

Fall 2024

Courses in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWS)

GWS interrogates the beliefs, attitudes, assumptions, and norms about gender, women, and sexuality, and how they intersect with other axes like race, ability, nationality, and class. GWS students are strong critical thinkers who address issues of power and inequity, offering creative solutions to pressing problems of social injustice. GWS alums enter a broad range of careers in law, advocacy and activism, policy analysis, politics and political organizing, social work, nonprofits, education, healthcare, and arts and culture.

COURSES OFFERED BY THE GWS PROGRAM:

SEX, GENDER, AND POWER

GWS 2421-101, Instructor: Rebecca Lambert (lambertrj1@appstate.edu), TR 9:30-10:45
 GWS 2421-102, Instructor: Rebecca Lambert (lambertrj1@appstate.edu), TR 11:00-12:15
 GWS 2421-103, Instructor: Rebecca Lambert (lambertrj1@appstate.edu), TR 12:30-1:45
 GWS 2421-105, Instructor: TBD (gws@appstate.edu), MWF 9:00-9:50
 GWS 2421-104/401, Instructor: Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu), MW 2:00-3:15

This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to the critical study of sex, gender, and power in historical and contemporary contexts. It utilizes an intersectional approach that considers how gender, race, sexuality, disability, class, and other axes of identity are interrelated. This course is the introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies.

GWS 2421 fulfills a Gen Ed requirement for the "Intersections: Race, Class and Gender" ILE and is a requirement for the GWS major and the minors in GWS and Girls' Studies. It is also an elective for the minor in LGBT Studies.

INTRODUCTION TO LGBT STUDIES

GWS 2600-101/401, Instructor: TBD (gws@appstate.edu), MWF 10:00-10:50
 GWS 2600-102, Instructor: TBD (gws@appstate.edu), MWF 11:00-11:50

This course will provide a multi-disciplinary introduction to the study of historical, cultural, political, and theoretical issues relevant to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and communities and their allies.

GWS 2600 is a requirement for the GWS major and the minor in LGBT studies. It is also an elective for the minor in Girls' Studies.

FEMINIST THEORIES

GWS 3000-101, Instructor: Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu), MW 3:30-4:45

This course surveys a wide range of contemporary theories of gender, sex, sexuality, and inequality. Students will engage intersectional and transnational approaches to feminist theorizing and develop a critical framework for questioning assumptions about sex, gender, and sexuality.

GWS 3000 is a requirement for the GWS minor and the GWS major, where it fulfills the WID requirement for Gen Ed (Prerequisite: RC 2001 or its equivalent). It is an elective for the minors in Girls' Studies and LGBT Studies.

CLASSICS IN FEMINIST THOUGHT AND ACTION: FEMINIST ACTIVISMS

GWS 3050-101, Instructor: Rebecca Lambert (lambertrj1@appstate.edu), W 5:00-7:30

This course explores figures and ideas in feminism, key moments of feminist action, and offers an opportunity for in-depth study of important feminist texts. This semester will focus feminist organizing and activism. It will interrogate what counts as feminist; ask how different organizations have used feminist principles; and investigate how activism has emerged from feminist frameworks while working against various forms of injustice and oppression. Students will read and think about the variety of feminisms that have shaped organizing practices across different contexts and consider what a rearticulation of feminism may look like when we think about radical feminist transformative practices in the contemporary moment. In exploring relationships between feminist theories and practice, students are encouraged to vision and practice a variety of feminist activisms. In doing so, the course will pay attention to the politics of (dis)comfort in feminist organizing.

GWS 3050 fulfills an intermediate course requirement for the GWS major. It is an elective for the GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies minors.

New class!

BLACK FEMINISM AND WOMANISM: LIFTING AS WE CLIMB

GWS 3530-101, Instructor: Shawn Ricks (ricksa@appstate.edu), TR 2:00-3:15

In her 1983 definition of "Womanist" from *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*, Alice Walker defines "A black feminist or feminist of color" as "Serious" at the same time that she "Loves love. . . Loves the Folk. . . Loves herself." A womanist, Walker continues, "loves other women" while being "Committed to survival and wholeness of entire people," no matter their genders. She concludes that "Womanist is to feminist as purple is to lavender." This course examines Black feminism and womanism through work like this—attending to Black feminists' major theoretical interventions, like intersectionality, and Black feminist community practices, like solidarity, self-care, and love.

GWS 3530 fulfills an intermediate course requirement for the GWS major. It is an elective for the GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies minors.

