Gender Studies

The major and minor in gender studies are administered by the Department of Gender Studies: Professor Remmler; Associate Professors Gundermann, Rundle; 5College Assistant Professor Willey; Senior Lecturer Ackmann (on leave Fall 2015); Visiting Lecturers Luce, Vitulli.

Overview

Contact Info
Bridget Barrett, senior administrative assistant
Christian Gundermann, chair

Requirements for the Major

Gender studies majors cultivate the habit of asking how gender—through its connections with other forms of power—shapes bodies, lives, texts, institutions, and worlds. Gender studies is interdisciplinary and cross-cultural in its approaches. The goal is to provide students with multiple angles of vision that enrich their learning in and beyond the major.

At Mount Holyoke, gender studies grew out of women’s studies, with its commitment to uncovering the realities of women’s lives, understanding the nature of women’s oppression, and charting paths to significant social change. Building on this foundation, gender studies encompasses investigations into the very nature of gender; its intersection with other forms of difference and power such as class, race, nation, sexuality, and species; and its intimate connection with myriad forms of knowledge and social practice, from scientific investigation to artistic creation and performance.

Majors are introduced to the foundations of the field in courses on women and gender, feminist theory, and methodology. Drawing on courses offered across the Mount Holyoke curriculum and in the Five Colleges, majors then explore topics such as women’s literary and artistic production; gender in imperial and postcolonial contexts; feminist antiracism; women’s health; women and labor; violence against women; feminist science studies; queer studies; men and masculinity; transgender politics; U.S. women of color politics; women immigrants and refugees; transnational feminisms.

A field-study seminar, taken in the junior or senior year; and a senior capstone course bring majors together to think through connections among the diverse intellectual and creative approaches they have encountered as well as between scholarship and social action.

Credits

- A minimum of 36 credits; 12 credits at the 300 level

Courses

- 101, Introduction to Gender Studies
- 201, Methods and Practices in Feminist Scholarship
- 221, Feminist Theory
- 290, Field Placement, or another course with a significant community-based learning component and a focus on women, gender, and/or sexuality
- 333, Advanced Seminar (two courses under this rubric)
- 392, Senior Seminar
- The remaining 8 credits may be chosen from gender studies courses at Mount Holyoke or elsewhere in the Five Colleges, or courses approved by the department

Other

- Topics and approaches emphasized in Gender Studies 221 (Feminist Theory) vary from semester to semester. Also, other courses may be substituted for this requirement, where indicated, but note that this will neither reduce the number of credits required for the major nor lead to a waiver of prerequisites for Gender Studies 333.
- Permission to have a course other than Gender Studies 290 fulfill the field placement/community-based learning requirement is given by the department chair. This course may be taken outside the gender studies department. The requirement may not be fulfilled by an internship or an independent study.

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- A minimum of 20 credits; 16 credits above the 100 level

Courses

- 101, Introduction to Gender Studies
- 201, Methods and Practices in Feminist Scholarship or 221, Feminist Theory
- The remaining 12 credits (of which 8 must be above the 100 level and 4 must be at the 300 level) may be chosen from gender studies courses or courses approved by the department.

Course Offerings

GNDST-101 Introduction to Gender Studies
Fall and Spring
This course is designed to introduce students to social, cultural, historical, and political perspectives on gender and its construction. Through discussion and writing, we will explore the intersections among gender, race, class, and sexuality in multiple settings and contexts. Taking an interdisciplinary approach to a variety of questions, we will consider the distinctions between sex and gender, women's economic status, the making of masculinity, sexual violence, queer movements, racism, and the challenges of feminist activism across nations, and possibilities for change. We will also examine the development of feminist theory, including its promises and challenges.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
C. Gundermann, J. Luce, E. Rundle, E. Vitulli
Credits: 4

GNDST-201 Methods and Practices in Feminist Scholarship
Spring
How do scholars produce knowledge? What can we learn from differences and similarities in the research process of a novelist, a biologist, an historian, a sociologist, and a film critic? Who decides what counts as knowledge? We will examine a range of methods from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, including visual analysis, archival exploration, interviewing, and ethnography, as we consider the specific advantages (and potential limitations) of diverse disciplinary approaches for feminist inquiry. We will take up numerous practical questions as well as larger methodological and ethical debates. This course provides a foundation for advanced work in the major.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Willey
Prereq: Gender Studies 101.
Credits: 4

