Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies

Chair
  • Leslie A. Schwalm

Director, Graduate Studies
  • Miriam Thaggert

Director, Undergraduate Studies
  • Mary Ann Rasmussen

Undergraduate majors: gender, women's, and sexuality studies (B.A.); social justice (B.A.)
Undergraduate minors: gender, health, and healthcare equity; gender, women's, and sexuality studies; social justice
Graduate certificate: gender, women's, and sexuality studies

Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/gwss/people
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/gwss/

Gender, women's, and sexuality studies (GWSS) is an interdisciplinary field that promotes social justice and full citizenship by asking when and how gender intersects with sexuality, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, globalization, and physical ability in ways that can exclude and oppress but that also can enrich cultures and expand opportunities. GWSS trains students to investigate how gender and sexuality shape challenges people face in areas such as the environment, culture and the media, education, health, violence, and the economy. Critical thinking and analysis and development of expertise in writing, research, and presentation provide the program's graduates with the professional skills they will need to pursue careers or graduate study in a wide variety of fields or academic disciplines.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Majors
  • Major in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (Bachelor of Arts)
  • Major in Social Justice (Bachelor of Arts)

Minors
  • Minor in Gender, Health, and Healthcare Equity
  • Minor in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies
  • Minor in Social Justice

Graduate Program of Study

Certificate
  • Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies

Courses

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Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Courses

GWSS:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

GWSS:1001 Introduction to Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies 3 s.h.
Introduction to feminist interdisciplinary study of women's lives, with emphasis on race, class, sexual orientation; work, family, culture, political and social change. GE: Values and Culture.

GWSS:1002 Diversity and Power in the U.S. 3 s.h.
How the intersection of gender, race, class affects individual experience, national ideology, social institutions; interdisciplinary perspective. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

GWSS:1003 Introduction to Social Justice 3 s.h.
Introduction to principles and theories of social justice; students examine the history of influential social movements in the United States and the world in the last century; how intersectionality can create tensions between and among members of social movements; how race, class, gender, age, geography, and our bodies play a role in the application of theories of social justice. Same as SJUS:1001.

GWSS:1005 Topics in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies 3 s.h.

GWSS:1046 Big Ideas: People and the Environment - Technology, Culture, and Social Justice 3 s.h.
How resources, commodities, people, and ideas cross borders; examination of globalization through issues of technology, social justice, environment; perspectives from anthropology, gender studies, geography, energy science, and development. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as ANTH:1046, GEOG:1046.

GWSS:1060 Sex and Popular Culture in America 3 s.h.
Critical and historical introduction to representation of human sexuality in American popular culture from World War II to the present. GE: Values and Culture. Same as AMST:1060, ENGL:1410.

GWSS:1070 Asian American Women Writers 3 s.h.
Introduction to major Asian American women writers of 20th and 21st centuries; construction of gender within Asian American communities and diverse experiences of Asians in America; novels, short stories, memoirs, films, and historical and critical texts.

GWSS:1074 Inequality in American Sport 3 s.h.
Cultural meanings of sport in contemporary U.S. culture; American dream as promoted, challenged in sport; sport experiences, inclusion, and exclusion as affected by gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, social class, age, physical ability/disability, and nationalism. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as AMST:1074, SPST:1074.
GWSS:1100 Contraception Across Time and Cultures 3 s.h.
Methods and history of contraception and abortion; issues of unwanted pregnancy and birth control in fiction, film, and media around the world. Same as CLSA:1100, GHS:1100, GRMN:1100, WLLC:1100.

GWSS:1310 Gender and Society 3-4 s.h.
Role and status of women in society; sex differences, sex role socialization, theories about origin and maintenance of sexual inequalities, changes in social life cycle of women, implications for social institutions and processes; focus on contemporary United States. GE: Values and Culture. Same as SOC:1310.

GWSS:1600 Wonder Woman Unleashed: A Hero for Our Times 3 s.h.
Development of the woman warrior archetype in mythology (Athena/Minerva and Artemis/Diana), literature (Camilla from The Aeneid by Virgil), and history (Artemisia and Joan of Arc); focus on the development of Amazon narratives in Metamorphoses by Ovid, The Book of the City of Ladies by Christine de Pizan, and On Famous Women by Boccaccio; students read Wonder Woman Chronicles and one or two critical studies on the subject, which may include The Secret History of Wonder Woman by Jill Lepore. Same as CL:1600.

GWSS:2000 Desire, Consent, and Sex in U.S. Culture(s): Replacing Coercion and Violence with Respect 3 s.h.
Exploration of desire, sex, consent, and sexual violence in practical and theoretical dimensions; recent demands by students to change the way sexual violence is addressed; theory and sources from popular media; lectures by scholars, activists, and professionals; sexual violence, rape culture, and sexuality-based oppression confronted with academic/therapeutic/political knowledge; real world strategies to help better understand and combat sexual violence, theories. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Same as RHET:2031.

GWSS:2041 Gender, Communication, and Culture 3 s.h.
Social construction of gender and gendered identities across a range of communicative settings in contemporary U.S. society, including relationships, schools, organizations, media, and social movements; how communication creates, reproduces, sustains, and sometimes challenges and changes the meaning of gender and, with that, cultural structures and practices. Same as COMM:2041.

