SPRING 2009
Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies

Gateway Courses
At least one gateway course is required for the major or minor.

- **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.
Instructor: M. Raimondo

- **CAST 211 - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Identities**
This course examines the production of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer identities in the United States as they intersect with important social markers such as race, class, gender, and nation. Situating specific case studies in historical, social, and comparative context, we explore issues such as the intersection of racial and sexual sciences, processes of community formation, the politics of embodiment, social justice movements and queer cultural productions.
Instructor: M. Raimondo

- **HIST/JWST 237 - Women in Jewish Society, Antiquity to Modernity**
Topics in Jewish women's history from antiquity to the 20th century, examining '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; women, men, and religion; transformation of roles in modernity; gendered responses to persecution; feminism.
Instructor: S. Magnus

- **RHET 104 - Writing about a Topic: Queering the Reel**
A course for first or second-year students interested in developing their skills in college writing by examining issues of sexual orientation and gender in film. Films addressing representation of sexual identifications, homophobia and heterosexism, and community building will provide topics for reading and writing. Students will explore these topics and their relation to race, class, and historical context through writing both personal and academic essays.
Instructor: J. Cooper

- **SOCI 238 - Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East and North Africa**
This interdisciplinary survey course examines gender (including masculinities) and sexuality in relation to religious, ethnic, and national subjectivities, and culture, history, and politics in the Middle East and North Africa region. Students read full-length studies, as well as novels and memoirs produced in the region. Each student is required to complete an 8-10 page “primary source” research paper based on analysis of two novels and/or memoirs.
Instructor: F. Hasso

Elective Courses
Of the approximately 18 elective course credits, students must take courses in at least two different departments or programs.

- **AAST 220 - Doin' Time: A History of Black Incarceration**
This course considers how a system of imprisoning Black men and women in the U. S. has been sustained from colonial times to the present. Beginning with Foucault's Discipline and Punish, and Davis's Are Prisons Obsolete?, the course establishes a theoretical grounding upon which to understand early systems of surveillance and confinement. The course surveys institutions, justice
systems, and incarcerated men's and women's crimes, punishments and experiences negotiating what can arguably be termed 21st century re-enslavement.

Instructor: P. Brooks

- **AAST 225 - Women in Caribbean History**
  This course studies the economic, social, cultural and political activities of women in the Caribbean from the era of Pre-conquest to the dawn of political independence in the various colonies. It will therefore begin with an examination of the lives of indigenous Caribbean women and continue with an analysis of the historical setting and factors which affected the behavior of women of African, European, Chinese and Indian descent.

  Instructor: G. Gill

- **CAST/HIST 246 - American Orientalism**
  Asking how ideas about “Orientals” shaped articulations of American identity, this course examines the cultural and intellectual history of American Orientalism beginning in the late 1700s. We focus on domestic discourse and Asians and Asian Americans in the U.S. Topics include: writings about Chinese “coolies” after the Civil War; inscription of abnormal sexuality on Asian bodies during America’s modernization; Cold War origins of the Model Minority; return of the “Yellow Peril” in contemporary life.

  Instructor: S. Lee

- **CAST 311 - Militarization of American Daily Life**
  How has the historic and contemporary reality of war and war preparation shaped daily life in the United States? And what have been the repercussions of militarization beyond United States geopolitical boundaries both throughout the Americas and globally? This course takes a broad view of 'American' daily life to consider how war, war preparation, and the underlying assumption that war is both a natural fact of life and part of human nature shape the experiences of people throughout the Americas, as well as the globalizing reach of American military power throughout the 20th century.

  Instructor: G. Perez

- **CAST/HIST 342 - Race, Gender & Am Soc Movement**
  This course examines social movements in the U.S. in the second half of the twentieth century, particularly those addressing racial and gender inequalities in American society. Thinking comparatively, the course includes study of the black freedom struggle, American Indian Movement, and the “Yellow Power” and “Brown Power” movements. We also consider struggles that cross (and complicate) ethno-racial identity such as feminism, gay rights, worker rights, and third world liberation.

