

COURSES FOR GENDER AND RACE STUDIES

African American Studies Courses

AAST201 Intro African Amer Study

PWGE, SB

Hours 3

A basic outline of the diversity and complexity of the African-American experience in the United States: the early academic and social concerns of Black Studies advocates; the changes in the field's objectives that arise from its connections to contemporary social movements for Black Power, women's liberation and multiculturalism; and its major theoretical and critical debates.

PW: Global Engagement, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AAST210 Black Literature & Culture Pre 1920

L

Hours 3

An introduction to the history and politics of African American cultural and literary expression from the colonial era to 1920. Topics covered include African American literacy and authorship in the abolitionist movement, the growth of African American cultural and political identities following Emancipation, and literary and cultural responses to racial segregation in the early twentieth century.

Literature

AAST220 African American Literature & Culture Post 1920

L

Hours 3

An introduction to the history and politics of African American cultural and literary expression from 1920 to the present. Topics covered include the emergence of black popular culture in the US, questions of literary and political representation before and during the Civil Rights movement, black feminist literature, and the diversity of recent African American literature.

Literature

AAST249 African American Literature

HU, L

Hours 3

Survey of African American literature from its earliest expressions to the present. In order to identify the aesthetics of the African American literary tradition, the course material includes spirituals, slave narratives, poetry, drama, autobiography, fiction, and nonfiction.

Prerequisite(s): (Undergraduate level EN 101 with minimum Grade of C- and Undergraduate level EN 102 with minimum Grade of C-) OR (Undergraduate level EN 103 with minimum Grade of C- or Undergraduate level EN 104 with minimum Grade of C-) OR (Undergraduate level EN 120 with minimum Grade of C- and Undergraduate level EN 121 with minimum Grade of C-)

Humanities, Literature

AAST300 Studies in Gender, Sexuality, and Citizenship

SP, USGC

Hours 3

This course is an introduction to the study of gender and sexuality in the description of contemporary U.S. and global citizenship. Coursework will focus on critiquing and understanding the social construction of gender, sex, and sexuality; the bodies and the nature vs. nurture "debate"; gendered interactions; intersectionality and gender inequality; and social institutions and gender as these describe the historical and contemporary context for how we define citizenship. The students will be asked to demonstrate knowledge through class assignments of how readings and class discussion have informed their understanding of the conditions for US and global citizenship.

Special Topics Course, US and Global Citizenship

AAST302 The Black Church

EXP, PWGE

Hours 3

A survey of mainstream Christian expressions of black spirituality as well as other forms of sacred collective consciousness. Study of local churches and theology is encouraged.

Experiential Learning, PW: Global Engagement

AAST303 Education Of Southern Blacks

EXP, PWGE

Hours 3

A study of the "miseducation" of Africans in America. The course explores education for blacks from West Africa at the middle of the second millennium and early American society to the emergence of the separate school system of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Experiential Learning, PW: Global Engagement

AAST306 Black Women in America and the Diaspora

USGC

Hours 3

The course explores the varied lived experience of Black women in the United States from the eighteenth into the twenty first century, from the perspective of both US and Global citizenship. Though its foundation is in contemporary history, the course engages in interdisciplinary frameworks to interrogate class, ethnicity, sexuality, US regional, and international perspectives. The class will complicate "race," "nation," and citizenship, both in the US and globally, and examine the influences of Black women's activism, political participation, and creative output.

US and Global Citizenship

AAST310 African American Organizing From 1877 to the Present: Defining Citizenship in America

USGC

Hours 3

This course offers a semester-long exploration into the ways in which African Americans have mobilized and organized to define US citizenship in the struggle for civil rights from the late 19th century to the present. In this course, students will consider how race, gender identity, class, national identity, and/or historical moments have shaped the ways in which African Americans have organized and mobilized historically, and in doing so defined what we mean by citizenship in the society. What is the scope of political activism, what are the limits on personal liberty and political organization permitted in US society? Students will therefore also explore and interrogate the different strategies African Americans deployed in pursuit of these larger civil rights goals and what problems African Americans faced in their efforts to organize. Through a diverse set of readings, class discussion, and writing assignments, this course ultimately asks students to not only identify the range of movements led by African Americans for civil rights but ask and answer the question of what constitutes a movement and/or a movement leader, and what is meant today with the idea of citizenship.

US and Global Citizenship

AAST322 Slave Resistance

PWGE

Hours 3

This course introduces students to the major themes, questions, primary sources, monographs, and fiction in regards to slave resistance in the United States and Atlantic World. Specifically, course readings and assignments will revolve around agency and empowerment of enslaved individuals, power relations between masters and enslaved individuals and the various forms of resistance (everyday acts, runaways, rebellions, and marronage).