GWSS:2045 Working for Social Justice 1-3 s.h.
Identification and pursuit of careers in a wide range of fields where people advocate for and engage issues of social justice; writing self-assessments, résumés, sample employment application letters, statements of purpose; development of e-portfolios that highlight areas of student research and expertise; mock interview practice; Pomerantz Career Center resources; interviewing professionals in careers focused on social justice and feminist issues; local internship and volunteer possibilities; national and international educational and career opportunities for making a difference in the world.

GWSS:2052 Women in Islam and the Middle East 3 s.h.
Women in the Islamic community and in non-Muslim Middle Eastern cultures; early rise of Islam to modern times; references to women in the Qur'an and Sunnah, stories from Islamic history; women and gender issues. GE: International and Global Issues; Values and Culture. Same as RELS:2852.

GWSS:2055 Persuasion and Advocacy 3 s.h.
History of women's rhetoric in the West and ways in which these approaches can be adapted to modern demands; strategies of prominent women rhetors analyzed from antiquity to present; how our own historical moment constrains, shapes, and enables women's public speaking and writing today; projects that take advantage of multimodal presentation platforms and apply insights from class to causes of interest to UI students; enables students from all disciplinary and professional backgrounds to improve persuasive skills relevant to their careers. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Same as RHET:2055.

GWSS:2075 Gender, Sexuality, and Media 3 s.h.
Mediated representations of gender and sexuality (television, film, and internet) to understand how these complex and complicated codes influence meaning of sex, sexuality, and gender; contemporary and historical examples used to engage texts that illuminate cultural conceptions of femininity, masculinity, heterosexuality, and homosexuality; cases that confuse and trouble the stability of these categories. Same as COMM:2075.

GWSS:2078 Women, Sport, and Culture 3 s.h.
Feminist analysis of girls' and women's sports experiences, including reproduction of gender through sport, recent changes in women's intercollegiate athletics, media representations of women's sport, feminist critiques, alternatives to sport. Same as SPST:2078.

GWSS:2080 The Cultural Politics of HIV-AIDS 3 s.h.
Complex historical shifts in cultural perceptions about HIV-AIDS in the U.S. and transnationally; controversies around HIV-AIDS and their links with questions of gender and sexuality; how HIV-AIDS subsequently became the basis of a transnational industry comprising nongovernmental organizations, donors, and activists across the global north and south, starting from 1980s in the U.S. when HIV-AIDS first emerged into public sphere as a gay disease; link between HIV-AIDS and ideologies of development or progress, neocolonialism, and emergence of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ) movements in many parts of world. Recommendations: background in gender studies, and completion of rhetoric or at least one social sciences course. Same as GHS:2080.

GWSS:2102 Anthropology of Marriage and Family 3 s.h.
Classic anthropological theories of kinship and marriage, including topics such as cousin marriage and incest; recent work on new reproductive technologies and transnational marriage. Same as ANTH:2102.

GWSS:2108 Gendering India 3 s.h.
Aspects of Indian culture, including nation, family, sexuality, work, and religion, through the lens of gender; Hindu India, differences in region, caste, and class. Same as ANTH:2108.

GWSS:2110 Diversity in American Religious History: Experimenting with Gender and Sexuality 3 s.h.
Introduction to select popular, alternative, and communal religious groups from the 19th and 20th centuries that have challenged society's norms for gender and sexuality. Same as HIST:2210, RELS:2110.

GWSS:2120 Gender and Technology 3 s.h.
Study of the technology field as it relates to gender in global perspective; core topics may include gender and STEM fields, gender in technology workplaces, and gender in the design and use of technological products such as mobile technology, artificial intelligence, and video games. Same as ANTH:2120.
GWSS:2151 Global Migration in the Contemporary World 3 s.h.
Examination of social, economic, and cultural dimensions of global migration in the contemporary world from a transnational and anthropological perspective; primary focus is on Asian migration to the United States, but in comparison to other migration trajectories. Recommendations: an introductory course in cultural anthropology is useful, but not required. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as ANTH:2151, IS:2151.

GWSS:2172 The History of African American Women from Slavery to Freedom 3 s.h.
Survey of African American women’s history from its beginnings through emancipation and Reconstruction; expansion of slavery in the South and its gendered implications, ways black women influenced ante-bellum slave culture, female modes of resistance, abolition of slavery in the North, and ways Northern emancipation shaped black women’s experiences in the region; development of a free black community and black women’s roles in these new social configurations; African American female body under slavery; impact of war and revolution on African American women’s lives; black women’s experiences during Reconstruction.

GWSS:2190 Love Rules: Law and the Family Across Cultures 3 s.h.
Recent debates over legalizing gay marriage remind us that the law is not an abstract concept, it is a social creation that emphasizes certain cultural norms over others, both powerful and changeable; family law outlines what one cultural vision of relationships—those between lovers, parent and child, and between kin—supposedly should look like in a given society, a vision always marked by gendered, racial, and sexual divisions of power; students consider what happens when legal norms intersect with diverse ways that people make families through topics including marriage, divorce, custody, and surrogacy across the world. Same as ANTH:2190, IS:2190.

GWSS:2193 Literature, Culture, and Women 3 s.h.
English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: Varies by semester. Same as ENGL:2193.

The high ideals of America’s founding documents assert that “All men are created equal” with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; however, these ideals have been compromised and contested throughout the nation’s history—certain groups have been less equal in the eyes of the law and society than others; students explore and critically engage how understandings of race and ethnicity have informed notions of identity, citizenship, and rights as experienced by Native Americans, African Americans, Asians, European immigrants, Hispanics, and whites. Same as SJUS:2200.

