



Department of Women's and Gender Studies

Spring 2018

Undergraduate Course Offerings

For questions about permits, course registration, and degree requirements please make an appointment to see your academic advisor by visiting <http://usfweb.usf.edu/escheduler/student.aspx>.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA • DEPARTMENT OF

WOMEN'S & GENDER
studies



WST 2250: The Female Experience Experience in America

Tangela Serls, M.Ed.

Offered completely online (CRN 14358)

Our understanding of the past is transformed when considered through women's experiences. This course reexamines U.S. History through the lived experiences of women from the late 1800s to the present, providing alternate conceptions of what and whom constitutes "the U.S.," and thus "U.S. history." While we will identify common experiences between different groups of women, we will also notice the differences and divisions among them. We will highlight how women's identities cannot be separated along lines of gender, race, and class, but intersect to form unique and distinctive experiences.

We use novels, like *Shanghai Girls*; films, like *La Operación* and *The Pill*; as well as poetry, websites, letters, speeches, and even Dr. Seuss comics to examine: Woman Suffrage, Florida Women Making Change, Hawaiian Sovereignty and Settler Colonialism, Angel Island Immigration Experiences, Chinese California, Reproductive Injustice, Mixed Race Inheritance and Self-Making; Queering Native America, and September 11th.

We further investigate how a variety of women have created and responded to shifting and contested cultural, political, and social discourses and events. Positioning ourselves as both students and scholars, we link the historical journey of American women to current social and political conditions surrounding contemporary experiences, like voter identification mandates, immigration debates, and the impact of 9/11.



WST 2600: Human Sexual Behavior

Jennifer Ellerman-Queen, M.A.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30—9:15 PM (CRN 11328)

Let's talk about sex!

Mainstream America is awash in mixed and often conflicting messages about sex. On one hand we are bombarded by sexually explicit imagery, yet there is a conspiracy of silence when it comes to having frank, honest discussions about sex. In this class we will begin to delve into and pull apart notions about sex and gender from historical, social, cultural, political, and biological perspectives in an effort to create a holistic and interdisciplinary paradigm that more accurately encompasses human experience.

We will touch on topics such as: sexual response, double standards, gender vs. sex, gender roles, masculinity, heteronormativity, gender non-conforming, birth control, sexually transmitted infections, sexy safer sex, sexual expression and variation, and sexual violence/coercion. In addition to spirited discussions, there will be in-class activities, role playing, and videos that will have you hungry for more!

Think of it as the sex education class that you only *wish* you would have taken in high school... only a lot more fun and thought-provoking! Upon completion, students will have the tools and knowledge necessary to make informed choices about their sexual health. This class also meets the FKL requirement for Social and Behavioral Science.

Human Sexual Behavior requires one text book: *Sex Matters*, 4th Edition.



WST 3015: Intro to Women's Studies

Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

Offered completely online (CRN 14357)

In this course we develop critical frameworks for thinking about sex, gender, and sexuality. What do these words mean? Are these things “natural” or might they vary by person and time and place? Do our go-to ideas about sex, gender, and sexuality fit all experiences? What other ways of thinking about sex, gender, and sexuality exist – in our culture and in other cultures? Do sex, gender, and sexual orientation matter or are we all “just human?” What roles have feminist movements and gender justice movements played in advancing these questions? And what do we make of the backlash that says “feminists are man-haters” or that “real men don’t cry?” In what ways do gender norms control us all? We also think about the ways that sex, gender, and sexual orientation are constructed and institutionalized – in our friendships and love lives, in our families and kin networks, in our schools and workplaces, in pop culture and politics, and in our culture more generally.

Among the issues we might explore are ongoing debates concerning public and private, the value of feminism and gender justice movements, equality and difference, and the intersection of gender with other axes of identity like class, religion, and race. This course is foundational if you’re going into education, medicine, law, social welfare, journalism, parenthood, or any other career that involves... Wait for it...! Wait for it...! Working with humans! Why? Because all humans have some relationship to sex, gender, and sexual orientation themselves and in our society.

This course draws heavily on the notions that the personal is political and that the political is personal, connecting theory and academic thinking with “real life” and requiring that students become adept at doing the same.



WST 3324: Women, Environment, & Gender

Zoe DuPree Fine, Ph.D. Candidate
Offered completely online (CRN 18110)

We are our environments. We concurrently create, consume, and are consumed by the images and messages about difference that bombard us every day. In Women, Environment, and Gender, students excavate and analyze their individual and collective experiences of sex, gender, race, socioeconomic status, sexuality, dis/able-bodiedness, age, and nationality in and through the lenses of the very environments we create and perpetuate. Students accomplish this all while having this multisensory, multimedia 100% online class count as an Exit Requirement Major Works, an FKL Natural Science (NS) Life Science core, and/or an Environmental Policy Concentration course!