PW: Global Engagement

AAST323 Hate Crimes

PWGE

Hours 3

What are the causes and consequences of bias-motivated crimes? What are the larger social and political contexts? In this class, students will examine how bias-motivated violence receives attention in the media, how and why hate crimes legislation came to be seen as a necessary legal tool to curb crimes based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, and sexual orientation. Students will also explore the opposition to such laws and the degree to which communities are able to respond to incidents of bias-motivated violence. Students will also explore the proliferation of hate groups and the impact of those groups on social and political debates over hate crimes laws.

PW: Global Engagement

AAST328 Introduction to African Diaspora History

Hours 3

This course serves as an introduction to the histories and cultures of the African diaspora, which is loosely defined as the dispersal of African descended people throughout the world. The course moves from antiquity to the present, through various lands and cultures, while studying forced and voluntary movement of Africans and their descendants. While many readings will draw heavily from historical analysis; however, the course is interdisciplinary in nature. Students will ask questions about identity formation, the reasons for dispersal, differing historical conceptions of citizenship, and how an African presence has influenced culture, technology, and industry throughout the world.

AAST329 20th Century Black History

SP

Hours 3

The course surveys African American history from the end of Reconstruction to the present day. The course uses specific themes for each course semester, and is repeatable. An example of a theme is "Racism and Resistance in the 20th Century," where the focus is on the production of racist ideas and how black communities resisted and/or reproduced these ideas in the US. This course employs an intersectional approach to African American history by intentionally including the experiences of women, LGBTQ communities, children, and others who have traditionally been relegated to the margins of African American history narratives. It will use a combination of music, film, and selected readings to build upon students' prior understanding of African American history.

Special Topics Course

AAST330 African Diasporic Music and US and Global Citizenship

USGC

Hours 3

Black American music, as a reflection of the African diaspora, has always soundtracked, reflected, and reshaped the history of the United States. This course will examine that relationship, centering on music's central role in the experiences of Black Americans from the era of enslavement through modern struggles for freedom, citizenship, and justice. Students will think about key artists, styles, movements, and innovations, from West African sounds to hip-hop and beyond. Students will also think about key historical contexts from across eras as they examine what Black music can teach about larger questions of culture, citizenship, economics, and identity. The course methodology will use a variety of sources, including music, to think about how understanding Black music can reshape larger ways of thinking and working historically.

US and Global Citizenship

AAST335 Black Internationalism

USGC

Hours 3

This course interrogates the varied ways that people of African descent have worked to craft political and international visions of belonging, freedom, citizenship, and decolonization throughout the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The course will center locations in the United States, France, the Caribbean, Russia, China, and Latin America, while paying close attention to the role of women and gender.

US and Global Citizenship

AAST336 Concepts of Race and Racism*PWGE, USGC*

Hours 3

Analysis of American social structure, demographic and institutional trends over time related to race and the description of racism. This course offers a critical introduction to the conditions of possibility for the complexity of contemporary thinking about race, with particular emphasis on 1) racial slavery and anti-blackness as ontological claims, 2) diasporic and anti/de colonial meditations as traveling theories, 3) convention and community as political claims, and 4) the relationship between race as an idea and citizenship. Students will begin the course with the working assumption that slavery is usually thought to be at the root of the problem of race and racism. In order to excavate this assumption, students will survey debates on 1) the origin and history of race and racism (from the Ancients to the early moderns); 2) the deployment of categories in contested proximity to race (from class to gender); and 3) the development of different conceptual paradigms (from double consciousness to political ontology) to parse the relationship between race and the world, how persons think of citizenship and community. Instead of resolving these debates, the problem-based approach will emphasize how the scope and framing of texts bear on present problematics. In doing so, students will learn to mobilize class readings as theoretical and historical tools in interpreting and interrogating responsibility toward the themes in relation to the idea of citizenship, US and Global, as a place holder for the problem of difference and sameness.

PW: Global Engagement, US and Global Citizenship

AAST345 Black Politics*EXP, PWGE*

Hours 3

This course examines the historical origins and present framework of Black politics, including the civil rights movement, Black political culture, local and community politics, and current and future issues for Black America such as Black imagery in television/film, Black feminism, sexuality, the War on Drugs, the impact of mass incarceration, and modern social justice and protest movements like #BlackLivesMatter. Students will explore questions regarding the history of race in American political life as well as how race has shaped a broader national identity. And evaluate what concepts like "equal treatment under the law" and "liberty and justice for all" mean with respect to the legacy of Black political participation.