GWSS:2222 Women in Premodern East Asian Literature 3 s.h.
Reading of East Asian literature portraying women from the first millennium B.C.E. through the 1800s; discussion of issues related to representations of women and conventional social, familial roles in premodern China, Korea, and Japan; cross-cultural comparison of different perceptions and portrayals of women in premodern East Asian literary traditions. Taught in English. Recommendations: completion of all ESL courses. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as ASIA:2222, CL:2222.

GWSS:2250 The History of Social Justice Movements 3 s.h.
History of contemporary social movements in the U.S. and how these movements have directly affected policies related to environment, food, reproductive justice, civil rights, immigration, labor, race, and gender; students read, explore, discuss, and write about the history of contemporary social movements in the U.S. that had lasting effects on policies related to environment, agriculture, health, reproductive justice, civil rights, labor, race, gender, and immigration; exploration of multiple modes of representation and resistance including protests, boycotts, strikes, music, art, writing, riots, civil disobedience, theater, poetry, dance, and poetry. Same as HIST:2250, SJUS:2250.

GWSS:2400 Health Disparities and Intersectionality with U.S. Latina/o Peoples 3 s.h.
Exploration of intersectionality (related to gender, immigration status, and more) and U.S. health disparities, particularly as they impact U.S. Latina/o peoples; Latina/o as a heterogeneous group, originating from a variety of countries, with families that may have mixed immigration, education, class, and/or nationality status; public health approaches and concepts; intersectionality, social determinants of health, the Social Ecological Model, Ecocultural Theory, and Critical Race Theory; examination of various levels of racism, sexism, and other forms of intersectional discrimination. Same as CPH:2240, LATS:2400.

GWSS:2500 Love, War, Activism: Stories About Women from Across the World 3 s.h.
Literary and cinematic representations of gender in works by authors and directors from the Global South; development of historical and cultural lines of inquiry to examine artistic representations of love, sexuality, friendship, and parenting; shifts in gender identities and relations that result from social and political crises. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:2570, SJUS:2500.

GWSS:2571 Visualizing Human Rights 3 s.h.
Cinematic representations of human rights issues in films by directors from the Global South; development of historical and cultural lines of inquiry to examine artistic representations of race relations in colonial and postcolonial societies; public health issues, specifically women’s and children’s rights in context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:2571, SJUS:2571.

GWSS:2600 Men, Masculinity, Identity, and Health 3 s.h.
Impact of male gender roles, masculine identity, and biology on men’s health throughout the life course; focus on description, causes, and possible solutions for health related disparities for men in general and for men of color; concepts including machismo, caballerismo, John Henryism, Man Points, hegemonic, and other gender roles related to promoting and reducing quality of health and well-being of U.S. males.

GWSS:2650 Global Reproduction 3 s.h.
History of birth control and work of activists and organizations that emerged to promote it; troubling connections that spawned between reproductive rights and population control movements.
GWSS:2651 Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World 3 s.h.
Survey of gender and sexuality issues in the social, political, and religious life of ancient Greece and Rome; evidence from literature, the visual arts, archaeology. Requirements: completion of GE CLAS Core Rhetoric and sophomore standing. GE: Values and Culture. Same as CLSA:2651.

GWSS:2700 Transgender People, Politics, and Cultures 3 s.h.
How people live across and beyond social differentiation of sex and gender; how practices of identity building and political resistance transform or negotiate with social structures of gender, race, and class; burgeoning field of transgender studies which pushes to interrogate some fundamental aspects of human societies and question how supposedly "natural" categories of sex and gender are constructed and transformed; exploration of lives, politics, and subcultures of people who differ from gender norms in the United States and across the world; how transgender cultures and politics negotiate with structures of race and class. Recommendations: background in gender studies or social sciences.

GWSS:2771 Sexual Ethics 3 s.h.
Introduction to religion and ethics; diverse secular, Jewish, and Christian perspectives on human sexuality and sexual activity; religious views underlying divergent attitudes toward same-gender sexuality and abortion. Same as RELS:2771.

GWSS:2800 African American Women, Health, Hair, and Sexuality 3 s.h.
From the exotic to the erotic, African American women’s bodies have been constructed to fulfill a variety of personal and cultural fantasies as well as social functions that are “killing us softly”; how cultural icons and myths of black women—Jezebel, Mammy, Tragic Mulatto, Aunt Jemima, Sapphire, Matriarch, Welfare Queen, and more recently, the overachieving black woman—shape and create restrictions of bodies have been constructed to fulfill a variety of personal and cultural fantasies as well as social functions that are “killing us softly”; how cultural icons and myths of black women—Jezebel, Mammy, Tragic Mulatto, Aunt Jemima, Sapphire, Matriarch, Welfare Queen, and more recently, the overachieving black woman—shape and create restrictions and visions of the self that contribute to health disparities; engaging black feminist/womanist theory to explore how larger images influence everyday acts of self-care and pleasure, such as hair and sexuality, on the health of African American women. Same as AFAM:2800.

GWSS:2900 Love, Sex, and Money: Sexuality and Exchange Across Cultures 3 s.h.
Everything from pop songs to advertisements warn us of the evils of gold diggers, “blingsexuals,” or “buyfriends”; in America, money is seen to corrupt the purity and authenticity of love and desire, but money also is an inevitable part of sex, love, and intimacy; cross-cultural examination of how relationships between love, money, and sexuality are organized in different places; different ways people form relationships with lovers, spouses, and persons who enable childbearing; rethinking gender roles, work, value, and power. Same as ANTH:2191.