TRANSNATIONAL TOPICS IN GENDER, WOMEN'S AND SEXUALITY STUDIES / CAPSTONE IN TRANSNATIONAL TOPICS IN GENDER, WOMEN'S AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

GWS 4300-101/4301-101, Instructor: Belinda Walzer (walzerbl@appstate.edu), T 5:00-7:30 (Hybrid)

This course is a study of transnational feminist engagements with empire, globalization, and diaspora; this semester focuses on gender and human rights. In 1995, more than fifty thousand people gathered in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Thirty miles away, in Hairou, the Non-Governmental Organization Forum also met to discuss women's rights as human rights. Since, the development of women's rights as human rights has been both vast and disappointing. This course examines international human rights through the lens of transnational feminist studies and critiques the history and future of women's rights as human rights. We will consider how rights are embodied, how violations are gendered, and how we might reimagine and (re)mobilize spaces of resistance and solidarity based on a transnational feminist methodology. Ultimately, we will investigate how transnational feminism seeks to preserve difference even while establishing the strategic solidarity necessary for the kind of resistance that global crises like climate change require.

GWS 4300 fulfills an advanced course requirement for the GWS major. It is an elective for GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies minors. GWS 4301 fulfills the capstone course requirement for the GWS major and Gen Ed.

SEMINAR IN GENDER, WOMEN'S AND SEXUALITY STUDIES: SEX WORK AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

GWS 5700-101, Instructor: Sunny Sinha (sinhas@appstate.edu), M 5:30-8:00 (Hybrid)

This course provides in-depth study of one or more major figures, contemporary issues, movements, or debates about gender, women, or sexuality. This semester, the course will focus on the interrelated phenomena of sex work and human trafficking. Helping professionals, like social workers and healthcare providers, often equate sex work with sex trafficking when their knowledge is based on social biases that assume individuals are either coerced or trafficked into sex work and lack agency to script their futures. We often know very little about diversity within sex work settings, about the heterogeneous lived experiences of individuals trafficked into or engaged in sex work, about the socio-demographic characteristics of sex workers, and about the limitations of the polarized "passive victims" versus "empowered/liberated women" narrative that drives the agenda of most sex worker organizations and anti-trafficking programs in the U.S. and globally. This course aims to provide students with a more nuanced understanding of these two complex phenomena and a basic overview of the theoretical, methodological, and legislative issues related to both sex work and human trafficking in the U.S. and globally.

GWS 5700 is a requirement for the GWS graduate minor and graduate certificate.



COURSES OFFERED IN OTHER PROGRAMS:

These courses may be electives for the GWS major and minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies, or may be substituted by permission.

PHILOSOPHY OF DISABILITY

PHL 3010-101, Instructor: Kim Hall (hallki@appstate.edu), TR 11:00-12:15

This course examines philosophical approaches to disability and philosophical engagements with the interdisciplinary field of disability studies. Topics addressed include, but are not limited to, the meaning of ability and disability, disabled identity and experience, the normal and the abnormal, crip theory, personhood, health, and the entanglement of ableism with other systems of oppression (e.g., sexism, racism, homophobia, and transphobia). *GEN ED: Liberal Studies Experience*

GENDER AND THE LAW

PS 3535-101, Instructor: Ellen Key (keyem@appstate.edu), TR 9:30-10:45

This course is designed to introduce students to the evolution of gender, sexuality, and the law in the United States. Specific topics examined in the course include equal protection, employment law, reproductive rights, family law (including marriage, divorce, and child custody), and education. In this context, students will analyze and apply court cases, statutes, and legal and political science scholarship.

PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER

PSY 2305-101, Instructor: Mary Ballard (ballardme@appstate.edu), TR 2:00-3:15 (Hybrid)

PSY 2305-102, Instructor: Mary Ballard (ballardme@appstate.edu), TR 3:30-4:45 (Hybrid)

Psychology of Gender covers basic psychological theory and research on the effects of biological sex and the cultural construct of gender on development. The biological and cultural bases of gender and gender differences and similarities (in cognition, personality, and social behavior) will be emphasized. Topics include the impact of gender on lifespan development, communication, relationships, sexuality, aggression, power, and mental and physical health.

GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

REL 3735-101, Instructor: Sandie Gravett (gravettsl@appstate.edu), Online Asynchronous

This course provides an extensive inquiry into the constructions of gender and sexuality in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Apocrypha. Major issues in the history of biblical interpretation will be discussed, with an emphasis on the use and utility of contemporary methods for the understanding of gender and sexuality in both ancient and contemporary settings. *GEN ED: Liberal Studies Experience, Literary Studies*

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SOC 3370-101, Instructor: Amy Dellinger Page (pagead@appstate.edu), TR 2:00-3:15

This course offers a sociological examination of sexual violence. Etiology, prevention, cultural beliefs, law and policy, as well as areas of social change will be discussed. Topics may include sexual assault and rape, child molestation, sexual trafficking, sexual exploitation, and consensual sexual behavior.