Experiential Learning, PW: Global Engagement

AAST350 Topics African American Lit*SP*

Hours 3

A cross-genre survey of African American literature, historical events, and critical movements. Authors may include Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Richard Wright, Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, Langston Hughes, and Toni Morrison.

Special Topics Course

AAST352 Social Inequality*PWES, USGC*

Hours 3

The course provides a unique perspective on the problems of US and Global Citizenship. Social inequality refers to the systemic and uneven distribution of people across social categories based on achieved and ascribed characteristics. Different cultures and societies vary in the amount of, and extent to which, inequalities exist within them. This course focuses on social inequality in the United States as a problem of citizenship, with a comparison to other cultures and societies for reference. In this course, we analyze the inequalities of power, privilege, and access as they relate to class, political status, sex and gender, sexual orientation, and race. We will examine the causes and consequences of the many types of inequalities present in our society through a variety of ways, including television/movie/documentary, pop culture, current events, and scholarly analysis.

PW: Exec Systems Structures, US and Global Citizenship

AAST366 Civil Rights, Literature, and Political Thought*USGC*

Hours 3

This course will investigate major persuasive texts of the Civil Rights era, broadly defined from the 1940s to 1970s. Students will read fiction, poetry, journalism, government reports, and other kinds of texts dealing with major political and social questions from this era. Students will track three themes in particular: how does the state take up ideas and arguments from academics, activists, and communities in its definition of citizenship? How were white American interests and beliefs as a specific problem of citizenship addressed by writers of this era? How did writers attempt to mobilize and radicalize black Americans and thereby redefine what was meant by citizenship in the society as the struggle wore on?

US and Global Citizenship

AAST375 Freedom Beyond Rights*PWES*

Hours 3

Feminism understands itself to be fundamentally liberatory - that is, concerned with increasing liberty, particularly (but not exclusively) of women. Feminist political theory often treats freedom within a liberal framework that prioritizes individual rights: for example, the right to control one's reproductive health, the right to equal pay, or the right not to experience harassment. According to this framework, to be free is to enjoy one's rights without interference or limitation. The aim of this course is to think about freedom beyond rights. Specifically, we will consider what it means to be a free political actor, whether freedom is the highest political good, whether, and how, freedom is compatible with other values, such as equality and justice, and how different kinds of politics, social norms, and modes of living might affect attempts to increase and experience freedom.

PW: Exec Systems Structures

AAST395 Special Topics

SP

Hours 3

Examination of selected problems and issues in Sociology, African American Studies, and Women's Studies. May be taken a total of six times, with different topics.

Special Topics Course

AAST401 Black Intellectual Thought

PWGE

Hours 3

An upper level seminar designed to provide students with an in-depth study of major intellectual debates and movements that have shaped the politics, history and identities of the people of African descent in the United States and the African diaspora. The course will combine methodologies and concepts from multiple disciplines including, history, political theory, literature, women's studies, sociology, psychology and philosophy.

Prerequisite(s): AAST 201 and AMS 201

PW: Global Engagement

AAST402 Special Topics

SP

Hours 3-9

An examination of selected African American topics. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours.

Special Topics Course

AAST410 Denizenship and Citizenship

USGC

Hours 3

Denizenship, immigration, refugees, and the settler. The class will explore the concept of the citizen in relation to these complex processes by which human beings find meaning in place, in the sojourn, and in their relationships with others. Students will learn about the complexity of the contemporary politics of citizenship both in the US and as a global concept.

US and Global Citizenship

AAST412 Slavery America Popular Cult

Hours 3

An examination of slavery in popular culture from the 1840s to the present. Topics and media include fiction, autobiography, film and television, advertising, and confederate celebrations.

Prerequisite(s): AAST 201

AAST413 Communication & Diversity

PWES, W

Hours 3

Study and analysis of issues of diversity as they relate to groups in society and in communication fields. Emphasis is on the media's treatment of various groups in society. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

PW: Exec Systems Structures, Writing

AAST415 African American Rhetoric

PWGE, W

Hours 3

A historical-critical investigation of African American public discourse from the Revolutionary era to the present, exploring rhetorical strategies for social change and building community. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

PW: Global Engagement, Writing

AAST434 Race, Ethnicity and Health Disparities

EXP, PWES

Hours 3

This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of race and ethnicity as it relates to health as well as major issues facing the overall health status of our society. This class will provide examples for the application of minority health basic competencies in the field of community health and medical sociology. Topics to be covered include: mental health and individual behavior access to health care, socioeconomic status and racial differences, racial/ethnic group specific health issues. The health care system covers the physician-patient relationship and increasing commercialization in the health care system.