GWSS:3005 Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies Practicum 3-4 s.h.
Experience in volunteer work for organizations that provide services for women. Prerequisites: GWSS:1001.

GWSS:3010 Transnational Sexualities 3 s.h.
How ideas about normative and nonnormative sexuality, gender/sexual identities, and related social movements travel across geographical, political, and cultural boundaries; potentials and limits of using conceptual frameworks (i.e., sexuality, gender, LGBT, queer) across the west and global south; how sexuality always intersects with race, class, nationhood, and transnational systems of power; power structures that shape gender/sexuality through a transnational approach; connection of inequalities within the United States with those across the world. Same as GHS:3015.

GWSS:3050 Topics in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies 1-3 s.h.
Representative topics: American Indian/First Nations Women; population and the environment; feminism and the family; women, health, and healing; women of color.

GWSS:3100 LGBTQ/Queer Studies 3 s.h.
Overview of queer theory and queer studies; development of critical thinking skills in relation to cultural constructions of gender, sexuality, race, and other identity categories.

GWSS:3101 Anthropology of Sexuality 3 s.h.
Practice, definition, and regulation of sex in different cultures and times; use of anthropological tools, including cross-cultural comparison and social constructionist analysis; how social and historical forces shape sex; how a range of topics relate to sexuality, including science, love, work, globalization, ethnicity, health, aging, pornography, and deviance; focus on ways that dynamics (i.e., class, race, gender norms) shape people’s culturally and historically specific ways of having and thinking about sex. Same as ANTH:3101.

GWSS:3118 Politics of Reproduction 3 s.h.
Debates over women’s reproductive experience, including its medicalization. Same as ANTH:3118.

GWSS:3121 Love, Marriage, and Family in India 3 s.h.
Anthropological understandings of love in India and the region of South Asia more broadly; emphasis on contemporary society; filial and motherly love, arranged marriage and romantic love, devotional and artistic expressions, love between siblings. Same as ANTH:3121.

GWSS:3131 Gender and Sexuality in Asia 3 s.h.
Conceptions of sex, gender, and sexuality in the religions of China, Korea, and Japan; asceticism and celibacy; sexual alchemy; the difference between male and female bodies and souls; intersexed persons; female saints and immortals; transgressive sexuality; gender and sexuality in colonial Asia; East Asian religions and postcolonial feminism. Same as RELS:3431.

GWSS:3138 Writing to Change the World 3 s.h.
Writers who can frame questions, weigh competing perspectives, structure an argument, and write with clarity and respect for diverse audiences as powerful agents for change; writers who have inspired human rights movements; public forms of writing with local organizations whose missions are shaped by social attitudes to gender and sexuality; how language, imagery, popular culture, and history affect perceptions of gender and sexuality; conducting research and evaluation of evidence; best practices for communicating and collaborating; skills needed to be an effective advocate. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Same as RHET:3138, SJUS:3138.

GWSS:3154 Sexuality in the United States 3 s.h.
GWSS:3157 Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights  3 s.h.
History of gender and sexuality as components in international human rights activism and law; current debates, representative topics. Same as HIST:3157.

GWSS:3173 Gender, Sexuality, and Literature  3 s.h.
Representations of gender, class, and sexuality in British, American, or postcolonial literature. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3173.

GWSS:3177 Women and Their Bodies in Health and Illness  3 s.h.
Basic facts about structure and functioning of female body; particular attention to adjustments the body makes during normal physiological events (menstruation, sexuality, reproduction, menopause) and during illness processes; women's mental and physical health issues in relation to women's lives and roles in society; relationship of women as consumers, practitioners, and activists to health system; achievements and limitations of women's health movements; anti-oppression, intersectionalities, and cross-cultural perspectives. Same as NURS:3739.

GWSS:3185 Global Women's Cinema  3 s.h.
Introduction to contemporary women's cinema and feminist filmmaking from around the world; emphasis on post-1968 period and cinema produced outside the United States. Same as WLLC:3185.

GWSS:3190 Tell Magazine Writing and Publishing Workshop  3 s.h.
Students serve as editorial, writing, and production staff for Tell, the Department of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies' digital magazine; Tell explores issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, national identity, and other differences of power and privilege often absent in mainstream publications; students learn technical aspects of digital publication management, write their own stories and columns for the magazine and its ongoing blog, create digital and graphic materials, organize outreach events and manage social media outlets for the magazine, and work as editors and collaborative partners with one another and with writers and artists who submit work for publication. Requirements: gender, women's, and sexuality studies or social justice major or advanced minor.

GWSS:3200 Theories for Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies  3 s.h.
Historical and contemporary theoretical approaches to the study of gender and sexuality; emphasis on interdisciplinary methods of analysis and interpretation.

GWSS:3266 Women and Nonfiction  3 s.h.
Issues of representation and self-representation by and about women through the study of documentary film and personal essay; focus on paired texts in literature and cinema for analysis and critical reflection; development along historical and transnational lines of inquiry to explore literary and cinematic depictions of racial and cultural identity; motherhood, friendship, and the family; women during wartime, violence against women, domestic and industrial women's work. Requirements: junior or senior standing.