GNDST-204 Women and Gender in the Study of Culture
GNDST-204AW  Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Twentieth-Century American Women Writers'

Not Scheduled for This Year

This course examines the work of a variety of twentieth-century women writers located in the United States, focusing on the genre of prose fiction and the themes of gender, race, and sexuality. Particular attention will be paid to developments in African American women's writing, to Southern writers, and lesbian literary representation. Writers may include Gwendolyn Brooks, Willa Cather, Kate Chopin, Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, Carson McCullers, Flannery O'Connor, Gertrude Stein, Alice Walker, Edith Wharton, and Hisaye Yamamoto.

Crosslisted as: English 271
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Y. Young
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Credits: 4

GNDST-204CU  Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Imagining Cuba: Between History and Memory'

Spring

This course introduces students to critical and creative works that center Cuba and its diasporas. The primary questions of the course are: How have authors varyingly imagined Cuba over time and across space? How are these imaginings of Cuba politically, economically, and culturally situated? Students will question the personal/national and the public/private across a range of texts that explore issues of exile, nostalgia, memory, and nationalism. Readings include works by Cristina Garcia, Ana Menendez, Pablo Medina, Achy Obejas, Roberto G. Fernandez, Carmelita Tropicana, Richard Blanco, and Rachel Kushner and readings by Gustavo Perez Firmat, Sheila Croucher, and Louis A. Perez, Jr.

Crosslisted as: Latina/o Studies 290CU, Latin American Studies 287CU
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
J. Hernandez
Credits: 4

GNDST-204CW  Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Androgyny and Gender Negotiation in Contemporary Chinese Women's Theater'

Not Scheduled for This Year

Yue Opera, an all-female art that flourished in Shanghai in 1923, resulted from China's social changes and the women's movement. Combining traditional with modern forms and Chinese with Western cultures, Yue Opera today attracts audiences, particularly women, are fascinated by gender renegotiations as well as modern forms and Chinese with Western cultures, Yue Opera today attracts audiences, particularly women, are fascinated by gender renegotiations as well as the all-female cast. The class will read and watch classics of this theater, including *Dream of the Red Chamber*, *Story of the Western Chamber*, *Peony Pavilion*, and *Butterfly Lovers*. Students will also learn the basics of traditional Chinese opera.

Crosslisted as: Asian Studies 215, Theatre Arts 234CW
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Y. Wang
Prereq: Gender Studies 101.
Credits: 4

GNDST-204LF  Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Spanish Women Through and Film'

Spring

This course explores the history of Spanish women from a critical and interdisciplinary perspective. Topics include a variety of feminist issues, from domestic violence to maternity and equality. There is a strong emphasis on developing analytical strategies for reading and speaking, improving skills for (creative) writing, and designing pedagogical materials for teaching. Course examines works by María de Zayas, Federico García Lorca, and Ana Rossetti, and movies by Icíar Bollaín and Bigas Luna, among others.

Crosslisted as: Spanish 230LF
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
N. Romero-Díaz
Prereq: Spanish 212.
Notes: Taught in Spanish.
Credits: 4

GNDST-204SW  Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Sexuality and Women's Writing'

Fall

An examination of how U.S. women writers in the twentieth and twenty-first century represent sexuality in prose. Topics to include: lesbian, queer, homoerotic, and transgender possibilities; literary strategies for encoding sexuality, including modernist experiment and uses of genre; thematic interdependencies between sexuality and race; historical contexts, including the 'inversion' model of homosexuality and the Stonewall rebellion. Authors studied may include Barnes, Bechdel, Cather, Chopin, Feinberg, Highsmith, Jackson, Larsen, McCullers, Moraga, Nestle, Stein, and Truong; supplemental critical readings may include Butler, Lorde, Rich, and Sedgwick.

Crosslisted as: English 286
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
E. Young
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Credits: 4

GNDST-204WH  Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Worthy Hearts and Saucy Wits'

Fall

Eighteenth-century England witnessed the birth of the novel, a genre that in its formative years was both lauded for its originality and condemned as intellectually and morally dangerous, especially for young women. We will trace the numerous prose genres that influenced early novelists, including conduct manuals, epistolary writing, conversion narratives, travelogues, romance, and the gothic. In doing so, we will concomitantly examine the novel's immense formal experimentation alongside debates about developing notions of gender and class as well as the feeling, thinking individual. Authors may include Richardson, Fielding, Sterne, Walpole, Burney, and others.