Experiential Learning, PW: Exec Systems Structures

AAST435 Race, Feminism, and Society

PWES

Hours 3

Emphasis is placed on theories and research on the inter relationships between the conceptualizations of gender, race, and class. The many different schools of thought on these issues are brought into productive tension with each other, depending on the course content. Students explore through reading primary and secondary texts the interactions between the practices that define these concepts. This course is preparation for further study at the graduate level, and considered a capstone course in the major.

PW: Exec Systems Structures

AAST436 Gender and Black Masculinity

PWGE

Hours 3

This course will examine the socio-historical perceptions and constructions of Black masculinities in various regions and periods. Students will also examine the social, political, and economic conditions of Black male life in the contemporary period and interrogate representations of Black men and boys in U.S. culture and society in relation to the broader politics of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the post-civil rights era. Specific attention will be paid to the history of ideas and approaches that have shaped and defined our understanding of Black males. Students will be introduced to historical and socio-cultural circumstances that affect Black males and the diverse nature of Black culture. This course will also attempt to heighten awareness and sensitivity to the contemporary problems affecting Black males and thus help discover and evaluate social policies and programs geared towards Black males.

PW: Global Engagement

AAST490 AAST Independent Study

SP

Hours 1-6

Independent study on any subject pertaining to African-American studies, under the supervision of a professor in the chosen field and/or Director of the program.

Special Topics Course

AAST495 Special Topics

SP

Hours 3

An examination of selected African American topics. May be repeated for a maximum of 18 hours.

Special Topics Course

Sociology Courses

SOC101 Intro To Sociology

PWGE, SB

Hours 3

Introduction to the scientific study of human social behavior.

PW: Global Engagement, Social and Behavioral Sciences

SOC202 Social Problems

SB

Hours 3

Study of contemporary social problems, including definition, description, and analysis. Emphasis is on sociological explanations, social change perspectives, and cultural complexity of social problems.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

SOC205 Social Psychology

Hours 3

Interrelationships between the individual and the group. Includes perception, cognition, attribution, attitudes, helping behavior, aggression, personal relationships, prejudice, and gender in social life.

SOC215 Animals and Society

Hours 3

Explores the social relationship between humans and animals; examines the social meanings which shape the roles and status of animals in society and our interactions with them.

SOC216 Sports and Society

Hours 3

Structural and cultural relationship of sport to society and the importance of sport to the development of self and community identity.

SOC301 Social Statistics

Hours 3

Elementary statistical techniques applied to sociological data; tables and graphs, central tendency and dispersion, probability and sampling, tests of significance, and measures of association.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 101 and MATH 110 or MATH 112 or MATH 125

SOC302 Sociological Theory

Hours 3

Examines the role of theory in sociology; focuses on the major contributions to sociological theory in both the classical and contemporary periods with an emphasis on historical context and philosophical backgrounds.

SOC305 Food, Culture, and Society

EXP

Hours 3

Examination of food as a social construction; emphasis on food rituals, cultural distinctions and perspectives, federal regulations and subsidies, food-related diseases, and sustainable agriculture.

Experiential Learning

SOC315 Concepts of Race And Racism

PWES, USGC

Hours 3

Analysis of American social structure, demographic and institutional trends over time related to race and the description of racism. This course offers a critical introduction to the conditions of possibility for the complexity of contemporary thinking about race, with particular emphasis on 1) racial slavery and anti-blackness as ontological claims, 2) diasporic and anti/de colonial meditations as traveling theories, 3) convention and community as political claims, and 4) the relationship between race as an idea and citizenship. We will begin the course with the working assumption that slavery is usually thought to be at the root of the problem of race and racism. In order to excavate this assumption, we will survey debates on 1) the origin and history of race and racism (from the Ancients to the early moderns); 2) the deployment of categories in contested proximity to race (from class to gender); and 3) the development of different conceptual paradigms (from double consciousness to political ontology) to parse the relationship between race and the world, how we think of citizenship and community. Instead of resolving these debates, our problem-based approach will emphasize how the scope and framing of texts bear on present problematics. In doing so, we will learn to mobilize our readings as theoretical and historical tools in interpreting and interrogating our responsibility toward the themes in relation to the idea of citizenship, US and Global, as a place holder for the problem of difference and sameness.