GWSS:3280 Women and Power in U.S. History Through the Civil War  3 s.h.
Exploration of how women, as political actors, shaped the outcome of familiar events (the American Revolution, the Civil War); how they organized social movements around important issues of their lives such as the abolition of slavery and the right to consent to sexual intimacy; how women's inequality was established in law and social practice; how women thought about and challenged inequality, both as individuals and in social movements. Same as HIST:3280.

GWSS:3282 Women and Power in U.S. History Since the Civil War  3 s.h.
Major events and themes in U.S. women's history from late 19th century to present; how women's experiences have differed from men's; exploration of distinct, but interconnected histories of different groups of women; changing ideals of femininity; women's experience of industrialization, immigration, depression, war, and sexual revolution; women's activism for social reform, women's rights, labor, civil rights, peace, and the New Right. Same as HIST:3282.

GWSS:3300 Mothers and Motherhood  3 s.h.
Treatment of motherhood; role of motherhood and devaluation of social status. Same as ANTH:3300.

GWSS:3326 The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality  3 s.h.
How nonprofit sector increasingly plays a significant role in countering socioeconomic inequalities in the United States and global south; role of nonprofit organizations in relation to governmental policies of development, transnational funders, and ideas of sexual progress; critics of development institutions' arguments that western ideas of progress impose and adversely affect groups they claim to empower, yet also may foster struggles for social justice that go beyond development policy; examination of transnational nonprofit sector in relation to gender/sexuality and how it impacts women and gender/sexual minorities around the world. Recommendations: background in gender studies or social sciences. Same as GHS:3327.

GWSS:3350 Transnational Feminism  3 s.h.
Exploration of feminist perspectives from the United States and outside of the United States; how geopolitics shapes understanding of familiar feminist issues (e.g., reproduction, cultural practices, sexualities, poverty); emphasis on global south regions and populations. Same as ANTH:3125, IS:3350.

GWSS:3375 Women and Poverty  3 s.h.
Examination of women's experiences of poverty in the U.S.; scholarship that seeks to better understand the complex intersections of gender and class, with specific emphasis on poverty; students meet and interact with professionals working in Iowa, addressing poverty and related issues, and engage in an ongoing dialogue about the causes, consequences, and possible solutions to poverty in communities and beyond; course work and discussions focus specifically on unique challenges women encounter as they navigate their way through and/or out of poverty using an intersectional approach.
GWSS:3400 Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies
Advocacy and Engagement Colloquium
1-3 s.h.
How to capitalize on volunteer experience; how experience can lead to careers in health care, law, advocacy, social work, social justice, education; issues related to domestic violence, community education, sexual assault; health care for women, youth, and LGBTQ populations; health care inequities, social justice; field journal. Recommendations: active volunteer work at feminist-centered organizations in Iowa, completion of 40-hour training, plan to serve organization for up to ten or more hours each month, and attendance at regularly scheduled volunteer meetings. Same as SJUS:3400.

GWSS:3421 Performing Autobiography
3 s.h.
Write and perform original pieces stemming from personal experiences and interests; readings and videos; genre of contemporary autobiographical performance as established artists have developed it; improvisational performance and writing exercises to foster deeper reflection on personal experiences; final staging of students' original work. Recommendations: RHET:1030. Same as THTR:3421.

GWSS:3425 Women, Crime, and Justice
3 s.h.
Overview of women's experiences with crime and criminal justice system, with reference to experiences of men for purposes of comparison; role of race, ethnicity, and poverty in women's experiences; causes of crime, inequalities in police-citizen interactions, imprisonment, and other aspects of criminal justice system experience. Same as CRIM:3425.

GWSS:3430 Women on Stage
3 s.h.
Examination of how and why women in the United States have expressed themselves through theatre and performance from 1776 to present; students study plays as performed events in specific times and places for specific audiences through works by African American, Asian American, European American, Latina, Native American, and lesbian/queer writers; what the theater—as a public, embodied art form—offers female writers; how stakes differ for women of diverse backgrounds in using this often suspect and uniquely powerful medium in particular historical moments; how changing definitions of gender and sexuality come into play; prior background in theatre not required. Same as AMST:3430, THTR:3430.

GWSS:3450 Writing About Girls
3 s.h.
Examination of a wide range of critical and creative works by contemporary women writers on girlhood; common use of the word "girls" to describe adult women; representations of girls in film and television; role of media in sexualization of girls; impact of gender, race, and class in girls' lives; nature of girls' relationships with one another; ways in which girlhood traumas can continue into adult life; contemporary issues of body image and sexuality (e.g., pressures to be thin, disparagement of sexually active girl as "slut"); poverty, hunger, and homelessness; resistance and rebellion. Same as ENGL:3820.

GWSS:3459 Black Activists in 19th-Century United States: History and Digital Humanities
3 s.h.
From the 1830s through the end of the 19th century, African Americans formed local, state, and national meetings called "Colored Conventions," where they strategized about how to achieve social justice; students explore Iowa's connections to this history of political activism.

GWSS:3460 Girls' Studies
3 s.h.
Introduction to the interdisciplinary field of girls' studies; examination of social constructions of girlhood with focus on contemporary girls in the U.S. and globally; media and popular culture representations of girls; girl culture and psychology; girls' lived experiences of sexism, racism, classism, and homophobia; topics include body, sexuality and identity, education, differences of race, class and nationality, and forms of girls' political activism.

