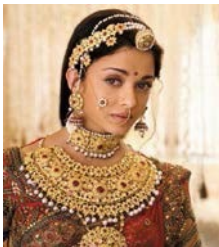




# UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



## Gender & Sexuality Studies Program



What are the gendered beliefs that inform college “hook-up” culture? What explains the persistent wage gap between women and men? Why are U.S. politics so much more male-dominated than politics in many other Western countries? Why are unarmed Black men fifteen times more likely than unarmed White men to be killed by police? Why are transgendered persons often a source of fascination, yet also victims of hate crimes? These are some of the questions that we explore in WGS courses. Join us to gain new perspectives on the world around us, as a major, a minor, or for a cognate!



Learn more by signing up for our list serve (email me) and joining our lunch colloquia.

Director: Dr. Merike Blofield  
m.blofield@miami.edu  
Phone: 305-284-6116  
Jeny Acosta, Interdisciplinary Studies Sr. Program Coordinator  
1300 Campo Sano, Suite 215  
j.acosta@miami.edu  
Phone: 305-284-2030



# **Gender and Sexuality Studies**

## **(Formerly Women's and Gender Studies/WGS)**

Welcome to Gender and Sexuality Studies! We are an inter-disciplinary program, and we offer an undergraduate major in GSS, and a minor in both GSS and LGBTQ Studies. We also offer a variety of cognates, including Introduction to WGS/Introduction to LGBTQ Studies. Aside from our core courses, our course offerings span over 12 departments. We also hold monthly lunch colloquia that are open to everyone in the UM community. To find out more about our program or to sign up for our newsletter, please send me an email at [m.blofield@miami.edu](mailto:m.blofield@miami.edu).

Best,  
Merike Blofield, Director.

### **MAJOR**

A major in Gender and Sexuality Studies consists of at least 30 credits in Gender and Sexuality Studies courses (core or combined courses) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in GSS courses. These credits must include at least 18 at the 300 level or above. All majors must complete GSS 201: *Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies*, GSS 301: *Feminist Inquiries*, and at least two other GSS core courses.

All majors also have the option of completing GSS 501: *Senior Research Project*, which takes the form of an individual research project with a faculty member of the student's choice. The student is responsible for finding an appropriate faculty member who is available to supervise the project and then must seek formal approval from the program director before proceeding with the project. The student must produce a substantial written report or research paper, the format of which will vary according to the nature of the project. Gender and Sexuality Studies majors with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in GSS courses and an overall GPA of at least 3.0 may earn departmental honors by completing GSS 505: *Honors Thesis* instead of the senior research project, following the same guidelines. Most students writing an honors thesis as part of their GSS major will take GSS 505 twice (for a total of 6 credits).

### **MINOR**

A minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies consists of at least 15 credits in Gender and Sexuality Studies courses (core, co-listed, and cross-listed) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in GSS courses. These credits must include at least 9 at the 300 level or above. All minors must complete GSS 201: *Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies*, GSS 301: *Feminist Inquiries*, and at least one other GSS core course. The student may not take more than 3 credit hours of individual studies without the approval of the program director.

## **LGBTQ Studies MINOR**

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer

The LGBTQ Studies minor is designed to allow students to explore sexuality and sexual minorities from a variety of perspectives. The minor will provide students with an introduction to a broad array of LGBTQ issues, including visual and performing arts, literature, languages, history, social science, various theories, public policy and the law, families and other types of intimate relationships, crime, popular culture, and LGBTQ identities and communities. This widely interdisciplinary field addresses work in a broad range of scholarly disciplines, including biological and cultural studies, literature and anthropology, the health sciences, history, and the visual arts. It ranges from archival research to the elaboration of queer theory, from the analysis of constitutional law to questions of public health, from the study of popular culture to investigations into the development and social construction of sexual identity. A minor in LGBTQ Studies consists of at least 15 credits in LGBTQ Studies courses (requirements, core, and combined courses) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in LGBTQ courses. All minors must complete GSS 201: *Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies* and GSS 202: *Introduction to LGBTQ Studies*. The remaining course work must include at least 9 credit hours at the 300 level or above in LGBTQ themed courses and no more than 6 credit hours in any one department or program. The student may not take more than 3 credit hours of individual studies without the approval of the program director. For confirmation of which courses count toward the LGBTQ Studies minor, please contact the Director.