Prerequisite(s): None

PW: Exec Systems Structures, US and Global Citizenship

SOC323 Civics Education in Crisis? Framing U.S. Civics Education Through a Moral Panic Lens

USGC

Hours 3

This course explores the history and current state of civics education in the United States, focusing on whether it is in a state of crisis and how such framing impacts educational policies, public opinion, and cultural discourse. Using a moral panic framework, students will analyze shifts in civics education, examine policy developments, and investigate the implications for U.S. citizenship and global perspectives. The course will engage students in interdisciplinary discussions, data analysis, and service-learning to foster responsible participation in society.

US and Global Citizenship

SOC335 Sociological Theories of Learning, Citizenship, and Society

Hours 3

The course will consider the issues related to pedagogy and knowledge and the sociological effects of learning systems in the society, the individual, and with respect to other indices. The course will provide students with an answer to the question of how primary education establishes citizenship, ideals of social relations, and relates to other factors in society, such as health, incarceration, employment, and poverty.

SOC352 Social Inequality

USGC

Hours 3

The course provides a unique perspective on the problems of US and Global Citizenship. Social inequality refers to the systemic and uneven distribution of people across social categories based on achieved and ascribed characteristics. Different cultures and societies vary in the amount of, and extent to which, inequalities exist within them. This course focuses on social inequality in the United States as a problem of citizenship, with a comparison to other cultures and societies for reference. In this course, students analyze the inequalities of power, privilege, and access as they relate to class, political status, sex and gender, sexual orientation, and race. Students will examine the causes and consequences of the many types of inequalities present in our society through a variety of ways, including television/movie/documentary, pop culture, current events, and scholarly analysis.

US and Global Citizenship

SOC370 Sexuality and Society

PWES, SP, USGC

Hours 3

This course is an introduction to the study of gender and sexuality in the description of contemporary U.S. and global citizenship. Coursework will focus on critiquing and understanding the social construction of gender, sex, and sexuality; the bodies and the nature vs. nurture "debate"; gendered interactions; intersectionality and gender inequality; and social institutions and gender as these describe the historical and contemporary context for how we define citizenship. The students will be asked to demonstrate knowledge through class assignments of how readings and class discussion have informed their understanding of the conditions for US and global citizenship.

PW: Exec Systems Structures, Special Topics Course, US and Global Citizenship

SOC390 Selected Topics In Soc

SP

Hours 3

Examination of selected problems and issues in Sociology, African American Studies, and Women's Studies. May be taken a total of six times, with different topics.

Special Topics Course

SOC405 Gender & Society

PWES

Hours 3

Sociological approach to the study of women and men; exploration of the social construction of genders in institutions and in everyday life, feminist theories of masculinity, gender inequality, and social change.

PW: Exec Systems Structures

SOC406 Organizational Failures and Disasters

EXP

Hours 3

Examination of a variety of organizational failures and disasters; exploration of the major social and psychological factors that contribute to technical, practical, and ethical failures in organizations.

Experiential Learning

SOC415 Gender, Citizenship, and Society*USGC*

Hours 3

In this course, students will discuss the social construction of gender as a problem of citizenship in contemporary American society, although some readings will concentrate on sex and gender internationally. Students will begin by learning the culturally dominant (hegemonic) definitions of sex, gender, sexuality, etc. in contemporary American society. Next, students will discuss how these definitions affect how individuals view themselves, how these definitions shape norms and values, and how the definition of citizenship is organized around gender. The rest of the semester, students will talk about how gender difference manifests itself in social institutions; that is, how does gender become a basis of stratification and a difference in the rights and duties of citizenship, in the description of the family, education, work, politics, health, etc.?

US and Global Citizenship

SOC434 Race, Ethnicity, and Health Disparities*EXP*

Hours 3

The course is designed to provide students with an overview of race and ethnicity as it relates to health as well as major issues facing the overall health of individuals in the society. This class will provide examples for the application of minority health basic competencies in the field of community health and medical sociology. Topics to be covered include mental health and individual behavior access to health care, socioeconomic status and racial differences, racial/ethnic group specific health issues. The course also covers aspects of the patient-physician relationship and the problems that arise with care provision in the context of increasing commercialization of the health care system.

Experiential Learning

SOC460 Citizen, Body, and Society*USGC*

Hours 3

What is a body and what is its relationship to the self? What are the social forces that shape human bodies and bodily experience? How do these forces vary between the United States, other nations, and different historical periods? How are different types of bodies perceived, valued and treated? In this course, we will examine the body not through the lens of the physical or biological sciences but as the product of complex social arrangements and processes, those that define citizenship in a society. We will study the body as the container and expression of the self, as the object of social control, and the body as it relates to race, gender, sex, class, age, ability, sexuality, and transgender identities, to name a few, but always focused on the idea of civil society, community, and the idea of the citizen as defining the social expectations of the body.