GWSS:3525 Gender, Race, and Citizenship in North and South America
3 s.h.
Interaction between race, gender, and citizenship throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries in North and South America; comparative study of how men and women engaged in the practice of citizenship; analysis of primary sources and identification of similarities and differences in gender norms and race; how these factors influence the rights, duties, and obligations of citizenship across time and location. Same as HIST:3125.

GWSS:3550 Social Justice, Religion, and Spirituality: Faith and Belief Ignited
3 s.h.
Examination of some distinctively American traditions of religion, spirituality, and social justice, including women and men who have channeled their religio-spiritual beliefs into social justice in their communities; historical and anthropological focus; examination of U.S. movements (e.g., the Catholic Worker movement, the United Farm Workers movement, the civil rights movement, iterations of the feminist movement); direct involvement with the communities. Same as RELS:3550, SJUS:3550.

GWSS:3570 Transnational and Postcolonial Writing by Women
3 s.h.
English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as CL:3570, ENGL:3570.

GWSS:3600 Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice
3 s.h.
Issues related specifically to gender, women's, and sexuality studies through the arts; themes include broad social issues such as violence, sexual assault, incarceration, reproduction, immigration, and labor; students explore a theme and work with community partners to address the theme through social practice in the arts. Recommendations: prior courses in gender, women's, and sexuality studies, or courses in social work, art education, or studio arts.

GWSS:3610 Writing in the Presence of Death: Rhetoric, Narrative, and Hospice
3 s.h.
Role of rhetoric in health care practice, decisions, and ethics; rhetorical production of patient and professional selves in health care; varied practices, diverse perspectives, and situated production of medical and health care knowledge. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Requirements: satisfactory completion of GE CLAS Core Rhetoric. Same as ASP:3610, RHET:3610.
GWSS:3650 Freedom, Democracy, and Revolution  3 s.h.
Investigation of the relationship between freedom, democracy, and revolution in American history; beginning with primary founding documents that grew out of the American Revolution, students explore the ideological and concrete expressions of these ideas, particularly as they affect race and gender; meaning, significance, and boundaries of revolution; space between slavery and freedom; considerations of women’s inclusion in the body politic; relationship between political and economic democracy; and questions about whose voices should define the terms of the debate.

GWSS:3700 Narratives of Gender and Masculinity  3 s.h.
Engaging with and deconstructing the stories men and women tell about what it means to be a man in the 21st century; topics may include cultural differences in the construction of gender and masculinities; queer masculinities; masculinity and social justice movements (especially feminism); history of the present moment in masculinity, masculinity from a non-binary perspective, literary representations of masculinities, and masculinity in mass culture. Requirements: completion of GE CLAS Core Rhetoric. Same as RHET:3150.

GWSS:3710 African American Women Writers  3 s.h.
Introduction to major African American women authors of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries; major debates of black feminist literary scholarship; analyze African American literary representations by reading novels, poetry, short stories, plays, relevant historical and critical texts. Same as AFAM:3710.

GWSS:3750 Born in the USA: Fertility and Reproduction  3 s.h.
Exploration of when, why, how, and with whom Americans bear children; comparison to other developed and developing countries in the world; infertility and its treatments; ethics of surrogacy; voluntary childlessness; rapid rise of nonmarital childbearing in the U.S. and other countries; politics of childbirth; declining populations; rapid aging of rich where women have basically stopped having children. Same as SOC:3750.

GWSS:3950 Academic Internship  1-3 s.h.
Work under supervision of a faculty member on a scholarly or creative project related to the department or campus, or with the director of undergraduate studies as a media, digital publishing, or teaching intern; students receive credit for the internship depending on the number of hours they work, learning objectives they develop, and meetings, written reports, and other research-related or self-evaluative writing they contract to do with the supervising faculty member. Prerequisites: GWSS:1001 or SJUS:1001. Requirements: gender, women’s, and sexuality studies or social justice major or minor. Same as SJUS:3950.

GWSS:3990 Independent Readings and Research in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies  arr.

GWSS:4000 Sex/Text: Engendering the Essay  3 s.h.
Analyze and discuss significant essays that have engaged and articulated sexuality and gender in contemporary societies, in the U.S. as well as other cultures; students write and workshop on these topics: bodies are battlegrounds, gender is convoluted, sex is serious; gender and sexuality are emotionally charged, politically volatile, and socially complex issues. Recommendations: major or minor in writing-intensive disciplines, or previous writing classes.

GWSS:4026 French Women Writers  3-4 s.h.
Survey of 20th-century French women writers with emphasis on Simone de Beauvoir; broad range of literary works by writers including de Beauvoir, Colette, Marguerite Yourcenar, Nathalie Sarraute, Marguerite Duras, Sarah Kofman, Annie Ernaux, Christiane Rachefort; French feminist theorists who followed in de Beauvoir’s footsteps, including Helene Cixous, Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray. Taught in English. Prerequisites: FREN:3060 and FREN:3300. Requirements: for 4 s.h. option—FREN:3060 and FREN:3300. Same as FREN:4026.

GWSS:4050 Introduction to the Capstone Research Project  1 s.h.
Opportunity to plan and begin work capstone senior research projects in gender, women's, and sexuality studies and social justice; capstone project builds on course work, knowledge, and academic skills, activism and engagement in the community, and personal experiences and interests; topics include how to choose a subject area and focus, develop key questions, define a problem, find and use sources, identify research archives, employ different methodologies and forms of writing, and link research to creative work. Prerequisites: GWSS:1001 and GWSS:1002.

GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar  3 s.h.
Design and development of individual creative or scholarly projects in the field of gender, women's and sexuality studies; emphasis on strengthening students' research and writing skills; synthesizing and extending work already completed in the major. Prerequisites: GWSS:1001 and GWSS:4050. Requirements: two women's studies courses numbered above GWSS:1001.

GWSS:4095 Honors Senior Thesis  arr.
Supervised research, writing. Requirements: honors standing and completion of course work for minor in women's studies.

GWSS:4140 Feminist Activism and Global Health  3 s.h.
How female gender intersects with culture, environment, and political economy to shape health and illness; reproductive health, violence, drug use, cancer; readings in anthropology, public health. Prerequisites: ANTH:1101. Same as ANTH:4140, CBH:4140, GHS:4140.

GWSS:4169 Feminist Rhetorics  3 s.h.
GWSS:4180 Women’s Lives in Alternative Texts 3 s.h.
Work of contemporary comics creators; how they craft memoir-based texts that explore intersections of aging, sexuality, race, gender, and relationships. Same as INTM:4780.

GWSS:4427 Society and Gender in Europe 1200-1789 3 s.h.
Social and gender ideologies as inscribed in patterns of authority (household, church, state); ranges of human endeavor (intellectual, psychological, biological); community organization (social, economic, legal, sexual); their influence on concept of community. Same as HIST:4427.

GWSS:4540 Gender and Sexuality in French Cinema 3-4 s.h.
Cultural, historical, semiotic approach to studying construction of gender identity and sexual codes in French cinema from 1920s to present. Taught in English. Same as FREN:4540.

GWSS:4725 Women and Gender in African History 3 s.h.
Importance of female agency in African history; African women’s history in historiographical framework of women’s history, challenges historians face in exploring African women’s past; varied sources (e.g., novels, films, court records) from sub-Saharan Africa, urban and rural settings; current literature on African women, African women’s experiences in a comparative context. Same as HIST:4725.

GWSS:4820 Sociology of Sexuality 3 s.h.
Sociological perspectives on sexuality, including theoretical and conceptual developments, empirical regularities, and social implications; sexual expression in the United States. Prerequisites: SOC:1010 or SOC:1020. Same as SOC:4820.

GWSS:5000 Foundations for Feminist Inquiry I 3 s.h.
Theory, critique, methodology, practice.

GWSS:5120 Reading Transnational Feminist Theory 3 s.h.
Issues in transnational feminist scholarship, including colonialism, globalization, the nation-state, religion, cultural traditions, and human rights, in global and U.S. domestic contexts; interdisciplinary readings with focus on anthropology, other social sciences. Same as ANTH:5120.

GWSS:6050 Topics in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies 3 s.h.
Special topics in women's studies.

GWSS:6125 Seminar: Feminist Ethnography 3 s.h.
Feminist critiques of traditional ethnographies; informed by contemporary feminisms. Same as ANTH:6125.

GWSS:6345 New Materialisms 3 s.h.
Exploration of new strategies for rupturing persistent dichotomies of subject/object, representation/real, culture/nature, and active humans/passive things offered by theories of the vitality and agency of matter; introduction to origins of and developments in new materialisms; oriented to interdisciplinary inquiry and application to research in the humanities, broadly conceived; particular attention to actor-network theory, feminism, queer theory, infrastructuralism, and materialist theories of media. Same as COMM:6345.

GWSS:6650 Gender and Religion 3 s.h.
What contemporary religious and spiritual groups and their members believe about sex, sexuality, and gender; how they define and redefine what it means to be a “man” and a “woman”; exploration of contemporary “conservative” and “progressive” cosmologies and theologies; developing beliefs that construct these perspectives and the impact on individual and group practices; broader implications of individual and group beliefs and practices on national and global policies. Same as RELS:6650.

GWSS:7205 Gender and Race in Nineteenth-Century U.S. 3 s.h.
Same as AFAM:7205, HIST:7205.

GWSS:7214 Readings: African American Women's History 3 s.h.
Same as AFAM:7214, HIST:7214.

GWSS:7220 Readings: History of Sexuality 3 s.h.
History of sexuality within the family, its move into the marketplace; social customs and taboos, methods of birth control and abortion, religion, medical and psychological writings, state policies. Same as HIST:7220.
GWSS:7275 Readings in the History of Women and Gender in the U.S.A. 3 s.h.  
Same as HIST:7275.

GWSS:7289 Readings: Gender in Latin American History 3 s.h.  
Same as HIST:7589.

GWSS:7400 Graduate Research Conference Presentation 1 s.h.  
Presentation of conference paper based on current research activities; for students pursuing the Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies. Requirements: gender, women's, and sexuality studies graduate certificate standing.

GWSS:7435 Readings: Women, Men, and Gender in Modern Europe 3 s.h.  
Same as HIST:7435.

GWSS:7920 Innovative Methods in Pedagogy: Radical Feminist Pedagogy 3 s.h.  
Readings in history, theory, and practice of pedagogical innovations appropriate to composition instruction and other interdisciplinary teaching; project-based assignments that produce materials appropriate for classroom use. Same as RHET:7920.