Crosslisted as: English 239WH
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
K. Singer
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Notes: meets English department 1700-1900 requirement
Credits: 4

GNDST-206  Women and Gender in History

GNDST-206AF  Women and Gender in the Study of History: 'African Women: Food and Power'

Not Scheduled for This Year

This course uses archival records, fiction, life histories, and outstanding recent scholarship to investigate African women's actions in a century that encompassed women's loss of agency and authority but the endurance of their responsibility for the production of food. We investigate the erosion of women's economic power and the loss of women's work of governing at conquest, in the early colonial period, and as a consequence of Africa's integration into the world economy as its least powerful player. We examine women's efforts to sustain productive activities in the face of opposition and the gendered tensions these efforts provoke. Optional fourth hour discussions.

Crosslisted as: History 296AF
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Crosslisted as: History 276
will trace the impact multiple identities have had on women's social and cultural and sexuality) along racial, ethnic, and class lines and in different regions, and meanings of womanhood (for example, motherhood, work, the domestic sphere, evolved and changed over the twentieth century. We will chart the various from the 1880s to the present. We will look both at the experiences of a diverse 
This course introduces students to the major themes of U.S. women's history 
Credits: 4
E. Vitulli
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
The department

GNDST-206FW Women and Gender in the Study of History: 'African American Women and U.S. History'
Not Scheduled for This Year
How is our understanding of U.S. history transformed when we place African American women at the center of the story? This course will examine the exclusion of African American women from dominant historical narratives and the challenge to those narratives presented by African American women's history through an investigation of selected topics in the field.
Crosslisted as: History 280AA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Renda
Credits: 4

GNDST-206CH Women and Gender in the Study of History: 'Women in Chinese History'
Not Scheduled for This Year
An exploration of the roles and values of Chinese women in traditional and modern times. Topics will include the structure of the family and women's productive work, rules for female behavior, women's literature, and the relationship between feminism and other political and social movements in revolutionary China. Readings from biographies, classical literature, feminist scholarship, and modern fiction.
Crosslisted as: History 296CH
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
The department

GNDST-206US Women and Gender in the Study of History: 'U.S. Women's History since 1890'
Fall
This course introduces students to the major themes of U.S. women's history from the 1880s to the present. We will look both at the experiences of a diverse group of women in the U.S. as well as the ideological meaning of gender as it evolved and changed over the twentieth century. We will chart the various meanings of womanhood (for example, motherhood, work, the domestic sphere, and sexuality) along racial, ethnic, and class lines and in different regions, and will trace the impact multiple identities have had on women's social and cultural activism.
Crosslisted as: History 276

GNDST-210 Women and Gender in Philosophy and Religion
GNDST-210BD Women and Gender in Philosophy and Religion: 'Women and Buddhism'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course examines the contested roles and representations of Buddhist women in different historical and cultural contexts. Using a variety of ethnographic, historical, and textual sources, the course investigates both the challenges and opportunities Buddhist women have found in their religious texts, institutions, and communities.
Crosslisted as: Religion 241
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Mrozik
Credits: 4

GNDST-212  Women and Gender in Social Sciences
GNDST-212FM Psychology of Women: 'Women, Work and Family'
Spring
This course explores the experience of working mothers in America. What are the political, economic, social and psychological factors that shape the experiences of women who work and raise children? How does the American woman's experience vary across race, class and educational level, and how does it compare to the experiences of women in other cultures? How have the roles of mother and worker or 'career woman' changed over time? How have they remained the same? What type of support do women need to balance these roles? We'll explore these questions using research in social psychology, theoretical
texts, fiction, our own lived experience, and inquiry into the experiences of others.  

