

# Spring 2022 Graduate Courses

## [Core Courses]

### WST 600 - Feminist Interdisciplinary Histories and Methods

Lisa Diedrich

Mondays 1:00 - 3:50pm

Rather than begin with an exploration of “the” feminist methodology in Women’s and Gender Studies, or an account of “the” history of feminism, this course will explore what counts as “history,” as “method,” and as “evidence” in feminist scholarship. Since its emergence as a distinct knowledge project within the academy, feminism has raised questions about how we know what we know, who gets to speak and for whom, and what are legitimate fields of inquiry. Our goal will be to trace some of the ways in which feminist scholars have sought to intervene in debates about disciplinary as opposed to interdisciplinary forms of knowledge, objective as opposed to “situated” knowledge, evidence versus experience, history versus fiction, etc. A central part of the feminist project for many scholars has been an engagement in the self-reflexive questioning of the status, history, methods, and goals of feminist scholarship. This course will attempt to continue that practice. To that end, students are encouraged to engage with the material with their own projects in mind, and to use the course in order to be self-reflexive about the methods, materials, and theories they intend to use in their graduate and post-graduate work. In order to begin the self-reflexive (re)examination, we will turn to concepts such as “knowledge,” “rational,” “irrational,” “experience,” and “evidence.”

### WST 698 - Practicing Women's and Gender Studies

MaryJo Bona

Thursdays 1:15 - 4:05pm

The teaching practicum is designed for both graduate students in Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies and certificate students who anticipate teaching classes outside of, or in addition to, their disciplinary home. To prepare for this likelihood, we will spend several sessions working together to construct an introductory course syllabus in Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. We will work together to generate several special topics course titles and descriptions related to students’ research interests. Practicing Women’s Gender & Sexuality Studies explores three interconnected spaces—the classroom, the field, and the university. We will move from practical, even personal, tactics and strategies—what to do in the classroom—to (inter)disciplinary imperatives and institutional structures—how fields are imagined and universities organized. At the same time, we will consider broader questions about the university as an institution in the current moment, and the place of Women’s Studies within the contemporary university. Along with a consideration of the changing practices and objects of feminist knowledge production, we will also read about and discuss the changing politics and economics of academia, and the impact of the wider academic milieu on what and how knowledge is produced. We will ask: what has women’s studies been; what kinds of interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity are possible in women’s, gender and sexuality studies; and finally, what might the disciplinary field and its institutionalized locations as programs and departments become?

## [Department Electives]

### WST 512/602 - Social Perspectives on Feminist Theory - "Black Feminist Theory"

Crystal Fleming

Tuesdays 5:45 - 8:35pm

This course introduces students to the main currents of feminist social, political, and intellectual theory. It will explore theories and texts and the linkages between developing feminism and such fields as economics, sociology, history, and philosophy.

### WST 610 - Advanced Topics in Women's Studies - "Borders and Migration"

Nancy Hiemstra

Tuesdays 1:15 - 4:05 pm

This course approaches the study of borders and migration through an interdisciplinary range of theoretical and methodological frameworks, including feminist, queer, and de-colonial lenses, critical migration studies, security

studies, and critical geopolitics. We explore how the concept of national borders is tied to modern political and economic systems together with gendered, racialized, ableist, and sexualized ideas of identity and belonging; and we consider how borders can be made mobile and be embodied. The course also identifies policies enacted by states to control human mobility, assessing intended versus actual outcomes, including policies around asylum, labor, detention, deportation, and citizenship. We examine case studies around the world, aiming to get a sense of larger global patterns and normalized "best practices" for governing migration. Additionally, the course interrogates humanitarian and human rights approaches to international migration, the role of activists and scholars, and strategies for resistance/dissent.

## [WGSS-Related Electives]

### EGL 509 - Studies in Language and Linguistics: " Translation Studies"

Simone Brioni

In Person: Wednesdays 6:05 - 8:55pm

This module introduces how translation has been conceived and practiced throughout history, examining the work of various theorists and commentators including Jerome, Friedrich Schleiermacher, Eugene Nida and Lawrence Venuti. Students will explore how translation practices relate to and influence translation theory, and they will develop a sound understanding of key issues in translation studies including the relationship between translation and interpretation, original and translated text, author and translator, philological and cultural translation, language universals and language relativism, communicative and hermeneutic models of translation, source and target languages and cultures. Students will also acquire a good knowledge and practice of different types of translation – including interlingual, intralingual, and intersemiotic translation –, and grasp the ethical dilemmas that translating entails.

### EGL 606 - Period and Tradition: " The New Modernist Studies"

Celia Marshik

In Person: Tuesdays 1:15 - 4:05 p.m.