In WST 3324, students will learn course content ranging from feminist and critical race theories to environmental and socioeconomic oriented scholarship, and from historically situated narratives to literature centered on difference, and apply it to their life experiences. Through these reflective and reflexive applications, students will illustrate in their course assignments how theory and practice inextricably coalesce in Women's and Gender Studies. This 100% online learning experience will give students the rare opportunity to discover strategies of resistance and subversion while gaining tools that will empower us to positively change our environments, to create a brighter 21st century for all. Join us on this journey of a lifetime!

As part of the USF's Foundations of Knowledge and Core Learning Curriculum, this course is certified as an Exit Requirement Major Works course, FKL Natural Science (NS) Life Science core course, and Environmental Policy Concentration course.



WST 4262: Literature by Women of Color

Tangela Serls, M.Ed..

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2—3:15 AM (CRN 13236)

For far too long, American history was conceived as a history of white, mostly male, settlers and politicians forging a new land. But what of all the women of color? Don't they have a history too? This course will examine how women writers of color and/or immigrant background in the U. S. use narrative to rewrite and reimagine history.

Readings will include: Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior* (1975); Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987); Louise Erdrich, *Tracks* (1988); Isabel Allende, *Daughter of Fortune* (1999); Leslie Marmon Silko, *Gardens in the Dunes* (1999); Octavia Butler, *Kindred* (2004); Anita Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss* (2007); and Alicia Gaspar de Alba, *Calligraphy of the Witch* (2012). We will also read some feminist literary and cultural criticism. This is a Gordon Rule class and will include considerable writing.



WST 4002: Feminist Research Methods

Kim Golombisky, Ph.D.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2—3:15 PM (CRN 22151)

Got Methods? Feminist research practices are trans-disciplinary. So are the sometimes-sticky, sometimes-explosive issues that gender and sexualities scholars face in their research—whether humanities or social sciences.

To begin with, feminist research practices question the whole enterprise of knowledge production via “research methods,” not to mention the politics of who gets to participate in the research process from A-Z.

Join us in January to stock up on the philosophical and theoretical tools, along with the cookbook recipes, to be able to do the kind of research that changes the world.



WST 4320: Politics & Issues in Women's Health

Diane Price Herndl, Ph.D.

Hybrid class, meets on Mondays only, 9:30—10:45 AM (CRN 11943)

How are social inequalities manifest in women's health? What roles do race, class, sexual orientation, or geography play in how we manage healthcare? How does gender matter when we are working through questions of genetic testing? How do corporate profits influence our treatment of cancer, pregnancy, and breast-feeding?

WST 4320: Politics and Issues in Women's Health addresses these questions and more as we examine the system of healthcare in the United States, and look at issues of women's health from a global perspective. We will investigate:

- issues of health in the workplace (including when the workplace is the home),
- debates over whether we should be concerned about an “obesity epidemic” or whether we should work toward fat acceptance,
- the ways that domestic violence, rape, and human trafficking are health issues,
- the treatment of lesbians and transgendered people in the healthcare system,
- attitudes toward aging women (who make up a majority of the aged population) and how that has an impact on health,
- the culture of cosmetic surgery, and the ugly facts about dangerous beauty products.

At this moment in history when we are seeing tremendous changes in public policy toward healthcare for the poor and for women—who gets insurance? who pays for birth control? who regulates pregnant bodies?—we will pay especial attention to the political and corporate climates surrounding our health system. We will also address the question of finding reliable health information in an age of “fake news” and contested science.

WST 4320 will be offered in a hybrid, face-to-face AND online format in Spring 2018. It fulfills the University FKL requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences Core Courses, counts toward the Social and Behavioral Health Sciences Concentration in the Health Sciences major, and counts toward both the major and minor in Women's and Gender Studies. It is also open as an elective for all students.



WST 4930: Black Feminisms

Tangela Serls, Ph.D.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 14352)

Black feminisms will use Black feminist theory and womanist theory to explore the ways in which black women in the United States have been defined historically and contemporarily. The course will take an interdisciplinary approach as we think through various cultural illustrations of black womanhood. Additionally, we will consider the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality as related to black women. We will utilize a variety of texts (e.g. critical texts, films, fiction, personal narratives, and popular cultural examples) as we examine how Black women are defined in various sites such as activism, media, social media, and religion (to name a few). There are no prerequisite courses for this course.

