Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Interdisciplinary Major and Minor

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS) provides an opportunity for study and dialogue on a broad range of topics related not only to feminist contributions to the fundamental fields of human knowledge and achievement, but also to interdisciplinary studies of feminisms, masculinity, sex, gender and sexuality.

The WGS minor must include WGS 221 and WGS 321, and a minimum of 12 additional hours, for a total of 18 hours. Students may count no more than 6 hours from their major(s) toward the minor. The WGS major must include WGS 221, WGS 321, WGS 320 (or another WGS approved theory course), a 3-hour WGS approved public engagement course (such as WGS 397A), and a minimum of 15 additional hours, for a total of 27 hours. No more than 9 hours may come from another department or program, no more than 6 hours from the 100 level may count toward the major, and no more than 6 hours from a minor may count toward the major. A student cannot use the same course to meet requirements in two majors. If courses not designated WGS are taken, they must be from an approved list on file with the WGS office.

WGS 101  Window on Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  (1 hr)  Wanda Balzano/David Phillips
Tuesday (1/20/2015 and 4/21/2015)  5:00-5:50 p.m.  Tribble / DeTamble A110
An opportunity to experience and reflect analytically on the diverse cultural and intellectual life of Wake Forest, with an emphasis on WGS events and topics. Students attend events and write about them. See www.college.edu/wgs/(Class meets twice.) P/F only.

WGS 221A/ WGS 622AG  Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (3 hr)  [Sect. A]  Michaeille Browers/Kristina Gupta
WGS 622BG  Tuesday/Thursday   11:00-12:15 p.m.  Kirby B01B
An interdisciplinary course that integrates materials from the humanities and the sciences, taught by WGS faculty representing at least two fields. Topics include critical methods and practical solutions, history and theory of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, women in culture and society, and cross-cultural issues of gender, ethnicity, social class, age, and sexual orientation.  (CD)

WGS 221B  Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (3 hr)  [Sect. B]  Wanda Balzano/Angéla Kóczé
WGS 622BG  Wednesday  2:00-4:30 p.m.  Room TBA
An interdisciplinary course that integrates materials from the humanities and the sciences, taught by WGS faculty representing at least two fields. Topics include critical methods and practical solutions, history and theory of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, women in culture and society, and cross-cultural issues of gender, ethnicity, social class, age, and sexual orientation.  (CD)

WGS 320A  Feminist Theory and Practice: Politics and Identity (3hr)  Michaelle Browers
WGS 620AG  Tuesday/Thursday   11:00-12:15 p.m.  Kirby B01B
Investigation of the way in which concepts of identity have informed political norms, structures, and practices; the myriad forms identity takes (particularly gender, sexual orientation, class, race, religion, nationality, and ethnicity) drawing on examples from across the globe; and theoretical approaches proposed for engaging differences.  Same as POL 278. Approved for WGS Major Theory Requirement.

WGS 321A  Race, Class, and Gender in a Colorblind Society (3hr)  Sherri Clark
Tuesday/Thursday   11:00- 12:15 p.m.  Room TBA
This course applies theoretical perspectives of the causes and consequences of social inequality for women of color to a broad array of texts and articles in the social sciences. We will examine important issues of motherhood and marriage; race and identity; class and education; and housing segregation and predatory lending practices. We will address what needs to change in order to dismantle poverty and inequality in the U.S. for future generations of all women.  Same as AES 310 and EDU 310. Approved for ANT credit.

WGS 321C  Women and Entrepreneurship: Innovation, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility (3 hr)  Angéla Kóczé
Monday  2:00 – 4:30 p.m.  Tribble A4
This course will give students the opportunity to learn about women and entrepreneurship through the themes of innovation, sustainability and social responsibility, and to engage in immersive hands-on experiences with local Latino community members who seek help to start local entrepreneurship.  Same as ESE 303A, Satisfies Public Engagement Requirement. Approved for Credit toward ESE minor. Approved for LALS credit.

