Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies' Fall 2016 Course Offerings

Interdisciplinary Core Courses

WGS 101 Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
This course will cover an overview of the history of non-normative gender and sexual identities, the creation of LGBT identities, the political issues surrounding those identities (including cultural representation), and the actualities of living lives claiming LGBT identity. No previous knowledge of LGBT issues is required, and the prerequisite of WGS 101 can be waived. Gen. Ed. = Soc. Cont. & Inst., Cult. Div. & Int'l. (Nancy Lewis, TTH, 3:30-4:45, #8502) (900, Mary Okin, Web-based, #8503) Cr. 3.

WGS 103 (500) Introduction to LGBT Studies
An introduction to WGS Studies, to its perspectives, and to its interdisciplinary nature. Using several disciplines, the class will examine women's and men's positions in Western culture and will explore the genesis, the development, and the impact of our culture's assumptions about gender. General Ed. = Eth., Soc. Cont. & Inst., and Cult. Div. & Intl. (001, Jennie Woodward, MWF, 11:00-11:50, #8497) (002, Jennie Woodward, MWF, 9:00-9:50, #8498) (003, Heather Lakey, TTH, 9:30-10:45, #8499) (004, Rebecca White, TTH, 3:30-4:45, #8500) (005, Rebecca White, TTH, 2:00-3:15, #8501) (006, Arianna Sessions, MW, 3:00-4:15, #18529) (001, Nancy Lewis, TTH, 11-12:15, #8503) (900, Mary Okin, Web-based, #8504) Cr. 3.

WGS 201 (001) Topics in WGS: Social Movements/Media/Change
What is a “social movement”? What is considered “social media”? How do these intersect along lines of gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexuality and nation? Are Facebook, Twitter and Youtube transforming social movements? How does online activism translate into actual social change? This course addresses these exciting questions, drawing on interdisciplinary scholarship and working within a feminist framework. (Nicolette Litrell, TTH, 12:30-1:45, #8504) Cr. 3.

WGS 201 (990 & 501) Topics in WGS: Men and Masculinities in Society (Web-based)
In this course we will examine what it means to be a man in Western culture from multiple vantage points and look at the various ways in which masculinity is understood, represented, and constructed in society. The major themes that will be explored in the course are these: the social construction of gender; gender role stereotypes; privilege and power; the construction of masculinity and violence; men's health; men in the media; men in the working world and in family life; the socialization of boys; masculinities in sports; and the concept of hegemonic (dominant, normative) versus marginalized masculinities. (Mary Okin, Web-based #8505; WGS 501 #8588) Cr. 3.

WGS 250 (990) Women, Health, and the Environment (Web-based)
This course will explore the roles of women in shaping current practices and policies of the Western healthcare system and related environmental issues. It will draw on the work of environmentalists such as Rachel Carson and modern women healers of the body and the ecosystem. Students will be encouraged to be involved in transformational work at the local, personal, or more global level. Gen. Ed. = Pop. & Envir., Eth. (Sandra Haggard, Web-Based #9916) Cr. 3.

WGS 250 (860) Women and Music
Women have a rich and varied tradition as composers and performers. Although this tradition has been ignored in the past, it has recently become the focus of much research and scholarship throughout the world. This course will examine the lives and works of notable women composers and performers throughout history, from Hildegard von Bingen (12th century) to the present. Class sessions will include listening to a wide variety of music, both recorded and live. Gen. Ed. = Artistic & Creative Expression and Cultural Diversity & International Perspectives. WGS 101 or permission. (Laura Artesani, Monday, 8:30-9:30, #10619) Cr. 3.

WGS 270 (001) Native American Women
This course is an exploration of the American Indian women's lifestyles and social roles from a variety of tribal cultures. It will focus on the traditional and contemporary values and roles of American Indian women. A constant theme of this course will be the relevance of the past to the contemporary lives of Native Women. Additionally, the course will focus on the importance of the impact of Europeans on the life, customs and function of traditional societies and women's roles. WGS 101 or permission. Gen. Ed. = Soc. Cont. & Inst., Cult. Div. & Int'l. (Maureen Smith, MWF, 10:00-10:50, WGS 270 #10858; NAS 270 #10854) Cr. 3.

WGS 289 Directed Study in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Permission from the program director required. Call 581-1228 for an information sheet. (Section 001, #9175) Cr. 3.

WGS 301 (001) Intermediate Topics in WGS: Gender and Sports
This course will explore the relationship between gender and aspects sports culture, including team sports, the Olympics, fitness, health, and the body. Athletics, while a means of both entertainment and activity, also helps frame discourse around gender, race, and sexuality. In this course, we will also examine the notion of how sports create a space for mainstream discussion around challenging set norms and help drive social and political change. (Jennie Woodward, TTH, 2:00-3:15, #9410) Cr. 3.