Questions about our readings? Assignments? Feel free to email me at serlst@mail.usf.edu



WST 4930: Transnational Feminisms

David Rubin, Ph.D.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 14352)

How do we think about feminism in an era when globalization—the uneven circulation of ideas, goods, people, and capital around the globe—both enables and constrains the prospects for sustainable development and human flourishing? When gender inequalities are deeply intertwined with the international division of labor? When human rights are used as a justification for war? When consumerism is equated with liberty? When the gap between the wealthy and the poor continues to grow, both within nations and between them? When the ghosts of slavery and empire haunt efforts to craft democratic, multicultural, and postcolonial feminist futures? Pursuing these questions, this course will explore the histories, theories, methods, and politics of transnational feminisms. We will trace how feminist ideas and practices travel within and across national, political, economic, cultural, racial, gendered, sexual, religious, and disciplinary borders. We will explore the ways in which feminisms of the global South have challenged the Euro- and U.S.-centrism of global Northern and Western feminist paradigms. Along the way, we will critically attend to the intersections of gender with race, class, sexuality, nation, and ability in a variety of contexts, and will also investigate how transnational feminist frameworks reconfigure understandings of embodiment, subjectivity, agency, human rights, neoliberalism, secularism, democracy, and the politics of difference. Finally, we will consider what alternative visions of a more just world transnational feminisms articulate.



WST 4930: Women in the Middle East

Raheleh Dayerizadeh, Ph.D. Candidate
Offered completely online (CRN 14352)

This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to introduce students to the situation of women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. We will be going over the debates on the status of MENA women and their political, historical, cultural, geographical, social, anthropological, educational, economical struggles and achievements. Together we will be traveling across the region and visiting each country and exploring how the politics of gender has been shaped.

Through each weekly discussion post you will be finding out more about the current events effecting women in the MENA. By critically analyzing the weekly readings and videos, you will be introduced to the active agency that MENA women display in their everyday lived experiences. Contrary to popular belief in the West, women in the region are active agents that are continuously confronting and challenging the patriarchal structure; as all women around the world do. By the end of this course, you will be able to comfortably write about and discuss the situation of women in the MENA region and challenge those who as Spivak portrays, want to “save brown women from brown men.”



WST 4930: Careers & Professionalism in WGS

Milton Wendland, Ph.D.
Fridays, 11 AM—1:45 PM (CRN 14356)

As a WGS major or minor, you encounter so many different ideas and concepts that it can be difficult to think about how it fits into the "real world" of life after college. In *Careers & Professionalism in WGS* we'll explore quandaries like:

- How do I take my WGS degree and actually find a job?
- Am I selling out if I major in WGS and then take a “regular job” that doesn’t have much to do with WGS?
- What if I’m applying for a job and I think my WGS degree and my feminist/queer/etc activities might count against me?
- How can I enact my feminist, queer, and progressive principles in my daily life, like in a real way?
- How does learning about income taxes and investments and retirement accounts and things like that fit with WGS? (Hint: Agency! Sex equity!)
- How exactly does intersectionality or positionality or self-reflexivity or any of those other WGS concepts apply when I’m graduated and trying to create a post-college life?!?!?

We’ll consider these and other questions through hands-on approaches that challenge traditional patriarchal ways of thinking and life-planning. We’ll touch base with feminists, queers, and others who are “living their ethics” in a variety of venues. In addition we'll do hands-on activities to build our "professional portfolios" (fancy talk for job application letters, resumes, and statements that you can use in job, grant, and graduate school applications). Be prepared for some intense and intensive discussions and life prep! This course is open to WGS majors and minors of all levels.



WST 4940: Internship in Women's & Gender Studies

Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

Select meeting dates (CRN 21373)

What the heck is an internship?!

- Do you ever wonder, "What will I do with a WGS degree?!"
- Do you want some real world experience putting your WGS knowledge into action?
- Do you want a rockin' resume when you start applying for jobs or graduate school?

A WGS Internship is your chance to connect your educational experiences with feminism and social justice in a professional business and non-profit environment beyond the classroom. Um. Okay. What does that mean?

It means -- You'll work on-site with a local organization for the entire semester -- earning 1-3 hours of academic credit that count toward your degree and toward graduation (oh yeah!), contributing to the success of our communities (um social justice for the win!), and gaining valuable skills for your own career (skills to pay the bills!) -- all within the context of a feminist and social justice framework. Yeah, that's right! REAL WORLD experience with a FEMINIST flavor!

And best of all, the internship is keyed to YOUR specific career interests and skills, with Dr. Wendland helping you along the way to sort your internship experiences into valuable job skills. And don't worry! A moment of frustration can become a key skill on your resume. If you find out that "Ew, yeah... I don't like working with children after all," then that helps us discuss your job search. Regular check-in chats with Dr. Wendland keep the whole experience focused on your success.

WGS Interns have made connections with important Florida politicians, lobbied the state legislature, assisted with ACA "Obamacare" education, written sex-positive blogs, become trained self-defense instructors, done art therapy with young girls, organized food banks, developed outreach presentations for young voters, assisted Latino/a immigrants, web designed for a sexual assault crisis center, and more. And here's the thing -- THOSE experiences help YOU meet the CONTACTS you need on the job market!

To learn more (even if you're still not quite sure what an internship is!), drop Dr. Wendland an email at miltonw@usf.edu