With the founding of the Modernist Studies Association and the launching of the journal *Modernism/modernity* in the 1990s, the New Modernist Studies began to take shape. One of the initial preoccupations of the field was to interrogate its central term—modernism—and instead of adopting a singular approach or line of argument, the NMS worked to globalize modernism, to synthesize analysis of multiple forms of media, and to recast itself as a field that takes up modernity writ large. While a great deal of energy animates the NMS, it has a significant instability at its core: how/whether to treat modernism as a coherent concept. Some scholars view the moment as one of questioning as opposed to theorizing modernism; others modify the term, using prefixes, qualifiers, or the plural to indicate that the modernism of Eliot and Pound has become multiple, interdisciplinary, and subject to revision. This course has three aims: 1) to introduce students to the New Modernist Studies through surveys of the field; 2) to revisit some of the key texts that lead the field in the direction it takes today; and 3) to read authors and texts that have only entered the "canon" (if we still have one), or are now read differently, in light of NMS scholarship.

### HIS 507 - Theme Seminars in Environment, Science and Health: " History and Politics of Science in Africa"

Shobana Shankar

In Person: Thursdays 5:45 - 8:40 p.m.

This course explores science as a contested and ambivalent terrain through the prism of African history. While Africa has represented "a living lab" for the West during the era of European colonialism and beyond, the continent's history also shows that the triumphant narrative of scientific progress has long been flawed and viewed with skepticism outside the West. Topics to be covered will include imperial science, the rise of research organizations and their complex roles in colonial and postcolonial Africa, scientific racism and eugenics, nuclear politics and the Cold War, ethics and human rights in scientific experimentation, and the politics of expertise. Written work will include weekly posts on reading, an historiographical essay, and a short research exercise based on primary sources.

### HIS 532 - Theme Seminar: Gender, Religion, and Modernity: "Race, Gender, Culture"

April Masten

In Person: Tuesdays 2:40 - 5:30 p.m.

This course interrogates the ways scholars have used the lens of culture to get at issues of race and gender. The production and reception of cultural traditions, objects, and practices are influenced by the color and sex of their producers and consumers. Many historians focus on one or the other, on black people's culture or women's culture, for example. We will examine the ways the study of culture (well-grounded in its historical context) can bring gender into the story of race and vice versa. Missing from the triad "Race, Gender, Culture" (and something we will also pay attention to) are, of course, class and generation (age). The meaning and significance of culture shifts when any of these personal and/or political attributes intersect and are taken into account. Course requirements will include reading a set of texts (history and theory) and writing a response paper before each class as well as participating in discussion each week. You will also write a final paper that explores a theme from the course using the texts we have read during the semester.

### MUS 541 - Topics in Cross-Cultural Study of Music: "BlaQueer Sounds: Queer Navigations in African-American Music"

Kevin Holt

In Person: Mondays 1:00 - 3:50 p.m.

This course will explore LGBTQ+ and gender non-normative contributors to African-American music history from the 1920s to today; essentially from the blues to hip-hop. We will also look at the (fairly abstract and fluid) concepts of blackness and black musicality over the past century using queerness as a theoretical frame.

### PHI 506 - Art and Its Problems - "Borderland Aesthetics"

Megan Craig

In Person: Tuesdays 1:15 - 4:05 p.m. (Class held at Brooklyn Commons)

A borderland is an ambiguous site of transition in between places. This seminar will focus on the works of three contemporary feminist theorists who occupied/occupy geographical and philosophical borderlands: Gloria Anzaldúa (1942 – 2004), María Lugones (1944 – 2020), and bell hooks (1952 – ). Although they come from different parts of the world and have distinctive voices and concerns, each of them writes from the perspective of displacement and marginalization. We will consider how their works relate to ongoing projects of critical phenomenology as we explore the differences and similarities between their conceptions of home, language, estrangement, playfulness, nature, plural identities, love, and writing. We will pay special attention to the aesthetic dimensions of their poetry and prose as they relate to the specific geographical and historical contexts of their lives and to their own writings about art and imagination. This is a writing intensive seminar.

### PSY 594 - Psychology of Gender

Marci Lobel

In Person: Tuesdays 11:30 - 12:50 p.m.

What is gender, what contributes to gender, and why does gender matter? This class examines how gender affects and is affected by behavior, biology, culture, social roles and relationships, cognition and perception, evolution, development, and other factors. We will investigate theory and research from various scholarly perspectives. During the latter portion of the course, we will examine some implications of gender for schools and education, advancement in math and science, sexuality, and health.