate Professor Lisa Arellano*
Appointments in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*: Associate Professor Lisa Arellano; Assistant Professor Sonja Thomas*
Program Faculty for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*: Professors Teresa Arendell (Sociology), Debra Barbezat (Economics), Kimberly Besio (East Asian Studies), Jennifer Finney Boylan (English), Lyn Mikel Brown (Education), Cedric Gael Bryant (English), Debra Campbell (Religious Studies), James Fleming (Science, Technology, and Society), Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (Sociology and African-American Studies), Jill Gordon (Philosophy), Paul Josephson (History), Elizabeth Leonard (History), Phyllis Mannocchi (English), Mary Beth Mills (Anthropology), Jorge Olivares (Spanish), Laurie Osborne (English), Adrianna Paliyenko (French), Tamae Prindle (East Asian Studies), Nikky Singh (Religious Studies), Mark Tappan (Education), and Larissa Taylor (History); Associate Professors Lisa Arellano (American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies), Ben Fallaw (Latin American Studies), Tilar Mazzeo (English), Margaret McFadden (American Studies), Tarja Raag (Psychology), Anindyo Roy (English), Elizabeth Sagaser (English), Laura Saltz (American Studies), Betty Sasaki (Spanish), Katherine Stubbs (English), Andrea Tilden (Biology) and John Turner (History); Assistant Professors Dean Allbritton (Spanish), Emma García (Spanish), Emily Kugler (English), Bill Orchard (English), and Sonja Thomas (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies); Faculty Member without Rank Marilyn Pukkila (Library)*

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, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, 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 (typically WGSS 201); a course in feminist theory (typically WGSS 311); a senior seminar (typically 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 3.50 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 (typically WGSS 201); a course in feminist theory (typically WGSS 311); and a senior seminar (typically 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

- 115 The Image of Women and Men in American Film
- 275 Gender and Popular Culture
- 334 Film and Society: Films of the 1940s

Anthropology

- 373 The Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality

Economics

- 254 The Economics of Women, Men, and Work

Education

- 231 Teaching for Social Justice
- 332 Practicum in Girls' Development and Education

English

- 336 Early American Women Writers
- 348 Postcolonial Literature
- 412 Shakespeare (when appropriate)
- 413 Author Course (when appropriate)
- 429 Passionate Expression: Love, Sex, and Sexuality in Western Literature
- 493 Seminar (when appropriate)

French

- 358 Passionate Discontent: The 19th-Century Epidemic

History

- 231 American Women's History, to 1870
- 232 American Women's History, 1870 to the Present
- 245 Science, Race, and Gender
- 381 Women and Gender in Islam
- 413 Seminar: Joan of Arc: History, Legend, and Film

Philosophy

- 215 Feminist Philosophies
- 217 Feminism and Science

Psychology

- 352 Sex and Gender Seminar

Religious Studies

- 275 Contemporary Wicca: Formalists, Feminists, and Free Spirits
- 312 South Asian Women at the Crossroads: Tradition and Modernity

Sociology

- 276 Sociology of Gender
- 355 African-American Women and Social Change
- 375 Contemporary Family Relations: Mothers and Daughters

Spanish

- 276 U.S. Latina/Chicana Women Writers
- 493B Seminar: The Latina Body

Theater and Dance

- 349 Topics in Dramatic Literature (when appropriate)

Course Offerings

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** ARELLANO, 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**

WG217f Boys to Men An exploration of the thoughts, feelings, physical responses, life choices, and aspirations of boys and men throughout the life cycle as they act and interact with girls and women, with each other, and with the larger sociocultural context in which they live. From an explicit 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 work with boys and young men in schools and after-school programs. *Four credit hours.* **S, U** TAPPAN

WG232f 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** ARELLANO

[WG273] Sociology of Families Listed as Sociology 273. *Four credit hours.* **S**

WG275s Gender and Popular Culture Listed as American Studies 275. *Four credit hours.* **U** MCFADDEN

WG276s Sociology of Gender Listed as Sociology 276. *Four credit hours.* **S, U** MAYER

WG298s Global Perspectives on Politicized Religion and Gender By analyzing gender and politicized religion in a global context, we examine the complexities feminist activists face. Using various genres including documentaries, film, fiction, and academic articles, we pay close attention to feminist critiques of organized religion and the state, contemporary ways religion shapes domestic policy within national borders, and international networking for both religious freedom and women's rights across borders. Students will learn to understand the concept of politicized religion in a variety of national contexts and to examine critically feminist activism concerning the politicalization of religion in the modern world. *Four credit hours.* THOMAS

WG311f Topics in Feminist Theory: 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

[WG334] Film and Society: Films of the 1940s Listed as American Studies 334. *Four credit hours.* **U**

WG335f Girls Making Change: Girlhood, Activism, and Popular Culture Provides students with the opportunity to explore how dominant cultural constructions of girlhood and popular culture impact girls' sense of agency and their chosen forms of activism. We'll examine how girls accommodate, negotiate, and/or resist prevailing ideals of "girlhood," and we'll critically examine girl-defined activism, with particular attention to social networking and media production. We'll work together to create an on-campus action, participate in a current girl-driven movement via blogging, and apply feminist and developmental theories and approaches to an activist project with local girls. Previously offered as WG397. *Prerequisite:* Education 231 or 235, or Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 201. *Four credit hours.* **U** BROWN

WG375s Contemporary Family Relations: Mothers and Daughters Listed as Sociology 375. *Three credit hours.* **S, U** ARENDELL

[WG376] Queer Popular Cultures Listed as American Studies 376. *Four credit hours.* **U**

[WG393] Proseminar: American Masculinities Listed as American Studies 393A. *Prerequisite:* Junior standing as American studies major. *Four credit hours.* **U**

WG397Bf Gender and Human Rights Focusing on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, we examine what is meant by human rights and how, who, and what are protected by the declaration. Using documentaries, film, fiction, and academic articles, we

examine how ensuring human rights is complicated by race, religion, caste, nationality, sexuality, and gender. Attention to the complex nature of human rights as individuals intersect the environment, slavery, law, health care, genocide, education, marriage, and statelessness. Students will learn to understand human rights, analyze global human rights abuses from multidisciplinary perspectives, and analyze feminist activism for social justice across local and global contexts. *Prerequisite:* Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 201 or Anthroplogy 112. *Four credit hours.* THOMAS

WG483f, 484s 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

WG483Jj Senior Honors Project *Noncredit.* THOMAS

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.* **I** ARELLANO