Crosslisted as: Psychology 211WO  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
A. Grillo  
Prereq: 100-level Psychology course.  
Credits: 4  

GNDST-221 Feminist Theory  

GNDST-221CC Feminist Theory: 'Introduction to Feminist Theory'  
Fall  
This course explores the overlapping dualities of the feminine and the masculine, the private and the public, the home and the world. We examine different forms of power over the body; the ways gender and sexual identities reinforce or challenge the established order; and the cultural determinants of 'women's emancipation.' We emphasize the politics of feminism, dealing with themes that include culture, democracy, and the particularly political role of theory and on theoretical attempts to grasp the complex ties and tensions between sex, gender, and power.  
Crosslisted as: Politics 233  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
E. Markovits  
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors  
Credits: 4  

GNDST-221QF Feminist Theory: 'Feminist and Queer Theory'  
Spring  
We will read a number of key feminist texts that theorize sexual difference, and challenge the oppression of women. We will then address queer theory, an offshoot and expansion of feminist theory, and study how it is both embedded in, and redefines, the feminist paradigms. This redefinition occurs roughly at the same time (1980s/90s) when race emerges as one of feminism's prominent blind spots. The postcolonial critique of feminism is a fourth vector we will examine, as well as anti-racist and postcolonial intersections with queerness. We will also study trans-theory and its challenge to the queer paradigm.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
C. Gundermann  
Prereq: Gender Studies 101.  
Credits: 4  

GNDST-226 The Art of Fact: Writing the Lives of Women  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
This course will examine narrative non-fiction biographies written by women biographers in order to determine the specific ways in which women tell the stories of other women's lives. We will investigate stylistic and theoretical approaches to writing biographies in which gender is a central focus. We will ask if 'feminist biography' constitutes a literary genre. We will experience the challenges (and thrills) of conducting archival and primary research. The course will culminate in students writing chapter-length biographies.  
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities  
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive  
M. Ackmann  
Prereq: Gender Studies 101.  
Credits: 4  

GNDST-241 Women and Gender in Science  

GNDST-241HP Women in Gender and Science: 'Feminist Health Politics'  
Fall  
Health is about bodies, selves and politics. We will explore a series of health topics from feminist perspectives. How do gender, sexuality, class, disability, and age influence the ways in which one perceives and experiences health and the access one has to health information and health care? Are heteronormativity, cissexism, or one's place of living related to one's health status or one's health risk? By paying close attention to the relationships between community-based narratives, activities of health networks and organizations and theory, we will develop a solid understanding of the historical, political and cultural specificities of health issues, practices, services and movements.  
Crosslisted as: Anthropology 216HP  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
J. Luce  
Credits: 4  

GNDST-250 Gender and Power in Global Contexts  

GNDST-250AB Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'The Politics of Abortion in the Americas'  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
The Americas have been characterized by the strictness of their laws in the criminalization of abortion. In some countries abortion is criminalized even when the woman's life is at risk. What role have women's movements played in advancing abortion rights? What has mattered most for a movement's success, its internal characteristics or external forces? Has the way the movement framed its demands mattered? How has the political influence of the Catholic and Evangelical churches influenced policies in this area? We will answer these questions by exploring examples from across the region through primary and secondary sources.  
Crosslisted as: Politics 255PA  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives  
C. Fernandez-Anderson  
Credits: 4  

GNDST-250TM Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'Land, Transnational Markets, and Democracy in Women's Lives and Activism'  
Not Scheduled for This Year  
This course will address the predicaments of women who must negotiate local contexts shaped by transnational markets, changing patterns of agriculture and agro-forestry, and struggles over indigenous land rights. How have arguments about democracy shaped the struggles women take up locally, nationally, and transnationally in opposition to corporate power, national policies, and supranational agencies such as the World Trade Organization?  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
The department  
Credits: 4  

GNDST-290 Field Placement  
Spring  
This course presents an opportunity for students to apply gender theory to practice and synthesize their work in gender studies. Connections between the academy and the community, scholarship and social action will be emphasized. Students will arrange for a placement at a non-profit organization, business, or institution that incorporates a gender focus. A weekly seminar with other students provides a structured reflection forum to analyze experience and methods.  
Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement  
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning; Speaking-Intensive  
E. Rundle  
Prereq: Gender Studies 101 and, either 201 or 221.  
Credits: 4  

GNDST-295 Independent Study  
Fall and Spring  
The department  

Gender St. 4
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-4
Course can be repeated for credit.

GNDST-333AA Advanced Seminar: 'Emily Dickinson in Her Times'
Spring
This course will examine the writing of Emily Dickinson, both her poetry and her letters. We will consider the cultural, historical, political, religious, and familial environment in which she lived. Special attention will be paid to Dickinson’s place as a woman artist in the nineteenth century. The class will meet at the Dickinson Museum (280 Main Street in Amherst and accessible by Five College bus). Enrollment is limited to ten students.
Crosslisted as: English 359
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
M. Ackmann
Prereq: 8 credits in English or 8 credits in Gender Studies.
Notes: Meets weekly in Amherst.
Credits: 4

GNDST-333AS Advanced Seminar: 'Anthropology and Sexualities'
Fall
This seminar focuses on contemporary anthropological scholarship concerned with the varieties of sexual expression in diverse cultural settings. We will read ethnographic accounts of sexual ideologies and the politics and practices of sexuality in Brazil, Japan, Native North America, India, and elsewhere. We will examine anthropological theories of sexuality with an emphasis on contemporary issues, including performance theory, "third gender" theories, sexual identity formulation, and techniques used by various societies to discipline the body.
Crosslisted as: Anthropology 331
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
L. Morgan
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology, Gender Studies, or a combination of the two.
Credits: 4

GNDST-333BB Advanced Seminar: 'Women in American Theatre and Drama'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course offers a history of women in performance, from the colonial era to the present day. Americans inherited a European theatrical economy that was largely male dominated, though actresses played a central role on stage and in the public imagination. Today, while serious inequities remain, women are gaining largely male dominated, though actresses played a central role on stage and in the public imagination. Today, while serious inequities remain, women are gaining

GNDST-333BC Advanced Seminar: 'Desperate Housewives in 19th- through early 20th-century American Literature'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course will explore visual and literary images of nineteenth through early 20th-century marriage and motherhood. Discussion of Virginia Woolf's 'A Room of One's Own' and Barbara Welter's essay 'The Cult of True Womanhood' will serve as the springboard for our focus on representations of women in the home. We will incorporate a visit to the art museum, and will analyze film adaptations of some of the texts we read. The course will focus primarily on American literature, film, and art, with the exception of Ibsen's A Doll's House; selected written texts will include works by writers such as Hawthorne, James, Stowe, Gilman, Freeman, Chopin, Hurston, and Wharton.
Crosslisted as: English 373DH
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
L. Glasser
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits from the department.
Credits: 4

GNDST-333DP Advanced Seminar: 'Psychology of Trauma'
Fall
What happens after a traumatic event? Why do some people develop psychological disorders and others do not? This course will explore the psychological theories and research on trauma and stress. Topics covered will include childhood abuse, domestic violence, combat violence, community violence, and interpersonal violence. The seminar will explore psychological dysfunction, disorders, as well as adaptation and coping following exposure to traumatic stress. In addition, the course will explore the concept of "cultural trauma."
Crosslisted as: Psychology 329PT
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Douglas
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 100-level Psychology course and Psychology 201.
Advisory: A course in abnormal psychology preferred.
Credits: 4

GNDST-333EE Advanced Seminar: 'Latina Feminisms'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of feminist ideologies among Latinas throughout the United States. Employing a range of sources from archival texts to artistic images and ethnographies, we will study the histories and representations of Latina feminist theories across academic and aesthetic approaches. Focusing on the multiplicity of lived experiences among Puertorriqueñas, Chicanas, Mexicanas, Centroamericanas, Dominicanas, Suramericanas, and many other communities in the United States, we will interrogate how gender and sexuality have informed the development of Latina feminist movements and political histories.
Crosslisted as: Latina/o Studies 330
GNDST-333EG  Advanced Seminar: 'Eggs and Embryos: Innovations in Reproductive and Genetic Technologies'

Fall
This seminar will focus on emerging innovations in the development, use and governance of reproductive and genetic technologies (RGTs). How do novel developments at the interface of fertility treatment and biomedical research raise both new and enduring questions about the 'naturalness' of procreation, the politics of queer families, the im/possibilities of disabilities, and transnational citizenship? Who has a say in what can be done and for which purposes? We will engage with ethnographic texts, documents, policy statements, citizen science activist projects, and social media in order to closely explore the diversity of perspectives in this field. We will also experiment with ‘public engagement’ activities designed to foster knowledge and conversations about RGTs and the questions and concerns they might raise.

Crosslisted as: Anthropology 316EG
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

J. Luce
Prereq: 8 credits in gender studies or anthropology.

Credits: 4

GNDST-333GG  Advanced Seminar: 'Race, Gender, and Empire: Cultural Histories of the United States and the World'

Not Scheduled for This Year
Recent cultural histories of imperialism--European as well as U.S.--have illuminated the workings of race and gender at the heart of imperial encounters. This course will examine the United States' relationship to imperialism through the lens of such cultural histories. How has the encounter between Europe and America been remembered in the United States? How has the cultural construction of ‘America’ and its ‘others’ called into play racial and gender identities? How have the legacies of slavery been entwined with U.S. imperial ambitions at different times? And what can we learn from transnational approaches to ‘the intimacies of empire’?

Crosslisted as: History 301RG
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

M. Renda
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in History or Gender Studies.

Credits: 4

GNDST-333HH  Advanced Seminar: 'Love, Gender-Crossing, and Women's Supremacy: A Reading of The Story of the Stone'

Not Scheduled for This Year
A seminar on the eighteenth-century Chinese masterpiece The Story of the Stone and selected literary criticism in response to this work. Discussions will focus on love, gender-crossing, and women's supremacy and the paradoxical treatments of these themes in the novel. We will explore multiple aspects of these themes, including the sociopolitical, philosophical, and literary milieu of eighteenth-century China. We will also examine this novel in its relation to Chinese literary tradition in general and the generic conventions of premodern Chinese vernacular fiction in particular.

Crosslisted as: Asian Studies 340
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course

Y. Wang
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.

Credits: 4

GNDST-333KK  Advanced Seminar: 'Body Images and Practices in Religious Traditions'

Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar examines body images and practices in a range of religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and indigenous traditions. Some of the topics we will discuss are religious exercise regimens, dietary laws, gender and sexuality, healing practices, religious icons, ordination, and slavery.

Crosslisted as: Religion 352
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

S. Mrozik

Credits: 4

GNDST-333ML  Advanced Seminar: 'Mary Lyon's World and the History of Mount Holyoke'

Spring
What world gave rise to Mary Lyon's vision for Mount Holyoke and enabled her to carry her plans to success? What local and global circumstances subsequently shaped the institution and the women who passed through it? How did Mount Holyoke women attempt to fashion the worlds they encountered and beyond South Hadley and what came of their efforts? We will inquire into the historical arrangements of power—involving race, class, gender, religion, culture, body politics, and colonialism—that formed Mount Holyoke and the world in which it has operated. Students write a substantial research paper based on primary and secondary sources.

Crosslisted as: History 333ML
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

M. Renda
Prereq: 8 credits of History.

Credits: 4

GNDST-333MM  Advanced Seminar: 'Nature and Gender: Representations of Women and Nature in American Literature (Nineteenth-Twentieth Century)'

Not Scheduled for This Year
This course will focus on portrayals of women in nineteenth through mid-twentieth century America, particularly in the context of nature and landscape. We will explore how women, often objectified in visual images of the period, appropriated established devices or developed new images and structures to represent womanhood in their own terms. Texts will include selected poetry, sketches, autobiographical essays or memoirs, short stories, novels, paintings, films, and photography.

Crosslisted as: English 373NT, Environmental Studies 373WN
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

L. Glasser
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in Gender Studies.

Credits: 4

GNDST-333ND  Advanced Seminar: 'Love, Desire, and Gender in Indian Literature'

Fall
Seminar on love, desire and gender, major themes in Indian literature. We will read classic poems, plays, and narratives in translation from Sanskrit, Tamil, Hindi, and other languages, in relation to aesthetic theory, visual arts (miniature paintings) and performance genres (Indian dance and the modern Bollywood cinema). Study of the conventions of courtly love, including aesthetic mood (rasa) and natural landscapes, and their transformation in Hindu bhakti and Sufi Muslim mystical texts, the Radha-Krishna myth, and film. Focus on representations of women and men, and on issues of power, voice, and agency.

Crosslisted as: Asian Studies 350
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
GNDST-333OO  Advanced Seminar: 'Women, Politics, and Activism in the United States'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar examines the changing relationship between women and politics in the United States. Focusing on women's activism in and out of formal political arenas, we will consider the formal and interpretive problems raised by the inclusion of women in American political history. Students will be expected to write a substantial essay based on original research.
Crosslisted as: History 381WO
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
M. Renda
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in History or Gender Studies.
Credits: 4

GNDST-333PG  Advanced Seminar: 'Who’s Involved?: Participatory Governance, Emerging Technologies and Feminism'
Spring
Deep brain stimulation, genome sequencing, regenerative medicine...Exploring practices of 'participatory governance' of emerging technologies, we will examine the formal and informal involvement of citizens, patients, health professionals, scientists and policy makers. What initiatives exist at local, national and transnational levels to foster science literacy? How do lived experiences of scientists and policy makers. What initiatives exist at local, national and transnational levels to foster science literacy? How do lived experiences of scientists and policy makers.
Crosslisted as: Anthropology 316PG
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
J. Luce
Prereq: 8 credits in gender studies or anthropology.
Credits: 4

GNDST-333PR  Advanced Seminar: 'Feminist Poetics: The Poetess, Prophet, and Revolutionary'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar will explore innovations in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women's verse. By investigating experiments with narrative, genre, stanza form, meter, and figurative language, we will contemplate what political, social, and ideological problems women writers attempted to present and perhaps solve through linguistic creativity. Larger questions include how to define 'feminist poetics' and what potential such a project might afford poets and thinkers today. To this end, we will read selections of poetry in conversation with contemporary feminist theory as well as representations of women's incantation, prophecy, and singing by male poets and novelists of the day.
Crosslisted as: English 377
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Topics Course
K. Singer
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in English and/or Gender Studies beyond the 100 level.
Notes: meets English department 1700-1900 requirement; meets English department seminar requirement
Credits: 4
GNDST-333VV Advanced Seminar: ‘Women Experimental Filmmakers’
Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar examines experimental cinema made by women from the early 1950s, during the earliest years of the movement known as the American Avant-Garde, through the 1990s. While the class will read feminist film theory and see the work of such well-known filmmakers as Yvonne Rainer, Sally Potter, and Chantal Akerman, we will also examine the less familiar but highly influential films of women working in the home movie or diary mode, with particular emphasis on the work of Marie Menken.
Crosslisted as: Film Studies 340EX
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
R. Blaetz
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Instructor permission required.
Prereq: 8 credits in Gender Studies.
Advisory: Application required, see: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/gender/300level.html
Notes: 1 meeting (3 hours), 1 screening (2 hours)
Credits: 4

GNDST-333WT Advanced Seminar: ‘Witches in the Modern Imagination’
Fall
From the middle ages to the present day, witches have evoked both fear and fascination. Their fellowships (real or fantastic) challenged the prevailing power structures of church and state patriarchies and upset the ordered precepts of the modern world. This seminar offers an overview of the history of witchcraft in Atlantic cultures, with special attention to the early modern British and American colonial eras. We will examine figures of the witch in European art; religious and legal texts that document the persecution of sorcerers; and dramatic, literary, and cinematic representations of witches that have helped to shape our understanding of gender, nature, theatricality, and power.
Crosslisted as: Theatre Arts 350WT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
E. Rundle
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Instructor permission required.
Prereq: Gender Studies 101.
Advisory: Required application: https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/gender/gender-studies-333-application; preference to Gender Studies and Theatre Arts majors.
Credits: 4

GNDST-333XX Advanced Seminar: ‘Slanted Subjects: Queer Theories and Literatures in Latin America’
Not Scheduled for This Year
(In Spanish)This class will interrogate the limits and possibilities of talking about a slanted or queer subject position with the context of Latin American literature. Looking at texts from the Caribbean, Central America and South America, we will explore the construction of a queer subjectivity through literature, film and visual art. We will pay careful attention to the intersections of class, race, gender, and sexuality to speak of queerness not only as a sexual orientation, but also as a decolonial intervention. Readings will draw from philosophy as well as literature.
Crosslisted as: Spanish 350QT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
T. Daly
Prereq: Two 200-level courses in Spanish above Spanish 212.
Credits: 4