WGS 321E  Gender, Food, and the Body in Popular Culture (3 hr)  Angela Yarber
Tuesday/Thursday   3:30 – 4:45p.m.  Tribble A-4
This course examines the intersection of gender, food, and the body, particularly within contemporary popular culture in the United States. Students will engage ecofeminist and queer readings that critique popular systems of beauty, sports/embodiment, disorder, and foodways in relation to gender. By the end of the course students will be able to deconstruct, analyze, and recreate through the lens of ecofeminism both gendered body marketing in commercials, magazines, ad campaigns, and food issues related to gender, animals, and sustainability.  Approved for Credit toward HES and ENV.

(Continued)
WGS 321F  Women, History, and Myth (3 hr)  Angela Yarber
Tuesday/Thursday  9:30 – 10:45 a.m.  Tribble C216
This course features the stories of pivotal women in history, art, religion, literature, and mythology. We examine the histories of women, such as Anna Julia Cooper, Georgia O’Keeffe, Jarena Lee, Dorothy Day, Isadora Duncan, Frida Kahlo, Mary Daly, Maya Angelou, Virginia Woolf, Sojourner Truth, Sappho, Martha Graham, Jane Addams, and Pauli Murray through their own writings, biographies, and autobiographies. Rooted in feminist and queer theory, students draw upon history, religion, and American ethnic studies to highlight the stories of women seldom told in wider society. Approved for credit toward AES.

WGS 377A  Telling Women’s Lives: Writing about Entrepreneurs, Activists, and Community Leaders (3 hr)  Anna Rubino
Tuesday/Thursday  5:00 – 6:15 p.m.  Tribble A4
This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to address fundamental issues of female leadership by examining recent developments in long- and short-form feminist narratives (biography, essays, profiles) and employing journalistic tools to interview and write profiles of women entrepreneurs, activists, and thought leaders. Same as ESE 302A. Approved for credit toward WRI, ESE minors. Approved for credit toward JOU minor with POI. Meets Major Public Engagement Requirement.

WGS 377B  Gender, Islam, and Modernity in Turkey (3 hr)  Ayla Samli
Wednesday/Friday  11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  Tribble A4
This course will investigate Turkey through a discussion of theoretical concepts such as modernity and Europeanization. Because of Turkey’s complex positioning in the Middle East and Europe, this course will consider timely issues relevant to Turkey and to Muslim populations worldwide, including the complex relationship between veiling and female agency, secularism and Islam. Approved for MESA minor credit. Approved for INS Global Thematic Studies credit. Approved for ANT credit.

WGS 377C  African and Caribbean Literature (3 hr)  Sally Barbour
Tuesday/Thursday  2:00-3:15 p.m.  Greene 233
Through a discussion of the narrative strategies, themes, and socio-political concepts found in a selection of literary works (many in English translation from French), we will investigate the intersection of History and personal history, as well as the role of race, class, and gender in the construction of cultural identity in the colonial and the post-colonial context, and by extension, in our own. (LAC component available in French). (D, CD) Same as HMN 222.

WGS 380A  Sexuality, Law, and Power (3 hr)  Shannon Gilreath
Wednesday  2:00 - 4:30 p.m.  Room TBA
Explores a wide variety of issues related to sexual identity and orientation by looking at the ways in which the law can constrict social development as well as act as a catalyst for change. Examines how religion and popular morality shape the law and are shaped by it. Same as LAW 651: Sexual Identity and the Law.

WGS 396A  Independent Study (1-3 hr)  Staff TBA
Independent projects in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies which either continue study begun in regular courses or develop new areas of interest. Permission of Department. POI.

WGS 397B  Internships: PREPARE (1.5)
Tuesday  3:30-4:45 p.m.
This course provides students with an overview of the social, emotional and legal issues related to sexual violence, and teaches them to design and implement educational programs on this topic. P/F only. Approved for WGS Major Public Engagement Requirement.

WGS 100 B-J  RAD: Rape Aggression Defense for Women (1 hr)  Jeff Holleman/Gina Jones
(8 sections) Sections C-H (3:30-5:20 p.m.); Sections I-J (2:00-2:55p.m.)  Luter Lounge
B 03/17-04/28, Tuesday  C 01/13-2/24, Tuesday  E 01/14-02/25, Wednesday  F 03/18-04/29, Wednesday
G 01/15-02/26, Thursday  H 03/19-04/23, Thursday  I 01/14-03/02, Mon/Wed  J 03/16-04/29, Mon/Wed
A class that develops and enhances the options of self-defense for women in case of attack. Includes basic physical self-defense tactics, risk reduction, and avoidance. Requires violence against women readings. P/F only.