US and Global Citizenship

SOC471 Medical Sociology*W*

Hours 3

Social issues relating to health, medicine, and society; how society shapes individual understandings of what it means to be healthy, produces differential patterns of health and illness, and how medicine is practiced in the United States.

Writing

SOC480 Death and Dying

Hours 3

Examination of death and dying from a sociological perspective; death as a social process that varies by culture, context and historical moment.

SOC490 Seminar In Sociology*SP*

Hours 1-3

Examination of selected problems and issues in sociology. A maximum of 12 hours may be used toward the minor.

Special Topics Course

SOC499 Ind Study in Sociology*SP*

Hours 1-6

1-6 hour independent study course allowing students to conduct sociological research under faculty supervision.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 101

Special Topics Course

Women's Studies Courses

WS200 Intro To Women Studies*HU, PWES*

Hours 3

An interdisciplinary course examining the roles of women in patriarchal society, with emphasis on how factors such as race, class, gender, and sexuality contribute to the oppression of women and ways they can be challenged through feminist critical practices.

Humanities, PW: Exec Systems Structures

WS205 Women's Autobiographies

Hours 3

Through an examination of women's autobiographical writings, the roles women have assumed in different cultures and periods are considered. Analytical techniques from the study of art, literature and psychology are used to discover issues inherent in women's experiences.

WS220 Mothers And Daughters

Hours 3

Investigation of the institution of motherhood, the forces shaping it, and the significance of mother-daughter relationships.

WS300 Studies in Gender, Sexuality, and Citizenship

PWGE, SP, USGC

Hours 3

This course is an introduction to the study of gender and sexuality in the description of contemporary U.S. and global citizenship. Coursework will focus on critiquing and understanding the social construction of gender, sex, and sexuality; the bodies and the nature vs. nurture "debate"; gendered interactions; intersectionality and gender inequality; and social institutions and gender as these describe the historical and contemporary context for how we define citizenship. The students will be asked to demonstrate knowledge through class assignments of how readings and class discussion have informed their understanding of the conditions for US and global citizenship.

PW: Global Engagement, Special Topics Course, US and Global Citizenship

WS310 Special Topics

SP

Hours 3

Examination of selected problems and issues in Sociology, African American Studies, and Women's Studies. May be taken a total of six times, with different topics.

Special Topics Course

WS323 Hate Crimes

USGC

Hours 3

What are the causes and consequences of bias-motivated crimes? In this class, students will examine how bias-motivated violence contextualizes US and global citizenship. By evaluating hate crime legislation and exploring theories of hate, students will develop an understanding of how citizenship is more than a legal status, but includes social, cultural, and political recognition as members of a larger community. This context will allow students to articulate two important points: first, how and why hate crimes legislation was an attempt to curb crimes based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, and sexual orientation; and second, how the degree to which communities are able to respond to incidents of bias-motivated violence varies around the world. These two points define how we think of citizenship, its duties and obligations, and students will be asked to continuously reflect on how hate crimes define what is meant by citizenship. Students will also explore the categorization of hate groups and the impact of those groups on social and political debates about citizenship and hate crimes laws.

US and Global Citizenship

WS329 Social Movements through Social Media

USGC

Hours 3

This course explores the contemporary definition of U.S and Global citizenship through the lens of social media activism. The multi-faceted online forums that activists have at their disposal today marks a significant break with the past and yet, "using" the media has long been a central tactic for many U.S. and Global social movements of the late 20th century. Students will be guided through data collection exercises and the discursive analysis of the information gathered in order to learn interrogate the knowledge produced by select social movements through their use of social media. By studying the theoretical, historical, and ethnographic arguments at the center of feminist and anti-racist movements, students will explore the opportunities and constraints of relying on social media and its particular import for the relationship of public debates, social movements, and civil society to the idea of US and Global citizenship.

US and Global Citizenship

WS340 Women And Law

PWES

Hours 3

This seminar's major focus is the impact of law on the status and lives of women.

PW: Exec Systems Structures

WS342 Women in the South

EXP, PWGE, W

Hours 3

Examination of the cultural concepts, myths, and experiences of black and white Southern women from a variety of economic and social backgrounds. Special attention is given to the interaction of race, class, and gender in Southern women's lives. Texts include historical studies, autobiographies, biographies, oral histories and novels written by and about women in the 19th and 20th -century South. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Experiential Learning, PW: Global Engagement, Writing

WS345 Black Politics

Hours 3

This course examines the historical origins and present framework of Black politics, including the civil rights movement, Black political culture, local and community politics, and current and future issues for Black America such as Black imagery in television/film, Black feminism, sexuality, the War on Drugs, the impact of mass incarceration, and modern social justice and protest movements like #BlackLivesMatter. We will explore questions regarding the history of race in American political life as well as how race has shaped a broader national identity. We will evaluate what concepts like "equal treatment under the law" and "liberty and justice for all" mean with respect to the legacy of Black political participation.