Social Justice Courses

SJUS:1001 Introduction to Social Justice 3 s.h.  
Introduction to principles and theories of social justice; students examine the history of influential social movements in the United States and the world in the last century; how intersectionality can create tensions between and among members of social movements; how race, class, gender, age, geography, and our bodies play a role in the application of theories of social justice. Same as GWSS:1003.

The high ideals of America's founding documents assert that "All men are created equal" with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; however, these ideals have been compromised and contested throughout the nation's history—certain groups have been less equal in the eyes of the law and society than others: students explore and critically engage how understandings of race and ethnicity have informed notions of identity, citizenship, and rights as experienced by Native Americans, African Americans, Asians, European immigrants, Hispanics, and whites. Same as GWSS:2200.

SJUS:2250 The History of Social Justice Movements 3 s.h.  
The history of contemporary social movements in the U.S. and how these movements have directly affected policies related to environment, food, reproductive justice, civil rights, immigration, labor, race, and gender; students read, explore, discuss, and write about the history of contemporary social movements in the U.S. that had lasting effects on policies related to environment, agriculture, health, reproductive justice, civil rights, labor, race, gender, and immigration; exploration of multiple modes of representation and resistance including protests, boycotts, strikes, music, art, writing, riots, civil disobedience, theater, poetry, dance, and poetry. Same as GWSS:2250, HIST:2250.

SJUS:2500 Love, War, Activism: Stories About Women from Across the World 3 s.h.  
Literary and cinematic representations of gender in works by authors and directors from the Global South; development of historical and cultural lines of inquiry to examine artistic representations of love, sexuality, friendship, and parenting; shifts in gender identities and relations that result from social and political crises. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area or/and period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:2570, GWSS:2500.

SJUS:2571 Visualizing Human Rights 3 s.h.  
Cinematic representations of human rights issues in films by directors from the Global South; development of historical and cultural lines of inquiry to examine artistic representations of race relations in colonial and postcolonial societies; public health issues, specifically women's and children's rights in context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:2571, GWSS:2571.

SJUS:3130 Blacks and Jews: History, Imagination, and Cultural Interactions 3 s.h.  
Exploration of relationship between Blacks and Jews in the United States—often thought of as natural allies in the fight for social justice—from a historical and cultural perspective; Blacks and Jews as individual groups and as groups in interaction with one another within the dominant Anglo-Christian society as they struggled for inclusion and equity; emphasis on examination of these two minority groups, each of which has played a significant role in shaping American culture and identity, from the vantage point of key historical moments in which their interests converged as well as diverged.

SJUS:3138 Writing to Change the World 3 s.h.  
Writers who can frame questions, weigh competing perspectives, structure an argument, and write with clarity and respect for diverse audiences as powerful agents for change; writers who have inspired human rights movements; public forms of writing with local organizations whose missions are shaped by social attitudes to gender and sexuality; how language, imagery, popular culture, and history affect perceptions of gender and sexuality; conducting research and evaluation of evidence; best practices for communicating and collaborating; skills needed to be an effective advocate. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Same as GWSS:3138, RHET:3138.

SJUS:3250 Literature and Social Justice 3 s.h.  
How literature from various time periods, both American and global, has enacted, represented, depicted, or encouraged forms and acts of social justice; students study various genres (e.g., essay, poem, autobiography, short story, fiction) and learn how literature has been used to conceptualize social justice, address national and global inequities, and take up complex and intersecting issues of power and privilege.
SJUS:3400 Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies
Advocacy and Engagement Colloquium  1-3  s.h.
How to capitalize on volunteer experience; how experience can lead to careers in health care, law, advocacy, social work, social justice, education; issues related to domestic violence, community education, sexual assault; health care for women, youth, and LGBTQ populations; health care inequities, social justice; field journal. Recommendations: active volunteer work at feminist-centered organizations in Iowa, completion of 40-hour training, plan to serve organization for up to ten or more hours each month, and attendance at regularly scheduled volunteer meetings. Same as GWSS:3400.

SJUS:3510 Topics in Social Justice  3  s.h.
Students deep dive into a specific topic that invites research and debate about the ways cultures understand social justice—human rights in relation to gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, generations, class religion, species, and environment.

SJUS:3550 Social Justice, Religion, and Spirituality: Faith and Belief Ignited  3  s.h.
Examination of some distinctively American traditions of religion, spirituality, and social justice, including women and men who have channeled their religio-spiritual beliefs into social justice in their communities; historical and anthropological focus; examination of U.S. movements (e.g., the Catholic Worker movement, the United Farm Workers movement, the civil rights movement, iterations of the feminist movement); direct involvement with the communities. Same as GWSS:3550, RELS:3550.

SJUS:3950 Academic Internship  1-3  s.h.
Work under supervision of a faculty member on a scholarly or creative project related to the department or campus, or work with the director of undergraduate studies as a media, digital publishing, or teaching intern; students receive credit for the internship depending on the number of hours they work, learning objectives they develop, and meetings, written reports, and other research-related or self-evaluative writing they contract to do with the supervising faculty member. Prerequisites: GWSS:1001 or SJUS:1001. Requirements: gender, women's, and sexuality studies or social justice major or minor. Same as GWSS:3950.

SJUS:4080 Advocacy and Engagement Capstone  3  s.h.
Design and development of individual creative or scholarly projects in the field of social justice; emphasis on strengthening student's research and writing skills; synthesizing and extending work already completed in the social justice major. Prerequisites: SJUS:1001 and GWSS:1002 and GWSS:3138 and PHIL:1034 and SOC:2810.