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Other Course Offerings for WGS Credit

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>AES 310A</td>
<td>Race, Class, and Gender in a Color-blind Society (3 hr)</td>
<td>Sherri Lawson Clark</td>
<td>Room TBA</td>
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<td>COM 320A</td>
<td>Where Are You From? (3 hr)</td>
<td>Alessandra Von Burg</td>
<td>Carswell 005</td>
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<td>COM 341A</td>
<td>American Public Discourse (3 hr)</td>
<td>Margaret Zulick</td>
<td>Carswell 005</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDU 310A</td>
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<td>ENG 326</td>
<td>Studies in English Renaissance Literature: Early Modern Women Writers (3 hr)</td>
<td>Sarah Hogan</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 387A</td>
<td>African-American Fiction (3 hr)</td>
<td>Rian Bowie</td>
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This course applies theoretical perspectives of the causes and consequences of social inequality for women of color to a broad array of texts and articles in the social sciences. We will examine important issues of motherhood and marriage; race and identity; class and education; and housing segregation and predatory lending practices. We will address needed changes in order to dismantle poverty and inequality in the U.S. for future generations of all women. 

Same as WGS 321A and EDU 310. Approved for ANT credit.

ART 351A  Topics in Gender and Art: Renaissance Women: Artists, Viewers, Images (3 hr)  Bernadine Barnes  SFAC 103  
In the Renaissance, women played a vital role in the visual arts as viewers, patrons, and most of all subjects of works of art. This seminar will explore the constraints and opportunities that women had as creators, patrons and users of art. Through images of women we will explore the ideals and expectations of women in the early modern period.

COM 270A Where Are You From? (3 hr)  Alessandra Von Burg  Carswell 301  
This course will explore the construction and representation of who we are based on where we are from asking epistemological and ontological questions based on how environmental, cultural, social, real and perceived differences among ethnic, religious, minority groups and genders in personal and political contexts affect who we become.

COM 320A Media Theory and Criticism (3 hr)  Mary Dalton  Carswell 005  
This course examines the interrelation of American rhetorical movements in the 20th century by reading and analyzing original speeches and documents. Among the movements addressed are labor, civil rights, student radicals, and women's liberation.

EDU 310A Race, Class, and Gender in a Color-blind Society (3 hr)  Sherri Lawson Clark  Room TBA  
This course applies theoretical perspectives of the causes and consequences of social inequality for women of color to a broad array of texts and articles in the social sciences. We will examine important issues of motherhood and marriage; race and identity; class and education; and housing segregation and predatory lending practices. We will address needed changes in order to dismantle poverty and inequality in the U.S. for future generations of all women.

Same as WGS 321A and EDU 310. Approved for ANT credit.

ENG 326 Studies in English Renaissance Literature: Early Modern Women Writers (3 hr)  Sarah Hogan  Tribble A202  
English women were indeed writing—and being read—in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, enough so that their work more than merits a semester of close study. This course will recreate the interior, domestic, and public lives of women in the early modern period to understand their struggles within and against a patriarchal culture that saw little value in women's education.

ENG 387A African-American Fiction (3 hr)  Rian Bowie  Tribble A204  
In this course, we will grapple with ways that African American fiction has recorded and troubled individual and collective efforts to love in spite of myriad oppressive forces threatening its existence. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Harriet Jacobs asks, “Why does the slave ever love? Though situated under slavery, her assertion bears consideration for African Americans living through the tumultuous decades following the Civil War, where violence and institutional racism continued to destabilize what it meant to love or to long for emotional connections, political surety, or physical safety.  (CD)

ESE 302A Telling Women’s Lives: Writing about Entrepreneurs, Activists, and Community Leaders (3 hr)  Anna Rubino  Tribble A4  
This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to address fundamental issues of female leadership by examining recent developments in long- and short-form feminist narratives (biography, essays, profiles) and employing journalistic tools to interview and write profiles of women entrepreneurs, activists, and thought leaders. Same as WGS 377A. Approved for credit toward WRI, ESE minors. Approved for credit toward JOU minor with POI. Meets Major Public Engagement Requirement.