### **COGNATES**

Gender and Sexuality Studies also has several cognates, including “Gender and Sexuality Studies” (people and society), “LGBTQ Studies” (people and society), A Cross-Cultural and Historic Examination of Sexuality (people and society), “Gender and Politics” (people and society), and “Gender, Literature and the Fine Arts” (arts and humanities).

# SPRING 2020

## **GSS 201: Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies (Writing credit)**

**Section B: MWF 9:05am-9:55am**

**Section P: TR 11:00am-12:15pm**

**Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter**

**Section O: TR 9:30am-10:45am**

**Instructor : Dr. Sumita Dutt Chatterjee**

When your mother announced that she was pregnant with you, the first question she was probably asked was, “Are you having a boy or a girl?” In this course, we will examine the local and global significance of gender as it intersects with class, race and ethnicity. We will ask many questions: Why is it women who do most of the world’s work, but who own little of the world’s wealth? Why are stay-at-home fathers ridiculed? Why, in a time of increased transgender visibility and celebrity, are U.S. transgender women so often the targets of violence? As we investigate the challenges that women politicians face, we will focus on the surge in women entering politics since the 2016 presidential election. We will assess gendered double-standards, such as the fact that it is women who are often expected to avoid being raped, rather than men being expected not to rape. This course uses social science research to separate false perceptions from realities, in order to better understand why gender continues to shape our social institutions.

## **GSS 301: Feminist Inquiries**

**Section Q: TR 12:30pm-1:45pm**

**Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee**

This course studies the ways in which feminist inquiry transforms our understanding of key issues across the curriculum. Reading classic and contemporary feminist scholarship from a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds, we will address questions of rights, equality, nature of oppression and difference. We will discuss the dynamic, historical and changing nature of feminist contributions to the understanding of what constitutes work, inscriptions on the body, sex, sexualities, gender(s) and masculinities. Drawing on interdisciplinary feminist texts in history, anthropology, literary theory and literature, films, visuals, primary documents such as speeches and manifestos, the course will enable us to appreciate the diversity of feminist scholarship and activism that animate feminist inquiry.

## **GSS 305: Queer Studies**

**Section U: TR 6:35 pm- 7:50 pm**

**Instructor: Dr. Steve Butterman**

Queer Studies examines cultural representations of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, and queer identities as they shape daily lives and experiences; the construction of alternative family structures; and queer theories. In particular, it will explore how queer theories can articulate our understanding of key issues across a range of disciplines and how it intervenes in current debates over the meaning and validity of sexuality as a way of understanding human sexual desire, emotions, and behaviors. In addition to reading selections from canonical texts of queer theory, we will analyze a range of 20th and 21st century queer cultural products (fiction, poetry, autobiography, films, and other materials). Course assignments will be both analytical and creative in nature.

### **GSS 315: Gender, Race and Class**

**Section S: TR 3:30 pm-4:45 pm**

**Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee**

This course interrogates common sense thinking about gender, race, and class drawing on readings, documentaries, blogs, memoirs and fiction from the social sciences and humanities. We will explore the ways in which intersections of gender, race, and class shape society and the lived experiences of individuals and groups within it. The focus of such critical readings will be the United States and its institutions such as family, education, economy, public policy, and media. We will analyze how categories of gender, race, and class intersect, as well as create inequities and build solidarities and resistance movements for change over historical time and in specific cultural contexts. Class readings, lectures and discussions will be from an intersectional and multidisciplinary perspective.

### **GSS 320: Comparative Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality: Literary Representations of Women**

**Section R: TR 2:00 pm-3:15 pm (Combined with ENG 215-Q)**

**Instructor: Dr. Tassie Gwilliam**

This course will trace an alternative literary history—that of women writing in English—from the middle ages to the twenty-first century. Across this expanse of time, we will look at women's writing not simply to see reflections of women's lives in different eras, but to experience the work of a number of unique imaginations looking inwards and outwards. Beginning with *Bisclavret*, the medieval werewolf tale by Marie de France, and continuing with poets of the Renaissance, including Queen Elizabeth herself, we will consider women's contributions to major genres and debates in a period of literary experimentation. We will go on to read poems and a short novel by Aphra Behn, the first professional woman writer in English; feminist essays by Mary Astell and Mary Wollstonecraft (and, later, Virginia Woolf); novellas by Eliza Haywood and Jane Austen; Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*; poems by Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Christina Rossetti; Nella Larsen's Harlem Renaissance novel, *Quicksand*; and poetry and stories from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

### **GSS 335: Sociology of LGBTQ communities and identities**

**Section O: TR 9:30am-10:45am (Combined with SOC 335)**

**Instructor: Dr. Robert J. Johnson**

Sociology of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer communities and identities. This course examines the history, methods, theory and concepts of social science research on these topics over the last half century and examines contemporary issues.