WS352 Social Inequality

USGC

Hours 3

The course provides a unique perspective on the problems of US and Global Citizenship. Social inequality refers to the systemic and uneven distribution of people across social categories based on achieved and ascribed characteristics. Different cultures and societies vary in the amount of, and extent to which, inequalities exist within them. This course focuses on social inequality in the United States as a problem of citizenship, with a comparison to other cultures and societies for reference. In this course, students analyze the inequalities of power, privilege, and access as they relate to class, political status, sex and gender, sexual orientation, and race. Students will examine the causes and consequences of the many types of inequalities present in our society through a variety of ways, including television/movie/documentary, pop culture, current events, and scholarly analysis.

US and Global Citizenship

WS360 Black Contemporary Drama in the U.S.

EXP

Hours 3

How do theatre and performance enable or contribute to our ability to understand race and racism? How do contemporary Black theatre artists and playwrights intervene in, redefine, or celebrate notions of Black identity? What are the limits or risks of thinking about race through performance? Students in this course will explore these questions through reading and viewing U.S. American dramatic works from the last 30 years. This course will seek to understand performance and drama as important modes through which African American artists generate and transmit their experience, form community, produce political analysis, and shape the artistic and cultural fabric of the United States.

Experiential Learning

WS365 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in US Society

Hours 3

Students in this course study the development of policies that seek to build a more equitable society in the US. Providing a historical perspective on how social change has occurred in the society, the course also discusses how change has taken place in the last few decades. How have societal institutions changed how the issues of race and gender are addressed since the Civil Rights Movement? How do we apply concepts such as diversity, intersectionality, community, equity, and inclusion throughout US society? The course provides students with an understanding of why these concepts are important, and how social change occurs today.

WS370 Gender, Sexuality, and the Law

Hours 3

This course will provide students with an historic and cultural overview of the laws, policies, and politics of gender and sexuality in the United States. In this course, students will understand how law and public policy have had an impact on the lives of marginalized communities in the United States. This course examines how courts have interpreted laws and set policies regarding civil unions and same-sex marriage, privacy and reproductive rights, and discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation in the workplace.

WS371 Race and Queer Desire

Hours 3

This course will provide the framework to examine how the broad spectrum of queer sexualities are understood. We will investigate stereotypes about masculinity and femininity that govern narratives about race, gender, and sexual orientation. We will explore answers and interpretations to questions of what a "queer" identity is, how gender is constructed, how power operates on sexuality and race, and how the intersection of race and sexuality form a unique positionality for gays and lesbians of color.

WS375 Freedom Beyond Rights

Hours 3

Feminism understands itself to be fundamentally liberatory - that is, concerned with increasing liberty, particularly (but not exclusively) of women. Feminist political theory often treats freedom within a liberal framework that prioritizes individual rights: for example, the right to control one's reproductive health, the right to equal pay, or the right not to experience harassment. According to this framework, to be free is to enjoy one's rights without interference or limitation. The aim of this course is to think about freedom beyond rights. Specifically, we will consider what it means to be a free political actor, whether freedom is the highest political good, whether, and how, freedom is compatible with other values, such as equality and justice, and how different kinds of politics, social norms, and modes of living might affect attempts to increase and experience freedom.

WS405 Feminist Theory 1600-1960s

Hours 3

The history of political thought has long been equated with the history of men's political thought, with women excluded from the intellectual and public spheres. Yet it would be a grievous mistake to assume that women (including all who identify as such) were not actively engaged in debating issues of gender, sexuality, race, and class before the advent of modern feminism. Indeed, one of contemporary feminist scholars' greatest tasks has been to recover a long and rich history of ideas and texts written by and about women. This course utilizes primary materials and focuses on women's contributions to the history of political thought between 1400 and 1914.

WS407 Contemporary Feminism

PWGE

Hours 3

Political theory has traditionally associated men with citizenship, public life, and affairs of state, while subordinating or ignoring women's interests, experiences, and voices. Feminist political theory challenges this imbalance, while also expanding the boundaries of what ought to be considered "political." Motivated by a concern for inequality in everyday life, feminist political theory seeks to provide a philosophical framework with which to address injustice, while also inquiring about the existential condition of those who identify as women, trans*, or genderqueer. In so doing, feminist political theory pries open the category of "woman" to reveal its complexities, contradictions, and promise. Students will read influential works from contemporary feminist scholars who come from a variety of intellectual traditions and possess differing political commitments. These texts not only disrupt the historic exclusion of women from political theory but also the exclusionary tendencies in some early feminist writing. Topics may include justice, oppression, solidarity, the state, and neoliberalism.