ESE 303A Women and Entrepreneurship: Innovation, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility (3 hr)  Angéla Kóczé  Tribble A4  
This course will give students the opportunity to learn about women and entrepreneurship through the themes of innovation, sustainability and social responsibility, and to engage in immersive hands-on experiences with local Latino community members who seek help to start local entrepreneurship. Same as WGS 321C. Approved for Credit toward ESE minor. Approved for LALS credit. Satisfies Public Engagement Requirement.

(Continued)
Through discussion of the narrative strategies, themes, and socio-political concepts found in a selection of literary works (many in English translation from French), we will investigate the intersection of History and personal history, as well as the role of race, class, and gender in the construction of cultural identity in the colonial and the post-colonial context, and by extension, in our own. (LAC component available in French). (D, CD) Same as WGS 377C.

HST 336A Gender in African History (3 hr) Nathan Plageman

Examines the centrality of gender to the African past exploring definitions of gender in African settings; the operation of gender in pre-colonial African societies; gender and slavery; gendered transformations during colonial rule; gender, nationalism and independence; and the evolution of relationships between men and men, men and women, and women and women in various regions of the continent. (CD)

HST 388A Nation, Faith, and Gender in the Middle East (3 hr) Charles Wilkins

This course surveys the development of national, religious, transnational, and individual identities in the Middle East during the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics include Arab nationalism, Zionism, Turkish nationalism, Islamist movements, and the construction of gender in these contexts. (CD)

LAW 651 Sexual Identity and the Law (3 hr) Shannon Gilreath

Explores a wide variety of issues related to sexual identity and orientation by looking at the ways in which the law can constrain social development as well as act as a catalyst for change. Examines how religion and popular morality shape the law and are shaped by it. Same as WGS 380: Sexuality, Law and Power.

POL 278A Politics and Identity (3 hr) Michaeille Browers

Investigation of the way in which concepts of identity have informed political norms, structures, and practices; the myriad forms identity takes (particularly gender, sexual orientation, class, race, religion, nationality, and ethnicity) drawing on examples from across the globe; and theoretical approaches proposed for engaging differences. Same as WGS 320A/620AG. Approved for WGS Major Theory Requirement.

PSY 265A Human Sexuality (3 hr) Phillip Batten

An exploration of the psychological and physiological aspects of human sexuality, with attention to sexual mores, sexual deviances, sexual dysfunction, and sex-related roles. P-PSY 151.

REL 388A South Asian Women: Religion, Culture and Politics (3 hr) Tanisha Ramachandran

Using a feminist and post-colonial perspective, and taking into account the histories, experiences and lives of South Asian women, this course examines the intersection of religion, race and gender from both a theoretical and a practical point of view. It focuses on issues of representation and identity formation, recognizing how categories such as “South Asian” and “woman” become tools for a simultaneous understanding of both culture and gender, creating a place for both oppression and empowerment. CD.

SOC 327A Sociology of Emotion (3 hr) Robin Simon

An exploration of the social side of emotions, including how they are socially learned, shaped, regulated, controlled, as well as the consequences of emotion culture, norms, management. A major theme of the course is the relationship between gender and emotion.

SOC 359A Race and Ethnic Relations (3 hr) Hana Brown

Racial and ethnic group prejudice and discrimination and their effect on social relationships. Emphasizes psychological and sociological theories of prejudice. (CD).

SOC 381 Gender, Social Relationships, and Well-Being Over the Life Course (3 hr) Robin Simon

Despite major social changes in gender roles, practices, and identities that have been evolving in the United States since the mid-20th century, sociological research repeatedly finds that the impact of social relationships on well-being – particularly the impact of marital, cohabitating, and parent-child relationships – significantly differs for American women and men. In this seminar, students will engage with recent, cutting edge sociological scholarship on the topic of gender, social relationships, and well-being over the life course.