

Women's Studies Program Graduate Courses -- Spring 2010

WMS 510Z Indigenous Peoples/Sacred Land W 2:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Instructor: Roxanne Ornelas

Physical landmarks such as mountains and rivers hold essential spiritual meaning for many indigenous peoples. The integration of their belief systems into public policy and planning arenas can yield a greater understanding for their diverse social values and cultural differences. This class will examine U.S. and international policies on indigenous peoples, ethics in planning, case studies, literature, and documentary film, to better understand the importance of policy and planning decisions that are responsive to the needs of indigenous peoples in their efforts to protect their sacred lands.

WMS 535 Queer Theory M 4:10 – 6:50 p.m.

Instructor: Julie Minich

Over the past several decades, a growing body of theoretical scholarship on gender and sexuality has enriched our understanding of cultural texts and contexts. This course seeks to acquaint students with both classic texts and recent developments in the field of queer studies. Some of the questions we will ask include: How do cultural representations (in literature, film, and other media) replicate or challenge dominant discourses about sexuality and gender? How do our attitudes about pleasure influence our beliefs about “productive” citizenship, “healthy” psychology, and/or “normal” subjectivity? And how do ideologies of citizenship, selfhood, and subjectivity influence our understanding of the functions of pleasure, sex, and gender in culture? What is the connection between aesthetic representation and sexuality? How does gender influence the production and reception of texts? We will analyze a selection of novels and films, and students will be encouraged to use the theoretical insights taken from the class to further their own thinking about how discourses of gender and sexuality function within a variety of historical, cultural, and/or aesthetic traditions.

WMS 536 Women, Gender, and the Environment TR 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Instructor: Kimberly Medley

Seminar discussing literature on the role of women in their relationships with natural resources as advocates, practitioners, and scholars. Ideas on ecofeminism will be introduced from more-developed "north" and developing "south" perspectives, and then directed toward the study of gender and development, and participatory tools in gender analysis.

WMS 551 Family Violence TR 4:10 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.

Instructor: Carolyn Slotten

Analysis of research and theory on family violence, physical abuse of children, sexual abuse, neglect, premarital abuse, wife abuse, gay/lesbian battering, elder abuse, prevention and intervention. Historical, social, and patriarchal contexts will be examined.

WMS 563 Gender and Aging WF 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Instructor: C. Lee Harrington

Examination of how gender constructions shape the aging process, with particular focus on how various social, psychological, physical, and cultural factors affect men, women, and transgendered persons differently as they grow older.

WMS 602 Feminist Theory and Methodology MW 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Instructor: Ann Fuehrer

This graduate seminar investigates major research methods (empirical studies, case studies, ethnographies, rhetorical analysis, textual, and historical studies) as they are theorized and practiced within contemporary feminism. As an interdisciplinary project, feminist academic research includes work from psychology, sociology, literary studies, language, the arts, anthropology, philosophy, education, mathematics, political science, law, and the sciences. The seminar will highlight new ways in which research methodology and theories are informed by feminist analyses of institutional power, social difference, and the position of the researcher.

WMS 640 Family, Sex, and Marriage in Victorian and Neo-Victorian Literature R 1:00–3:40p.m.

Instructor: Mary Jean Corbett

For over three decades, feminist theorists have analyzed what Gayle Rubin memorably termed “the traffic in women” as, in Luce Irigaray’s words, “the law that orders our society.” Instituting exogamy, mandating heterosexuality, proscribing homosexuality, even founding the binary divisions of gender itself, this anthropological model of how nature becomes culture is currently undergoing sustained critique within feminist theory from a variety of perspectives. In this course we will explore the historical grounding of this model, its 19th-century contexts, and recent feminist and poststructuralist efforts to rethink its central components. As a way of focusing our inquiry, we will consider representations of “incest”—here defined as sex or marriage among members of “the family,” itself an historically variable construction—in fiction by Austen, Martineau, and the Brontës from the first half of the 19th century. We will also read 20th-century novels by Woolf, Byatt, and Waters that not only queer 19th-century sexual, marital, and familial practices, but also critique normative conceptions of the 19th century by discovering and/or inventing alternative readings of some entrenched paradigms.

WMS 660 Gender and Sexuality in British and Irish Modernism T 4:30–7:10 p.m.

Instructor: Madelyn Detloff

This course examines the articulation of discourses, norms, and counterdiscourses about gender and sexuality in British and Irish literature from the 1890s through the 1940s. We will analyze the changing roles of women and men in the early years of the 20th century, as well as a growing public and professional fascination with sexuality as evidenced in the emergence of psychoanalysis, sexology, legal discourses, and 'high' as well as popular cultural productions. Among the authors we will discuss are Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Siegfried Sassoon, D.H. Lawrence, Jean Rhys, T.S. Eliot, E.M. Forster, Bryher, Stephen Spender, and W.B. Yeats.

WMS 790G Gender, Sexuality, and Education W 4:30 – 7:00

Instructor: Lisa Weems

Interdisciplinary seminar on globalization, girlhood, and educational issues.