  Instructor: S. Lee

- **ENGL 261 - Constructing the Subject: African American Women and the Autotext**
  Self-discovery and report has been foundational to the African-American intellectual and literary tradition, and this course focuses particularly on ways in which African-American women have re-conceptualized both autobiographical and disciplinary norms and boundaries as well as their own subjectivity (e.g., as actors, thinkers, and citizens) in now-classic "genre-bending" autotexts. Authors will include Jacobs, Wells, Hurston, Brooks, Angelou, Lorde, Williams, and Souljah; we will also read genre studies exploring common and uncommon features of autobiographical writing.

  Nature of Text.

  Instructor: G. Johns

- **ENGL 338 - Modern Fiction and Sexual Difference**
  This course will study the representation of gay and lesbian experience in selected British and American fiction, both modern and contemporary. We will begin with early 20th-century figures (Cather, James, Wilde, Forster, Woolf, Larsen), and proceed to short fiction and novels written after 1960 by such writers as James Baldwin, Andrew Holleran, Michael Chabon, Alan Hollinghurst, Jeanette Winterson, and Michael Cunningham.

  Instructor: D. Walker
• **ENGL 344 - Power Eroticized: Five Dramatists**
This course brings together a group of 20th-century dramatists – August Strindberg, Tennessee Williams, Jean Genet, Sarah Kane and Suzan-Lori Parks – who share a concern and a fascination for the effects of social power on the individual. Each play examined is paired with a theoretical reading that attempts to explain the human tendency to eroticize power and such acts' possible social ramifications. Theorists include Frantz Fanon, Sigmund Freud, Michel Foucault, Wendy Brown, Judith Butler. Instructor: P. Mustamaki

• **ENGL 347 - Contemporary Women of Color Dramatists**
This course examines plays by American women of color since the cultural turmoil of the mid-60s. We will trace changes in the perceptions of identity in plays by African American, Asian American and Latina women up to the 21st-century view of identities as commodified. Playwrights include Adrienne Kennedy, Lorraine Hansberry, Wakako Yamauchi, Maria Irene Fornes, Anna Deavere Smith, Migdalia Cruz, Alice Tuan. Secondary readings by for example bell hooks, Cherrie Moraga, Grace Hong. American, Instructor: P. Mustamaki

• **ETHN 210 - Music and the Politics of Identity**
This class examines music as a powerful means for the construction and articulation of identity around the world. We will explore how individuals and groups negotiate and project who they are (and what matters to them) through music and related arts - as a strategy for both unification and differentiation, along with the ways these identities are regulated, mediated, and framed by others. A series of case studies in both historical and contemporary contexts will take into account the ways gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nation, class, and community - and their intersections - become inscribed and encoded within musical practice. We will also examine the ways these articulations are read and interpreted by others, i.e. discourses of racism, sexism etc. Topics considered will include the forging of musical styles as articulations of emergent identities; music as resistance to hegemonic policies; music in diasporic communities; and the politics of representation (e.g. minorities in multicultural/postcolonial states).
Instructor: J. Fraser

• **GERM/JWST 321 - German Jewish Women Writers: Between Traditions, Disciplines and Genres**
This course will address the complex questions German Jewish women faced with respect to their ethnicity/race, religion, language, gender, class, and in a few instances, sexual orientation. We will examine the writings of Glöckel of Hameln, Rahel Levin Varnhagen, Fanny Lewald, Hannah Arendt, Anna Seghers, Nelly Sachs, and others. Lectures and discussions in English. Readings may be done in English or in the German original.
Instructor: H. Tewarson

• **HIST 265 - American Sexualities**
This course will examine the creation, maintenance, and reproduction of sexual differences and identities over a broad time span in North American history, beginning with Native American sexual practices and social formations, and stretching through the modernization of sex. Major topics will include: marriage, changing gender roles, the intersection of sexuality with race and ethnicity, commercialized sex, reproduction, same sex sexual practices, contraception, sexual violence, heterosexism, danger, desire and pleasure. Enrollment Limit: 25.
Instructor: P. Mitchell

