

Gender and Sexuality Studies

Spring 2022 Course Catalog



Introduction

Dear Students,

Welcome to the fascinating interdisciplinary study of Gender and Sexuality. Gender and Sexuality Studies offers courses spanning over 12 departments. 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 GSS and Introduction to LGBTQ Studies. We also hold monthly colloquies 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 cxo185@miami.edu.

Best,

Claire Oueslati-Porter, Interim 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).

Gender and Sexuality Studies 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 2022 COURSES

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

Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter

Section C: MWF 10:30am-11:20am

Section E: MWF 1:00pm-1:50pm

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: Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

Section Q: TuTh 1:00pm-2:15 pm

This course studies the history of feminist thought and the ways in which feminist inquiry transforms our understanding of key issues across the curriculum. We will study what it means to be a feminist by situating the discourse animating feminisms in broader political and historical contexts. 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, 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 inquiries.

GSS 305: Queer Studies (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Butterman

Section J: MW 6:00pm-7:15pm

In this class, we will think about the podcast as a contemporary media form, and how it intersects with today's queer culture. We will listen to a range of LGBTQ-themed podcasts and write responses and analyses of those, from 99% Invisible on public restrooms to the BBC's NB: My Non-Binary Life to Afro-Queer to Making Gay History to Disability After Dark. We will read some "sound studies" theoretical work that focuses on queerness, and some media histories that place the podcast in a wider context. The class will culminate in students making their own podcast about some element of queer media life instead of a final paper, and so throughout the semester we will be building technical skills leading up to that, with a series of small assignments such as a recording of what you consider to be a "queer sound." Students don't have to have any expertise to take this class, and we are not

in search of technical perfection, but rather experimenting with how this media form can help us think and create in new ways.

GSS 315: Gender, Race, and Class (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

Section T: TuTh 6:00pm-7:15pm

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: Femininity, Masculinity, and Sexual Politics in Indian History (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Sumita Chatterjee

Section D: MWF 11:45am-12:35pm (Combined with HIS 312)

This course will be a thematic rather than chronological study of issues relating to gender and sex and the ways in which they have shaped the history of women and men's lived experiences in India. We will focus on relations between women and men, constructions of the feminine and the masculine, sexual politics in the divergent narratives and contested histories of Indian womanhood as imagined and lived – the "Devi"(Goddess) or the "Dasi" (slave), the changing and dynamic nature of the roles and statuses of women and men in the spheres of politics, law, society, economy, and culture. We will weave a narrative of women and men's lives by looking at both formal structures (inscribed in religious and legal texts) as well the customary lived experiences that often did not conform closely to formal

dictates. To understand both formal social structure as well as experience and lived customs we will read a variety of multidisciplinary texts – primary historical documents written by both women and men, religious texts (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh), selections from legal treatises, folktales, fiction, plays, autobiographies, memoirs, visuals, and films. Themes will be selected from ancient, medieval, and modern periods of Indian history, with primary focus on modern and contemporary developments.

GSS 335: Sociology of LGBTQ Communities and Identities (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Robert Johnson

Section O: TuTh 9:40am-10:55am (Combined with SOC 335)

The course examines gender, race, age and class differences in the experiences of gays and lesbians. A life-span perspective guides the course after the presentation of some background of biological, psychological, and sociological theories pertaining to homosexuality. The course also presents historical and social movements perspective of same-sex intimacies and communities and well as recent topics including micro aggressions, intersectional analyses of social status and identities, bullying, hate crimes, parenting and families, and civil rights as citizens of the communities and states where members of LGBTQ+ communities live.

GSS 348: Mental Illness, Gender, and Psychiatry (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter

Section Y: TBD

Section Y1:TBD

An investigation of often unquestioned ideas surrounding mental illness, including the definition of mental illness itself, in the context of the burgeoning field of disability studies. The course focuses on giving a voice to those who suffer from mental illness while critiquing the mainstream discourse of mental illness as articulated and managed by mental health professionals. Particular attention is placed on the role of gender in the discourse of mental illness.

GSS 350: Special Topics in Gender and Sexuality Studies (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Oldman

Section C: MWF 10:30am-11:20am (Combined with ENG 210)

Section F: MWF 2:15pm-3:05pm (Combined with ENG 210)

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 in Gender and Sexuality Studies (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Nebil Husayn

Section P: TuTh 11:20am-12:35pm (Combined with REL 371)

An examination of issues related to women and gender with an emphasis upon themes pertaining to the Muslim world. We will study the contributions of progressive/feminist Muslim writers in addition to secular academic research on the subject. Topics include Qur'anic revelations concerning women; gendered ideals that developed after the founder's death; understanding how Islamic texts, rituals, and doctrines have both

reinforced and challenged certain gender categories; and the experience of Muslims living in the U.S. and the Middle East, addressing racial as well as gendered hierarchies.

GSS 360: Orientalism and Sexuality (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Suja Sawafta

Section Q: TuTh 1:00pm-2:15 pm (Combined with ARB 315)

With a specific focus on orientalist conventions of gender and sexuality, this course examines how politics and ideology inform the construction and reproduction of knowledge through a gendered lens. Adopting a flexible historical framework, we will explore select cases of cultural encounters between Europe and the "Orient" from Antiquity to the present. In this course, students will examine key events and texts that helped fossilize Western representations of and Western attitudes towards the "Orient" through gendered tropes such as the barbaric Arab man or the damsel in distress as she is represented by Scheherezade--as well as consider the manner in which "subjects" of the "Orient" countered their supposed inferiority. In this course, students will investigate old and new iterations of Orientalism and its persistent reincarnation in post-colonial and neocolonial contexts using Edward Said's classical text *Orientalism* as our foundational narrative.

GSS 405: Anthropology of Sex (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter

Section B: MWF 9:15am-10:05am (Combined with APY 392 Sex and Culture)

An examination of the cultural aspects of human sexuality. Anthropologists continue to shape and challenge understandings of sex in relation to gender, class, ethnicity, and political economy. Course readings center ethnographic texts and feminist and queer theory. The course investigates how sexual belief systems shape and edify gender and sexuality.

GSS 469: LGBTI Politics (Writing credit)

Instructor: Dr. Louise Davidson-Schmich

Section O: TuTh 9:40am-10:55am (Combined with POL 569)

The empirical variation in public policies towards issues of concern to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex citizens. Examines the social scientific literature on social movements to identify the factors which have helped or hindered LGBTI rights activists' efforts to improve the legal status of LGBTI citizens.

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 2022, for more information, at 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 2022, for more information, at 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 2022, for more information, at cxo185@miami.edu.