PW: Global Engagement

WS410 Essential Readings & Writings in Women's Studies

PWGE, SP, W

Hours 3

This course explores texts and themes central to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. Course texts may include theoretical, expository, autobiographical, and fictional writings from early feminism as well as contemporary selections. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

PW: Global Engagement, Special Topics Course, Writing

WS430 Contemporary Issues: Feminist Theory

PWGE, W

Hours 3

Through the study of key feminist political and theoretical texts on an issue central to contemporary feminism, students in this seminar will develop advanced undergraduate research skills and gain a substantial foundation for further study, including graduate work in this area. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): WS 200 or permission from the instructor.

PW: Global Engagement, Writing

WS436 Gender and Black Masculinity

Hours 3

This course will examine the socio-historical perceptions and constructions of Black masculinities in various regions and periods. Students will also examine the social, political, and economic conditions of Black male life in the contemporary period and interrogate representations of Black men and boys in U.S. culture and society in relation to the broader politics of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the post-civil rights era. Specific attention will be paid to the history of ideas and approaches that have shaped and defined our understanding of Black males. Students will be introduced to historical and socio-cultural circumstances that affect Black males and the diverse nature of Black culture. This course will also attempt to heighten awareness and sensitivity to the contemporary problems affecting Black males and thus help discover and evaluate social policies and programs geared towards Black males.

WS440 Seminar in Women's Studies

PWGE, W

Hours 3

Courses under this rubric are designed to investigate a particular subject supplemental to regular course offerings. Students in this senior seminar will develop advanced undergraduate research skills and gain a substantial foundation for further study, including graduate work in this area. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): WS 200 or permission of the instructor.

PW: Global Engagement, Writing

WS442 Contemporary Women's Studies

PWGE

Hours 3

This course will provide students with a writing course in topics important to contemporary feminist theory. Among the topics will be a study of classical texts, such as Antigone, for gender politics, the development of student training in areas of feminist analysis from within the fields of natural science, political science, English, anthropology, rhetoric, art, economics, and American Studies. Demonstrated writing proficiency is a requirement for successful completion of the course. Students will complete at a minimum 5 short papers of from 1-3 pages each, essays derived from course readings and topical assignments, as well as a longer paper of from 7-10 pages. Instructor assessment of student writing and constant feedback is an important part of the course, and students will be asked to develop their own writing through in class assignments as well. Students will read a considerable amount of material in feminist analysis, comment upon this, and engage in classroom discussions on a regular basis.

PW: Global Engagement

WS445 Seminar in the Study of Gender and Sexuality

PWES

Hours 3

Students will study the different approaches to the study of sexuality within the framework of the disciplines of Women's Studies and African American Studies. The focus is on understanding how gender and sexuality develop through intersectionality, contemporary popular culture, and/or through policy changes. International research in gender and sexuality studies is also a potential focus of the course.

PW: Exec Systems Structures

WS450 Independent Study in Women's Studies

SP

Hours 1-6

Independent study on any subject pertaining to Women's and Gender Studies conducted under the supervision of a professor in the chosen field.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the supervisor and arrangement in advance of the semester in which enrollment is planned.

Special Topics Course

WS460 Race, Gender, and the Artist*PWGE, W*

Hours 3

Students in this writing seminar will develop advanced undergraduate research skills and gain a substantial foundation for further study. Demonstrated writing proficiency is a requirement for passing this course. This seminar will focus on how issues of gender and race emerge in and shape art and art practices across a range of media. Students will gain the tools to critically engage with a range of such work (including but not limited to visual art, TV, film, music, and theatre); to explore how artists have navigated race and gender and their intersections; and— as artists, audience members, fans, and critics— to develop their own feminist and anti-racist responses to art and popular culture. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

PW: Global Engagement, Writing

WS470 Gender, Race, and Class*PWES*

Hours 3

Emphasis is placed on theories and research on the inter relationships between the conceptualizations of gender, race, and class. The many different schools of thought on these issues are brought into productive tension with each other, depending on the course content. Students explore through reading primary and secondary texts the interactions between the practices that define these concepts. This course is preparation for further study at the graduate level, and considered a capstone course in the major.

PW: Exec Systems Structures