### **GSS 344: Gender and Politics**

**(Writing credit)**

**Section R: TR 2:00 pm-3:15 pm (combined with POL 344)**

**Instructor: Dr. Louise Davidson-Schmich**

This course examines three historical waves of feminism, discusses theories about why some countries go further to address gender inequalities than others, and then examines a range of current issues selected by students. The course involves take home essay exams, a research paper, and an oral presentation. It counts as a writing course.

## **GSS 350: Special Topics: Gender, Sexuality, and Migration**

**Section C: MWF 10:10-11:00 am**

**Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter**

In this course, students will explore the many global contexts in which people are compelled to move. Gender and sexuality shape migrants' experiences as they traverse geographic and cultural boundaries. Through assigned readings, students will explore how policy, ethnicity, and even climate change shape the choices people make to leave their homes and make often perilous journeys in search of safety and material security. Through a gender and sexuality perspective, students in this course will enhance their perspectives on the economic and political forces at work in contemporary migration flows of people with diverse gender positionalities and sexualities. As a service learning course, this class requires students to volunteer with a local migrant-serving organization, allowing them to gain experience and insight into the strategies that organizations develop to best serve their clients.

## **GSS 350: Special Topics: Black Girl Magic**

**Section 4K: W 6:35 pm-9:05 pm (combined with ENG 210)**

**Instructor: Marina Magloire**

People have long thought that black girls were magic, sometimes literally. From Nina Simone's unofficial title as "the high priestess of soul," to the theatrical machinations of female practitioners of black magic in popular Hollywood films like *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the figure of the voodoo priestess haunts representations of black women. In this class we will explore both the stereotypes and the reality of the intersection between gender and African-based religions. From hoodoo and rootwork in the American South, to obeah, Santería, and vodou in the Caribbean, African-based religions in the Americas have long been places where women can ascend to the highest levels of leadership and draw from the example of powerful female spirits. Thus, these religions offer a unique perspective on black feminism in America and the Caribbean. Through literature, music, and film, this class will ask students to learn the history of these various traditions of "black girl magic," and to meditate on the future of black feminist religious practices in today's America. Through a civic engagement component that pairs students with local artists and practitioners, students will engage directly with the dynamic practices of New World African spirituality throughout the course.

## **GSS 350: Special Topics: War and the Fashioning of Gender**

**Section B: MWF 9:05 am-9:55 am (combined with ENG 210)**

**Section F: MWF 1:25-2:15 pm (combined with ENG 210)**

**Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Oldman**

This course examines war and retreat from war as gendering activities which serves to restructure male and female identity. Investigating psychological and social responses to the crisis of order brought on by battle, we explore arguments in favor of pacifism as well as efforts to limit armed strife by distinguishing between just and criminal warfare. We assess the role and representation of soldiers and non-combatants in literature, art, and film, as well as ambivalent attitudes toward aggression and crises of "manhood." More specifically, we analyze retreat from battle in relation to such tropes as: pastoral escapism, stoical self-possession, self-dissolution/imagined body of colossus, shell-shock, drink-induced reverie and indifference, fantasies of topographical isolation and utopia. Authors and artists include Shakespeare, Machiavelli, Marvell, Lovelace, Brome, Cleveland, Vaughan, Blunden, Graves, Millay, Owen, Rosenberg, Sassoon, West, Woolf, as well as the paintings, poems, political manifestos, photography, films, collages and ready-made objects of Dalí, Tanguy, Ernst, Magritte, Miró, Aragon, Tzara, Eluard, Buñuel, Oppenheim, and Tanning.



### **GSS 350: Special Topics: Intermediate Poetry Workshop: Crafting and Queering the Contemporary Poem**

**Section S1: TR 3:30 pm-4:45 pm (Combined with ENG 319/392)**

**Instructor: Mia Leonin**

ENG 319/392 is a poetry writing workshop galvanized by the charge to *queer* or challenge binary notions of gender and upend normative approaches to point of view, voice, and form in contemporary poetry. To lay the foundation for student writing and examine our personal and cultural assumptions about gender, we will discuss essays by feminist thinkers such as bell hooks, Audre Lorde, and Jackson Katz. Models for student writing include poets of color such as Natalie Scenters-Zapico, Ocean Vuong, Patrick Rosal, and Analicia Sotelo, and others. ENG 319/392 is a portfolio-based course that requires students to write and revise poems throughout the semester and actively participate in a peer review workshop. Through readings, in-class writings, and dynamic conversations about craft and literature, we will build a writing community that encourages students to create from an informed, expansive understanding of gender and sexuality.