Degrees in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWS)

For undergraduates, GWS offers a BA major as well as minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies. The interdisciplinary flexibility of GWS means it is an accessible, engaging minor or double major for students with a passion for meaningful social change and that many of our courses fulfill Gen Ed requirements. For graduate students, GWS offers a graduate minor and graduate certificate to enhance interdisciplinary academic training and professional specialization in gender and sexuality.

The GWS major (36 hrs) includes:

Required Introductory Courses (9 hrs)

GWS 2421: Sex, Gender, and Power, GWS 2525: Global Women's Issues, and GWS 2600: Intro to LGBT Studies

Required Intermediate Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 3000: Feminist Theories and one of the following: GWS 3050: Classics in Feminist Thought and Action, GWS 3100: Girls Coming of Age, GWS 3350: Gender, Media, and Popular Culture, GWS 3600: Women, Food, and Nature, GWS 3600: LGBT Studies Seminar, GWS 3700: Interpreting Bodies, or GWS 3530-3549: Selected Topics

Required Advanced Courses (3 hrs)

GWS 4100: Major Figures, GWS 4300: Transnational Topics in GWS, GWS 4600: Queer Theory, or GWS 4700: Seminar in GWS

GWS Capstone Course (3 hrs)

GWS 4101: Capstone in Major Figures, GWS 4301: Capstone in Transnational Topics in GWS, GWS 4601: Capstone in Queer Theory, GWS 4701: Capstone Seminar in GWS, or GWS 4901: Capstone Internship in GWS

GWS Electives (6 hrs)

Any 3000- or 4000-level GWS courses that were not used to fulfill the requirements above.

Major Electives (9 hrs)

Any of the courses listed as "Major Electives" on the following website, with 6 hrs at the 3000-level or higher, that were not used to fulfill the requirements above, plus other relevant courses by substitution:

https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&poid=13488&returnto=1865

The GWS minor (15 hrs) includes:

Required Introductory Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 2421: Sex, Gender, and Power and GWS 3000: Feminist Theories

Minor Electives (9 hrs)

Any of the courses listed as "Electives" on the following website, with 3 hrs in GWS and 6 hrs at the 3000-level or above, plus other relevant courses by substitution: https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&poid=13404&returnto=1865

The LGBT Studies minor (15 hrs) includes:

Required Courses (9 hrs)

GWS 2600: Intro to LGBT Studies, GWS 3600: LGBT Studies Seminar, and GWS 4600: Queer Theory

Minor Electives (6 hrs)

Any of the courses listed as "Electives" on the following website, with 3 hrs at the 2000-level and 3 hrs at the 3000-level, plus other relevant courses by substitution:

https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&poid=13402&returnto=1865

The Girls' Studies minor (15 hrs) includes:

Required Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 2421: Sex, Gender, and Power and GWS 3100: Girls Coming of Age

GWS Electives (6 hrs)

Two of the following: GWS 2525: Global Women's Issues, GWS 2600: Intro to LGBT Studies, GWS 3000: Feminist Theories, GWS 3050: Classics in Feminist Thought and Action, GWS 3350: Gender, Media, and Popular Culture, GWS 3600: Women, Food, and Nature, GWS 3600: LGBT Studies Seminar, GWS 3700: Interpreting Bodies, or GWS 3530-3549: Selected Topics, GWS 4100: Major Figures, GWS 4300: Transnational Topics in GWS, GWS 4600: Queer Theory, GWS 4700: Seminar in GWS, or GWS 4900: Internship in GWS

Minor Electives (3 hrs)

Any of the above courses that were not used to fulfill the requirements above, or any of the courses listed as "Electives" on the following website, plus other relevant courses by substitution:

https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&poid=13396&returnto=1865

The GWS graduate minor (9 hrs) includes:

Required Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 5650: Feminist Theories and GWS 5700: Seminar in GWS

Electives (3 hrs)

Chosen from courses focused on gender, women, or sexuality or taught by a GWS faculty member; approved by the GWS Director.

The GWS graduate certificate (12 hrs) includes:

Required Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 5650: Feminist Theories and GWS 5700: Seminar in GWS

Electives (6 hrs)

Chosen from courses focused on gender, women, or sexuality or taught by a GWS faculty member; approved by the GWS Director.

For questions about GWS, including about course substitutions, please contact the GWS Director, Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu).