

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

## FALL 2012 REGISTRATION/ADVISING NEWSLETTER

*We urge you to please see your advisor prior to registration. It is especially important that you receive appropriate advisement and that we keep your records updated. WGS faculty will be posting sign-up sheets outside their offices. Be sure to sign up!*

- \* Registration for the Fall 2012 semester begins on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 and runs through Friday, April 13, 2012. You can find the date and time at which you become eligible to register on PAWS. If you have yet to do so, please familiarize yourself with the PAWS system.
- \* If you don't know who your advisor is, then find out. Your advisor should be listed on your PAWS account. If your advisor is not listed, please call the Women's and Gender Studies Department office at 609-771-2539.
- \* Prior to your advisement appointment, retrieve all the necessary information you will need.
- \* Review the WGS Department Advising Syllabus at: <http://wgs.pages.tcnj.edu/for-students/advising/>
- \* Review the requirements for your program. Check the courses offered. Devise a tentative schedule for the Fall including back-up courses in case your preferred choices are filled. Put desired courses in your PAWS shopping cart.
- \* Bring your updated Academic Requirement Report to your advisement meeting.
- \* If you are a double major with the School of Education as your first major, you must also make an appointment to see your Education advisor.

### WGS MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

#### **Section I: Five Core courses**

WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society  
WGS 325 Feminist Theories  
WGS 398 Field Study in Women's Studies  
WGS 495 or 496 Senior Seminar  
Gender in Global Perspectives - choose from:  
WGS 260/AAS 280 Women of African Descent in Global Perspective  
WGS 360/LIT 334 Lit by Latinas and Latin American Women\*  
WGS 375 Transnational Feminisms  
WGS 376/LIT 316 Global Women Writers \*  
WGS 380/HON 338 Gender & Democracy  
WGS 381/ANT 311 Woman & Migration

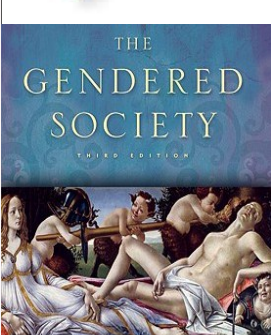
\* Elementary Education and Early Childhood majors must choose:  
WGS 376/LIT 316 Global Women Writers or  
WGS360/LIT 334 Lit by Latinas and Latin American Women

#### **Section II: Women's & Gender Studies Options** Five additional WGS courses. \*

\* Elementary Education and Early Childhood majors must choose:  
WGS 225 Gender and Children's Literature  
Three WGS/HIS courses  
One additional WGS/English courses

#### **Section III:**

Five courses of the ten in the major must be at a level of 300 or above.



### WGS MINOR REQUIREMENTS

- \* WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society
- \* Four additional WGS courses

### CONCENTRATIONS IN WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

*See the Women's and Gender Studies website for details about possible concentrations:*  
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~wgst/>

#### **Women and Gender**

Core: WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society  
Options: Take 4 additional WGS courses as described on the Women's and Gender Studies website.

#### **Gender, Nation Democracy**

Core: Choose at least 1 from the following:  
WGS 380/HON 338 Gender and Democracy  
WGS 375 Transnational Feminisms  
WGS 310/HON 337/HIS 324 Women in Eastern Europe: 1848-present  
Options: Take 4 additional WGS courses as described on the Women's and Gender Studies website.

#### **Sexualities**

Core: WGS 250 Politics of Sexuality  
Options: Take 4 additional WGS courses as described on the Women's and Gender Studies website.

#### **Women in Learning and Leadership**

Core: WGS 200 Women, Culture and Society – Leadership section  
Options: Take 4 additional WGS courses as described on the Women's and Gender Studies website.

#### **Gender and Violence**

Core: WGS 235 Gender and Violence & Internship (see website)  
Options: Four additional WGS courses – 2 in Arts and Humanities and 2 in Social Sciences and History. See website for complete list of options.

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES – FALL 2012

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **WGS 200 - Women, Culture, and Society (LL: Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives; Gender)**

Women, Culture and Society serves as the preliminary course to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. It will provide students with an introduction to the literature and the historical evolution of the discipline, as well as an understanding of how scholars and students in the field analyze women, gender, and feminist theories. It will use an interdisciplinary approach to do this. This introductory course encourages students to rethink and reevaluate much of what they have experienced and learned and to gain the critical vocabulary and analytic skills to question the gendered world in which they live.

### **WGS 220 – Gender and Popular Culture (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender)**

This course offers a critical examination of the messages and “knowledge” that popular culture employs, disseminates and constructs about men and women, masculinity and femininity. We will take our objects of study from a wide range of sources including advertisements, magazines, television, film, cyberspace, hip hop, and sports. Be ready to watch TV, go to the movies, and listen to music as a scholar of gender.

### **WGS 222 - Non Violence and Peace Action (LL: Gender, Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives, and Global Perspectives)**

HGS 210 offers an overview of key areas of theory and practice in Peace and Justice Studies, a growing interdisciplinary field with applications from the local community to international relations. Aimed at achieving social transformation through active nonviolence, peace studies promotes in-depth understanding of structures that promote and perpetuate violence and offers methods for transforming the terms of conflict.

### **WGS 225 – Gender and Children's Literature (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender)**

Our purpose in this course will be to develop a critical appreciation of the roles of children's literature in the social construction of gender--not only how it prescribes or resists normative gender roles, but how it represents the subjective experience of growing up gendered. With a grounding in gender theory and critical texts, we will explore the early beginnings of children's literature in collections of folklore and fairy tales, then move on to modern classics and contemporary favorites, limiting our scope to works for young children and pre-teens.



### **WGS 230 – Gender Technoculture: Feminism, Gender and Technology (LL: Gender; Behavioral, Cultural or Social Persp.)**

In this course, we will explore the relationship between gender and technology. We will focus on specific areas, such as the internet, reproductive technologies, and the ways in which technology is gendered, and how gender influences technology. Together, we will try to analyze and understand how gender and technology interacts.

### **WGS 235 – Gender and Violence (LL: Social or Cultural Perspectives, Gender)**

This course explores the relationship between gender and violence. It is comprised of theoretical perspectives as well as the study of specific forms of violence. Topics include: domestic and intimate partner violence; sexual violence; child abuse; socially institutionalized forms of violence against women; attitudes and reactions to violence; national and global contexts of violence; the gendered character of violence in patriarchal societies; the intersections between violence, race, class and sexuality; men and violence.

### **WGS 240 – Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Studies (LL: Gender; Behavioral, Cultural or Social Perspective)**

Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Studies provides students with an introduction to a quickly evolving field of study that is focused on gay and lesbian identity, politics, culture. Although focused primarily on the categories of “gay” and “lesbian,” this course situates its titular focus within a larger exploration of queer studies, gender analysis, and sexuality studies.

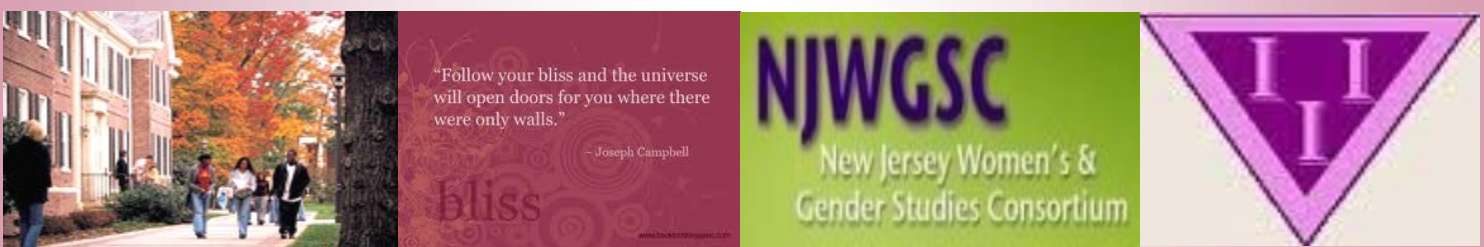
### **WGS 250 - Politics of Sexuality (LL: Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives; Gender; Community Engagement)**

The political nature of personal life is a central critical concept of Women's and Gender Studies. Politics of Sexuality introduces students to implications of this concept through the study of contested topics concerning sexuality, such as gendered sexual socialization, sexual violence, family structures, poverty and welfare, sexual identities, transgenderism, commodification, risky sexual behaviors, AIDS, sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution, and the traffic in women. Students learn how social norms, political currents, economic practices, and state policies construct their lived realities, governing choices they may have considered natural, private, and individual. They learn to articulate what is at stake in these issues from a variety of standpoints as preparation for making their own informed judgments.

### **WGS 260/AAS 280 - Africana Women in Historical Perspective (LL: Gender; Race & Ethnicity; Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives)**

Africana Women in Historical Perspective is a global, cross-cultural survey of the lives and contributions of women of African ancestry. Emphasis will be placed upon shared elements of African culture that, when impacted by colonialism and/or the Atlantic slave trade, resulted in similar types of resistance to oppression, and analogous cultural expression among the women of four locales- Africa, South America and The Caribbean, North America and Europe. Theoretical methodologies, historical narrative, literature, demographic data, material culture, representations of self, and representations by others will be explored to illuminate/explain the: history, cultural artifacts, cultural retentions, and self-concept.





**WGS 302/HIS 385 Women in the US to 1900 (LL: Social Change in Historical Perspective; Gender)**

This course will examine the history of women in the United States from the colonial era to 1900. We will explore the diverse ways in which women have lived, worked and contributed to the history of the US. While we will be looking at some of the “great women” of American history, the course will focus more on the aspects of the general experiences of women and their political, social, cultural and familial relationships. The course examines the experiences and contributions of women to the development and growth of America, which necessitates an examination of their subordinate position in American politics, culture and society. The exploration of women's roles in the church, social movements, and social reproduction will enable students to describe and evaluate the institutions, movements, individuals, ideas and values of the major eras of U.S. history.

**WGS 303/HIS 384 Women in the 20th Century US (LL: Social Change in Historical Perspective; Gender)**

An examination of the history of women in the United States in the 20th century with special emphasis on their roles in political and social movements. The course will focus more on the aspects of the general experiences of women and their political, social, cultural, and familial relationships.

**WGS 317/LIT 317 Witch in Literature (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender)**

The witch has been a figure in literary history since the beginning of time. Who is she, and what does she embody? Who creates her, and to what end? This course will explore the socio-historical constructions of this figure and trace her through a wide spectrum of literary texts, including legal and historical treatises, fair tales, short stories, drama, film, children's literature, poetry, and even cartoons. Ultimately, we will analyze the literary cultures which have persisted in creating, recreating, and reviving this timeless, powerful, and equally feared character throughout the ages.

**WGS 320/LIT 315 - Men and Masculinities: Literary Perspectives (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts, Gender)**

This course focuses on representations of men and masculinity in literary texts, although we may also look at film, video, television, advertising, and music. Some of the issues we will be thinking about include: the construction of modern male identities, the diversity of men's lives, the complex dynamics of men's relationships, and questions of power and social justice within the contemporary gender order.

**WGS 325 - Feminist Theories (Prerequisite: at least one WGS course) (LL: World View; Gender)**

This course explores the diverse ways in which feminist theorists conceptualize women's status in society, systems of inequality and the category of “woman” itself. Students will gain an understanding of evolving ideas and debates in feminist theory, relate those to feminist practices, and develop their own theoretical abilities. The course will address the social construction of gender, the relation between feminist theory and activism, and how feminists have responded to issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality in current feminist thinking, as well as the classic feminist texts.

**WGS 360 Lit By Latinas & Latin American Women:** A comparative study of Latina and Latin-American women's literature in English. Open to a wide range of literary traditions, nations, time periods, and genres, including those specific to non-Western and post-Colonial cultures

**WGS 361/HIS 365/AAS 376 - African American Women's History (LL: Gender, Social Change in Historical Perspective, Race & Ethnicity)**

African American Women's History examines the lives of women of African descent in the U.S. The Course explores the experiences and contributions of African American women to the development and growth of the United States. Students will learn about African American women's roles in the church, social movements, and social reproduction, and the legacy of forced migration and slavery, and will be able to understand the relationship between African American women and the institutions, movements, individuals, ideas and values of the major eras of U.S. history.

**WGS 376/LIT 316 - Global Women Writers (LL: Literary, Visual & Performing Arts; Gender; Global Perspectives)**

This course will explore various literatures from around the world, encouraging students to examine the politics of gender, culture, and nation as well as the intersections of those systems of power. The explorations will cover a large range of topics, from arranged marriages to women in war in a variety of geographical areas around the world, particularly focusing on non-Western literatures. Common themes include feminist politics, post and neo/colonialisms, reproductive rights, translation, globalization, and activism.

**WGS 398 - Feminism in the Workplace: Field Study in Women's and Gender Studies (Prerequisite: at least two WGS courses. Non-majors should consult Instructor) (LL: Gender; Community Engagement)**

This internship course is a chance for students to consolidate and enrich their undergraduate learning while building the transition to life beyond college. A WGS education trains students to think critically and act strategically on issues of social inequity, particularly relating to gender and sexuality. Graduates enter a wide variety of careers. Feminism in the Workplace therefore focuses not on the nature and demands of particular worksites, but on work itself and organizational practices that arise from feminist theory and scholarship. The course is designed for students of junior or senior standing who are WGS majors or minors, as well as for WILL students.

**WGS 495 – Senior Seminar: Methods and Theories (LL: Gender) Prerequisite: WGS 325**

This course is the capstone courses for the Women's and Gender Studies major. Students are expected to use expertise gained from their previous WGS courses to research and write their senior theses. Drawing on the methodologies and theories learned in previously taken courses, students work in a small focused seminar that emphasis not only their own work, but also critiquing the work of their peers. Students will produce a research paper applying feminist theories and methodologies. In addition, they will share their work with other students, providing analysis and critiques of one another's papers in progress.