• **HIST 327 - Borderlands**
The American Southwest, roughly the United States-Mexico border area from Texas to California, is a political, economic, and cultural crossroads. We will investigate interactions between Native Americans and Spanish colonists beginning in the 16th century, emerging United States economic and political control during the 19th century, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, land dispossession, the Mexican Revolution, immigration, civil rights, and 20th century demography. We also discuss borderlands as a literary and symbolic concept.
Instructor: P. Mitchell
• **JWST/HIST 307 - Seminar: Jewish Memoirs & Memory: Writing the Self in Jewish Society**
  Explores cultivation of memory in Jewish tradition and the emergence of a genre of writing about the self in a culture that emphasizes the collectivity. Readings about Jewish memory and writing and selected memoirs from early Jewish modernity to the present, looking at motivation for writing; intended and actual audience; the role of gender and class in memory and writing; the relationship between personal and collective identity and experience; and memoirs as sources of Jewish history.
  Instructor: S. Magnus

• **LOND 932 - The Place of “Islam” in British Discourses of Multiculturalism and Immigrant Identity**
  Through select contemporary literary texts and relevant theoretical/critical essays, this course will examine how “Islam” is positioned within dominant (white) discourses of multiculturalism and immigrant identity in present-day Britain. We will examine The Satanic Verses, My Son the Fanatic, White Teeth, Brick Lane, and Maps for Lost Lovers. With Satanic Verses as our paradigmatic text, we will also examine some of the significant debates and controversies surrounding it as they relate to our subject. The course will be reading and writing intensive and require significant student engagement.
  Instructor: A. Needham

• **POLT 206 - The Politics of Sexual Minority Communities**
  This course examines the history and politics of LGBT communities in the United States during the twentieth century. No background in the subject is required, though a general knowledge of American history and politics during this period is helpful. Topics include the relative freedom of urban LGBT communities before and during World War II, the repression of the 1950s, the Stonewall Rebellion and its aftermath, the politics of AIDS, and the place of LGBT issues in the African-American community. Class participation is essential and is a component of each student’s grade.
  Instructor: H. Hirsch

• **RELG 283 - Native American Religious Experience**
  This course will explore the various religious traditions of Native peoples in the United States, as well as their encounters with and reactions to Christian missionary efforts. We will cover the Pueblo Revolt, the Eastern Woodlands prophets, Native Christianity, The Ghost Dance, the Sun Dance, the Pueblo Dance "Controversy," the Dreamer religion, the Native American Church, and the resurgence of traditionalism among the members of the American Indian Movement.
  Instructor: A. Tarango

• **RELG 304 - History and Literature of the Ancient Near East**
  This course uses a tradition history approach to trace the midrashic and inter-textual development of biblical women as their stories are expanded through translation, retelling and homily. The textual traditions examined include the Massoretic Hebrew text, the Greek Septuagint, the Aramaic targums, the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, and early Jewish and Christian commentary. The evolving biographies include those of Eve, Rebekah, Dinah, Jezebel, and Ruth. Readings will be in English.
  Instructor: C. Chapman
**Advanced Seminars**
At least one advanced seminar is required for the major. Students can petition to have a seminar count for this requirement that is not on this list.

- **RELG 366 - Seminar: Feminist Interpretations of Evil**
  Against the backdrop of traditional Western philosophical and theological debates of evil and good, sin, theodicy, and suffering, this seminar examines how current scholars are revisiting this subject in light of feminist issues and methodologies. One of the course’s objectives will be to evaluate the extent to which feminist approaches to evil shed new light on issues such as theodicy, the nature of God, sin, and radical suffering.
  Instructor: M. Kamitsuka

- **SOCI 406 - Seminar: Gender and the State in the Middle East and North Africa**
  This seminar addresses gender in relation to states, law (including significant attention to Islamic jurisprudence and discourse), and policy, largely since the beginning of the 20th century in the Middle East and North Africa region, with some attention to earlier histories. State policies vis-à-vis "personal status" or "family" law, reproduction, and regulation and discipline of bodies are comparatively explored. Each student is required to write a 15-20 pp. research paper using primary and secondary sources and focusing on a relevant topic.
  Instructor: F. Hasso