WGS 301 (990) Intermediate Topics in WGS: Maine Women (Web-based)
This course will explore women's experiences in Maine, both historical and current, through a multidisciplinary approach including history, literature, political science, and economics. It will analyze Maine women individually and collectively as industrial workers, reformers, writers, politicians, and mothers. Several major questions: How have Maine's particular environment, culture, economy and history shaped women's experiences? How have social movements (for example abolitionism, temperance, suffrage, welfare reform, ERA) shaped women's lives in Maine? How have women responded to these issues and events? And how have issues of class, gender, and race/ethnicity played out in Maine? WGS101 or permission. Graduate level is WGS501 (991) (Jennifer Pickard, Web-Based, WGS #9411) Cr. 3

WGS 301 (991) Intermediate Topics in WGS: Rachel Carson, Maine, and the Environment (Web-based)
Rachel Carson stands as a seminal figure in the modern environmental movement with work spanning ecology, natural history, chemistry, and environmental ethics. In this course, students will examine Carson's writings and her work in various facets of Carson's life, focusing on her science writing, ethical and ecological engagement with the world around her, and public reactions to her work. The class will give careful attention to 'place' and the role 'place' plays in Carson's work. Students will have ample opportunity to pursue their own interests relating to Maine and Carson's work. Satisfies the general education requirements for Population and Environment and Writing Intensive. (Dan Soucier, Web-Based, WGS 301 #9412; MBS 501 #10907) Cr. 3.
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Interdisciplinary Core Courses (cont.)

WGS 401 (991) Advanced Topics in WGS: Fathering (Web-based)
This course will address research and social issues pertaining to the study of fatherhood in the family, particularly in the area of nonresident fathering in the context of families and relationships. Participants will be exposed to research on fatherhood, consider issues of fatherhood in the context of family theory, and research an area of scholarly interest in fatherhood studies. Cr. 5. (Patrick Cheek, Web-based, WGS 401 #9416; CHF 404 #)

WGS 401 (001) Advanced Topics in WGS: Author(iz)ing Diverse Sexualities
WGS 401 examines how contemporary writers from the US and abroad use literature (novels, short stories, and poetry) to discuss sexual politics, gender identity, and sexuality. One of the fundamental questions of the course will be “why literature?” Why, in other words, might writers choose literary texts rather than other written forms to authorize diverse ideas and attitudes about gender and sexuality. The course will draw on a transnational lens to explore commonalities and differences in how writers discuss these issues and will take into account how all of the texts we read are influenced by such factors as geographic location, cultural context, and globalization. (Elizabeth Neiman, MWF 11:00-11:50, WGS #9415; ) Cr. 3.

WGS 401 (860) Advanced Topics in WGS: Women Activists – Warriors for Peace & Justice
This course will examine the lives of a diverse group of women who were committed activists attempting to create change. We will examine the historical, social, and political circumstances that motivated these women to actively seek social transformation. Finally, we will look at some of what the current generation of feminists have to say about activism. The contributions of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells, Tillie Olsen, Theresa Malkiel, Rachel Carson, Angela Davis, Wilma Mankiller, Rigoberta Menchu, and Meena (among others) will be discussed. (Yvonne Thibodeau, T 5:30-6:50, WGS #9414; FAX 401 #10812; FAX 598 #10794) Cr. 3.

WGS 410 (001) Feminist, Gender & Queer Theory
An advanced, interdisciplinary, multicultural introduction to the main traditions of feminist and queer theory. General Education – Ethics. Prerequisites: 6 hours of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies courses including WGS 101, or permission. (Heather Lakey, TTh, 12:30-1:45, WGS #8507) Cr. 3.

WGS 498 Directed Study in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Jr/Sr. standing and permission from the program director required. (Mazie Hough, 11:00-12:15, Section 001, #8508) Cr. 3.

WGS 580 (001) Feminist Pedagogy and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Practicum
This course provides a history of WGS as an interdisciplinary, a survey of feminist teaching strategies, and the philosophies of education on which those strategies are based. A practicum applying the course material in a WGS class, in a departmental course, or possibly in a K-12 school or other workplace will be included. Permission required. Cr. 3. (Mazie Hough, TBA, #9653)

WGS 698 (001) Individualized Projects in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Permission required. (TBA, #9634) Cr. 3.

Departmental Electives in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

CHF 351 Topics in Family Studies: Human Sexuality
Sandy Caron, Web-Based, #8736

CHF 404 Topics in Family Studies: Conflict and Violence in Intimate Relations
Renate Klein, Web-Based, #10570

CHF 404 Topics in Family Studies: International Perspectives on Gender and Violence
Renate Klein, Web-Based, #10572

CHF 451 Topics in Family Studies: Family Relationships
Ian Cameron, (001) TTh, 12:30-1:45, #8747

CHF 452 Topics in Family Studies: Violence in the Family
Patrick Cheek, Web-Based, #8748

ENG 381 Themes in Literature: Women Writing the American West
Naomi Jacobs, TTh, 12:30-1:45, #11194

SOC 529 Sociology of Gender
Edie Elwood, Th, 5:30-6:20, #8834

For questions about the WGS courses, check the fall schedule of classes on MaineStreet or call 581-1228.
To request an accommodation, contact the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 581-2319.

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