

Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Fall 2021 Graduate Courses

362 Hatcher Hall • 578-4807 • wgs@lsu.edu • lsu.edu/wgs

To get a **Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Graduate Minor (12 credit hours)**, you need to take 6 hours at the 7000 level (choose two of these three: WGS 7150, WGS 7500 and WGS 7900) and 6 hours of WGS-approved electives that are listed as 4000 and above.

WGS COURSE OFFERINGS

WGS 4500.1 Contemporary Feminist Thought

This course is an introduction to contemporary feminist thought. It is self-led, student-directed, and will allow each enrolled student to cooperatively select materials they are interested in learning about relevant to the subject area, to explore them independently, and to share them with the small group we have assembled.

Sarah Becker

WGS 7150 Feminist Theories

What we do as scholars and teachers is inflected intellectually and institutionally by gender, race, and class. In this seminar, we will explore who and why that happens through an interdisciplinary analysis of a range of theories, including feminist, gender, race, and sexuality approaches. As an introduction to a history of these approaches, we will read in the first part of the seminar *No Permanent Wave: Recasting Histories of U.S. Feminism* (ed. Nancy Hewitt). The second and most substantial part of the seminar will be devoted to theories from the 2000s, such as *Colonize This!: Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism*; Ann Cvetkovich, *Depression, a Public Feeling*; Sara Ahmed, *Living a Feminist Life*, and Halberstam, *Trans*.

The course is discussion format and students will be responsible for preparing discussion questions. There will be three 4-page response papers; one final 15-20-page paper in which students have the opportunity to integrate some of the theories we've studied into analyzing a topic of their choice; they will give a presentation on this paper.

Kate Jensen

W 4:30pm- 7:20pm

Electives

CMST 7970 Rhetoric and Citizenship

This seminar takes citizenship as its focal object and traces the work it does as a modality for various regimes of domination and, potentially, transgression. Throughout the semester, we shall address several questions, including: To the extent that it has a stable definition, what is citizenship? What is the role of rhetoric in constituting norms of citizenship? In what ways does citizenship enable and constrain rhetorical agency? How do normative ideals of the citizen impact differently situated bodies and communities? Should those committed to a radical

project of liberation invest in citizenship or abandon it in favor of alternative vocabularies of belonging?

Bryan McCann

T 3:00pm-5:50pm

CMST 7971 Feminist Critique

This class is an examination of modern feminist theories and their deployment in the critique of communicative artifacts and texts. In this course, we will critically interrogate the commitments of various feminisms and examine the critiques of White US/European feminisms made by Black, trans, Chicana, postcolonial, decolonial, transnational, and queer feminist scholars. We will forefront intersectional and liberationist feminist theories and their vision of a feminist future. We undertake the task of a theoretical survey of feminist political theories for the purpose of learning how to read rhetorical and cultural texts from feminist orientations. We will emphasize how one might use feminist political theories as the basis for productive and rigorous rhetorical or cultural criticism, discuss how to recognize implicit rhetorical theories in feminist discourses, and examine which feminist approaches are appropriate for analyzing various kinds of texts, objects, or data. The course assumes a basic sympathy but welcomes critical engagement with the feminist goals of gender equity, self-determination, and gender freedom. We will also critically engage how these aims are complicated and challenged in the contexts of racism, settler colonialism, nationalism, and class-based exploitation.

Dr. Ashley Mack

M 3:30pm-6:20pm

Related Interest

EDCI 7129 Writing Seminar: From Idea to Manuscript

The focus of this class is to promote and encourage a significant writing project from germination to fruition – from idea to manuscript. It is open to all graduate students who have a substantial writing project to be considered but is specifically geared toward doctoral candidates. Whether you need to be focusing on a chapter, a prospectus, grants, a proposal, or a manuscript, this class offers the space, the support, and the tools to succeed.

Margaret-Mary Sulentic Dowell
(Selected Dates)

8:30am- 3:50pm

ENGL 7221.1 Topics in Critical Theory and Cultural Studies: Psychoanalyzing Gender

What does it mean to identify ourselves (or be identified as) feminine or masculine, straight or gay? What's our response when someone asks what "queer" means? Are our feelings, abilities, and ambitions dependent on whether we were designated women or men at birth? Can nurture outweigh nature? Are we able to change our identities? Do we want to? Do they change over time in ways we don't always

realize? How might intersectionality, culture, or historical period reflect and shape expectations for "appropriate" articulations of masculinity and femininity? We will consider responses to these and other questions by classical analysts such as Sigmund Freud and Frantz Fanon, as well as those by contemporary theorists such as Jessica Benjamin, Lee Edelman, Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, and José Muñoz.

Michelle A. Massé

M 12:30 - 3:20pm