Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Fall 2010

Gateway Courses
GSFS courses designated as “gateway” are also “electives.”

- **CAST 100 - Introduction to Comparative American Studies**
  The course will introduce students to the complexity of American social and cultural formations, with particular emphases on sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and gender, and to various methodologies of comparative analysis.

- **CAST 235 - Cultural Citizenships**
  Americans have long hailed innovations in media technologies as democratic spaces even as commentators criticize popular culture for sustaining normative ideals of citizenship. This interdisciplinary course explores popular media from the radio to the Internet as formative sites for contested ideals of citizenship, with particular attention to changing notions of gender, sexuality, race, ability, and class. We will examine the intersections of popular culture and legal discourse to address issues of belonging, visibility, and marginalization.

- **CAST/AAST 240 - How to Win a Beauty Pageant: Race, Gender, Culture, and U.S. National Identity**
  This course examines US beauty pageants from the 1920s to the present. Our aim will be to analyze pageantry as a unique site for the interplay of race, gender, class, sexuality, and nation. We will learn about cultural studies methodology, including close reading, cultural history, critical discourse analysis, and ethnography, and use those methods to understand the changing identity of the US over time. This course includes a field visit to a pageant in Ohio.

- **HIST/JWST 237 - Gender and Sexuality in Jewish Society, Antiquity to Modernity**
  Topics in Jewish women's history and the construction of gender in Jewish society from Graeco-Roman antiquity to the present. Studies 'normative' constructions of women's roles, idealized constructions of Jewish maleness and femaleness, and realities of gendered behavior. Using rabbinic and communal materials, women's letters, memoirs and rituals, explores family and power relations between women and men; women's economic functions and power; gender and religion; transformation of roles in modernity; gendered responses to persecution; feminism.

- **SOCI 203 - Desire to be Modern: Sociology of Sexuality**
  Sociologists study the social origins of sexuality; how shared beliefs shape what we desire, what is taboo or what shames us. Historical and cross-cultural research illuminates the emergence of modern sexuality and the ways it transformed systems of dating, marriage, homosexuality, government and racial classification. Learn why sociologists are skeptical of essentialist explanations that rely on biology and favor theories that recognize sexuality as a diverse, ever-changing function of cultural institutions.

- **RELG 263 – Roots of Religious Feminism in North America**
  This course provides an introduction to Islam in its religious, intellectual, historical, socio-political and institutional dimensions. It provides an overview of Muslim religious traditions for purposes of further historical study and for understanding contemporary Muslim societies. Topics covered include elements that constitute Muslim traditions, cultures and identities, such as: pre-Islamic Arab society and surrounding Persian and Roman civilizations, the Prophet and the Qur?an, Islamic theology, law, devotional rituals, arts and literatures, mysticism, mosque and madrasa.

Feminist Research Methodologies
Feminist Research Methodologies also counts as an elective course.

- **GSFS 305. Feminist Research Methodologies**
  This course traces the historical and dialectical impact of feminist epistemologies on disciplines of the social sciences and humanities. We will explore feminist approaches to research practices including oral history, case studies, archival research, visual and literary criticism, survey/content analysis, and fieldwork. Throughout the semester, each student works on an individual research proposal that incorporates interdisciplinary methods and includes a literature review.
Capstone Courses
GSFS courses designated as “capstone” are also “electives.”

- **AAST 321 - Black Feminist Thought**
  This seminar course will explore and analyze the evolution of intellectual discourse among African-American women from slavery to the present. Particular attention will be given to the interplay of ideas about race and gender and the social and economic position of black women at various time periods. Sources will include autobiographies, novels, historical documents, sociological studies and modern feminist social critiques.

- **CAST 347 - Queer Positions: A Seminar in Theory and Social Change**
  When queer is a verb, what does it mean? This course explores key issues in the field of queer theory, including the relationship of sex, gender, race, class, and ability; critiques of liberalism and multiculturalism; normativity and resistance; representation and cultural production; and the politics of time and space. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between theory and practice in order to explore different approaches to social change.

- **CAST 407 - Seminar: Picturing War and Human Rights: Trauma, Violence and Spectatorship**
  This seminar examines how American visual culture has represented recent U.S. military actions. Ideals of gender, race, and nation often justify militarism, yet visual depictions also provoke anxieties about masculinity and femininity, home, and national, self and other. We will analyze visual media to consider such issues as the symbolic value of female bodies in narratives of national defense and how racial ideals secure or undermine the authority of the male body under attack.

Elective Courses

- **AAST 206 - History of the Caribbean to 1838**
  Beginning with an examination of indigenous Caribbean societies, this course then studies how the various European colonial enterprises affected the region’s social and economic history. It examines such themes as trade, the evolution of labor systems, the establishment of the plantation enterprises, and political and social organizations. A central feature of this course is to understand the evolution of such concepts as class, gender, and ‘race’ in the context of the Caribbean.

- **AAST 228 - Katrina and the Black Freedom Struggle**
  This course situates August 29, 2005 and the meaning of the Katrina disaster in the history of Black Struggle in Louisiana and the surrounding region. Using texts such as Adam Fairclough’s Race and Democracy, Spike Lee’s When the Levees Broke, and Hartman and Squires’s There Is No Such Thing As A Natural Disaster, students examine the historical interplay of race, gender, poverty, and the politics of resistance in a unique area of the U. S. South.