### **GSS 350: Special Topics: Queer Theater: Body Politics/Staging Sexuality**

**Section H: MW from 3:35-4:50 (Combined with THA 383)**

**Instructor: Darren Blaney**

This course examines theatrical representations of LGBTQ issues in the U.S. from the 1960s to the present, in terms of the aesthetic/political project of "Queer Theater." Considering theater as a transformative social form, students will have opportunities for creative practice and scholarship.

### **GSS 350: Special Topics: History of Feminism**

**Section S: TR 3:30pm-4:45pm (Combined with HIS 374)**

**Instructor: Dr. Sybil Lipschultz**

Taking as our presumption that feminism is socially and historically constructed, this course will look at feminism in the United States in order to understand change over time, and what social forces have shaped its theory and practice. We will consider such contexts for feminism as liberalism, labor movements, radical protest, the nexus of race and feminism, social needs policy, equal rights vs. equal results, and multiculturalism.

### **GSS 350: Special Topics: Homoeroticism**

**Section O: TR 9:30 am-10:45am (Combined with HIS 269)**

**Instructor: Dr. Martin Nesvig**

This course offers a global overview of male same-sex desire, love, sex, and culture. From ancient Greeks to Latin America to the United States to the modern gay rights movements, this class examines both behavior and ideology as they concern male homo- and bisexuality. Topics include: Socrates, ideal male love, ancient Romans, medieval and Renaissance Europe, Latin America, machismo, male love without sex, queer esthetics, gay rights movements, urban queer culture, film, literature, San Francisco in the 1970s, disco, HIV/AIDS, same-sex marriage, and the 21<sup>st</sup> century moment. Authors and filmmakers examined may include Plato, St. Augustine, Michel Foucault, David Halperin, Jamie O'Neill, Oscar Wilde, Jean Genet, Luis Zapata, Andre Gide, Jack Kerouac, Andrew Holleran, Gore Vidal, Tennessee Williams, Rainer Fassbinder, Kenneth Anger, James Baldwin.

## **GSS 350: Special Topics: Masquerades and Disguise in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Women's Writing**

**Section P: TR 11:00 am-12:15pm (Combined with ENG 373)**

**Instructor: Tassie Gwilliam**

Masquerade balls—that is, costume balls attended by masked and cloaked revelers—were widely popular in eighteenth-century Britain. But masquerades were not only fashionable entertainments for all classes of people; they were also featured often in literary works. For women writers in particular, the transformations of identity represented by such disguises offered a chance to investigate a wide range of ideas. In this course we will explore the historical phenomenon of masquerading and then we will read plays, novellas, and novels that employ masquerades to examine women's social roles, gender roles, sexuality, and identity. We will begin with Behn's play *The Rover*, which displays the roots of masquerade in Italian carnival celebrations, and end with *A Simple Story*, a novel in which a masquerade ball signals female sexual transgression and liberty.

### **WGS INDEPENDENT STUDIES, THESES, INTERNSHIPS**

#### **GSS 499: Independent Study**

**Instructor: As arranged by student.**

**Section: As arranged by student and instructor.**

A study of the student's choice, and arranged in conjunction with a GSS instructor, of an issue focusing on gender and sexuality. Content varies. Contact Dr. Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director for 2020, for more information, at [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu).

#### **GSS 501: Senior Research Project (Writing credit)**

**Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter**

**Section: As arranged by student and instructor.**

A student-initiated research project with a faculty member of the student's choice and approved by the program director. Contact Dr. Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director for 2020, for more information, at [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu).

#### **GSS 505: Senior Honors Thesis (Writing credit)**

**Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter**

**Section: As arranged by student and instructor.**

Gender and Sexuality Studies majors with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in GSS courses and an overall GPA of at least 3.0 may earn departmental honors by completing an honors thesis instead of the senior research project. Candidates for departmental honors are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to serve as a thesis advisor and then must complete a thesis proposal of approximately 400 words, which must be approved by the thesis advisor and the program director. Most students will take this course twice, for a total of six credits. Contact Dr. Oueslati-Porter, the GSS Program Director for 2020, for more information, at [cxo185@miami.edu](mailto:cxo185@miami.edu).