- **AAST 347 - Culture, History, and Identity: Caribbean Literature and the Politics of Survival**
  This course serves as introduction to Caribbean Literature. Students will examine a wide range of texts that exemplify the beginning and evolution of a literary tradition that is located on a continuum of African Diasporic Literatures. Our discussion will engage the historical, political, and cultural contexts out of which Caribbean Literature has emerged, particularly struggles against colonialism, neocolonialism, sexism, and global capitalism. Some authors discussed are Michelle Cliff, Edward Kamau Brathwaite, and Nalo Hopkinson.

- **ANTH 271 - Ethnomedicine in South America**
  How are worldview, illness, medical choice, curing, and political economy intertwined? This course introduces students to the anthropological study of traditional medicine in South America. Through an examination of case studies that span lowland and highland environments, we will explore the cultural dynamics of Indigenous medical beliefs and practices, attending to the ways gender, age, class, and local ecology shape people’s experience of sickness, health, and healing in the context of rapid global change.

- **CINE/FREN 351 - Bardot, Deneuve, Moreau: Stardom, Sexuality, and Art**
  French cinema is often known for the male directors who shaped it throughout the 20th century, but star actresses such as Brigitte Bardot, Catherine Deneuve, and Jeanne Moreau gave it a memorably composite face with their celebrity, personas, talents, and bodies. A study of stars
whose versatile yet unified screen presence can be discerned across multiple roles, and whose careers help illuminate the pleasures, politics, and poetics of cinema. Taught in English.

- **ENGL 290 - Shakespearean Comedy**
  A study of many of Shakespeare’s comedies, from the cross-dressed and festive to the darkly ironic. Themes include love, sex, gender, friendship, marriage, family, magic, transformation, transgression, ingenuity, cruelty, forgiveness, coming of age, and a good dose of wit. Probable plays: Comedy of Errors, Midsummer Night’s Dream, Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, Twelfth Night, All’s Well That Ends Well, Pericles, The Winter’s Tale. British, Pre-1700.

- **ENGL 353 - American Literature 1825-65**
  Melville’s phrase captures a major concern of American writers during the antebellum period: the creation of a distinctly American literature. Directly or indirectly, many writers of the era engaged with “writing like an American” - Melville, Emerson, Whitman, Douglass, Jacobs among them – while a few, notably Poe, repudiated the very idea. We’ll read work by the writers I’ve listed and by others as we consider what “writing like an American” entailed during the formative era in American culture and history. American, Diversity, 1700-1900.

- **FYSP 146 – HIV/AIDS in America**
  What is the state of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States? Why has HIV infection disproportionately affected particular groups and localities? What is the role of the United States in the global AIDS pandemic? This interdisciplinary course answers these questions by considering perspectives from the sciences, social sciences, public policy, education, medical care, media and the arts, and activism.

- **GSFS 200 – HIV/AIDS in Africa**
  This course examines the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, the region of the world that bears the greatest burden of the disease. Given the broad scope of the topic, the course is structured as four modules, namely: the emergence and determinants of the high HIV prevalence in Africa; HIV in select sub-populations; HIV/AIDS interventions/responses and organizations working in this realm and; challenges, research and future directions in HIV/AIDS efforts in Africa. The course primarily adopts contextual (historical, political-economic and sociocultural) approaches to understanding the epidemic on the sub-continent, and highlights the effects of the epidemic at the individual, family, community, national, and regional levels.

- **HIST 213 - First Wave American Feminism**
  This course explores the quest for gender equality from the end of the American Revolution through the enfranchisement of women in 1920, including issues of race, class, sexuality, health and citizenship. Readings include narratives, novels, classic texts advocating social, political, and economic advancement, and the biographies and autobiographies of activists.

- **HIST 251: US Foreign Policy**
  This course will examine the development and practice of American foreign policy from the 18th to the 21st century, paying particular attention to the ethical and ideological considerations propelling both architects of U.S. foreign policy and critics of those policies. We will examine the evolution of the United States into the leading world power, the use and abuse of state power, the motivation behind wars, and the role of culture, politics, race, and gender in shaping U.S. foreign policy decisions. We will seek throughout to understand the political constraints, ideological views, and cultural and economic trends that have influenced foreign policy beliefs and actions of the United States.

- **HIST 396 - US Foreign Policy and MENA**
  American presence in the Middle East went through different stages from WWI until the present. The U.S had a controversial role the region during and after the Cold War, and there is a current debate on whether it is acting now as an empire. This course analyzes the U.S. strategic interests and its relation with the different regimes in MENA. It critically studies issues of oil, Israel-Palestine conflict, globalization, democratization, occupation, and terrorism.

- **HIST 457 - U.S. Gay, Lesbian and Transgender History**
  Reading and analysis of recent scholarship on American gay, lesbian, and transgender history since the 1890s. Historiography is emphasized.

- **HIST 458 - European Sexualities**
  This historiographical colloquium examines the social, political, and cultural histories of human
sexuality within a European context from the Victorian era to the present. We will investigate sexuality as both a discursive category and a lived reality. We will examine both how official institutions (lawmakers, medical professionals, and the religious establishment) regulated human sexuality and consider how different nationalities, races, religions, and classes lived their sexual identities.