

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

cola.siu.edu/wgss

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Certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

The purpose of the graduate certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies is to meet the demand for formal recognition of graduate level credentials in WGSS, and to enhance and broaden the perspectives of graduate students from various related fields. The program requires 18 hours of coursework. 12 hours must be at the 500-level, which includes WGSS 596 and WGSS 597. Six hours must be taken outside the student's major discipline. The student must be currently enrolled in a graduate degree program at SIU or an individual holding a bachelor's degree and admitted to the Graduate School (non-declared).

The following graduate programs work closely as partners with WGSS Graduate Certificates:

College of Education and Human Services:

Education Administration and Higher Education
Workforce Education and Development

College of Liberal Arts:

Communication Studies
History
Political Science and MPA
Psychology
Sociology

School of Law

For more information, contact:

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Courses (WGSS)

There is no graduate program in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Four-hundred-level courses may be taken for graduate credit unless otherwise indicated in the course description.

WGSS 401-3 Contemporary Feminisms in Global Contexts.

This course discusses theories and practices of third wave feminism from a national and global perspective. We will discuss ways third wave feminism is being talked about and understood by others and ourselves. The selected readings offer a range of voices and articulation of third wave feminism including United States, post-colonial, transnational, queer, multicultural, theoretical, and practical. The course is heavy on reading. By the end of this course students should be able to express their understanding of third wave feminism.

WGSS 406A-3 Gender, Family and Sexuality in Pre-Modern Europe. (Same as HIST 406A) A discussion of the history of the family, creation of gender roles and importance of sexuality from medieval times to the French Revolution.

WGSS 406B-3 Gender, Family and Sexuality in Modern Europe. (Same as HIST 406B) From the French Revolution. A discussion of the history of family, creation of gender roles, and importance of sexuality from the French Revolution to the present. Fulfills the CoLA Writing-Across-the-Curriculum (WAC) requirement.

WGSS 410-3 Transcending Gender. (Same as ANTH 410L)

How do humans become male and female in different societies? Can men become women and women become men? What other gender possibilities exist? Is male dominance universal? What are the sources of male and female power and resistance? Do women have a separate culture? What are the relationships between gender, militarism and war? These and other questions will be examined in cross-cultural perspective.

WGSS 411-3 Human Sexuality. (Same as PH 410) Provides detailed information on dimensions of sexuality; characteristics of healthy sexuality; anatomy and physiology; gender roles; relationships; sexually transmitted infections/diseases; contraceptive issues and concerns; sexual victimizations; and sexuality through the life cycle.

WGSS 415-6 (3,3) Topics in Gender, Sexuality, and Communication. (Same as CMST 415) An exploration of advanced theories and research in gender and sexuality from communication perspectives. Course may be repeated when topics vary.

WGSS 416-3 Black Feminist Thought as Theory and Praxis.

(Same as AFR 416, CMST 416) Explore the roots, contemporary manifestations, and current embodiments of black feminist thought. Explore the works of black women to engage in critical thinking and thoughtful dialogue that positions the valuable knowledge, experiences and perspectives of women of color at the center of inquiry while simultaneously discovering spaces for multicultural alliances. Prerequisite: CMST 301I or CMST 341 or consent of instructor.

WGSS 426-3 Gender, Culture and Language. (Same as ANTH 426 and LING 426) This course is designed for students who have had some exposure to gender studies. It will focus on readings in language and gender in the fields of anthropological and socio-linguistics. Issues to be addressed are the differences between language use by men/boys and women/girls, how these differences are embedded in other cultural practices, and the various methodologies and theories that have been used to study gendered communication.

WGSS 437-3 Lesbian and Gay History in the Modern United States.

(Same as HIST 437) This course explores the social, political, and cultural history of lesbians, gay men, and other sexual and gender minorities in the United States from the turn of the twentieth century to the present. Themes to be taken up in the class include: the emergence of heterosexuality and homosexuality as distinct categories of identity; the intersection between sexual identity and identities of race, class, gender, and ethnicity; the relationship between homosexuality and transgenderism; the movement for gay liberation; the creation of lesbian and gay urban and rural subcultures; representations of homosexuality in popular culture; anti-gay backlash; and AIDS.

WGSS 438-3 Women and the Law. (Same as POLS 438) The course is an advanced seminar in public law with a focus on gender, law and society. The course will engage with issues in feminist legal practice and the development of legal theories regarding gender. We will interrogate the relationship between theory and practice and the ways in which feminist jurisprudence has taken shape in the dynamics of this relationship. POLS 114 and 230 recommended prerequisites.

WGSS 440-3 Queer Visual Culture. (Same as CP 469) Course discusses aspects of the aesthetics, history, theory and politics of media representations of gender and sexuality. Cultural texts

from one or a combination of media forms, genres, historical periods, and platforms will inform the historical and theoretical consideration of media representations of gender and sexual variation with a special interest on their bearings upon the present moment. May be repeated if topics vary.

WGSS 442-3 Sociology of Gender. (Same as SOC 423) Examines social science theory and research on gender issues and contemporary roles of men and women. The impact of gender on social life is examined on the micro level, in work and family roles, in social institutions, and at the global, cross-cultural level.

WGSS 446-3 Gender and Global Politics. (Same as POLS 456) An advance course examining gender systems and women's situations across cultures and countries. This course also studies the impact globalization has had on gender issues by looking at women's activism at international and transnational levels. Topics covered include women's political representation, gender and culture, women's social movements, gender and development, and gendered policy issues.

WGSS 448-3 Gender and Family in Modern US History. (Same as HIST 448) This course explores the history of gender and the family in the United States from the late 19th century to the present. Themes to be explored include: the family and the state, motherhood, race and family life, and the role of the "family" in national politics.

WGSS 449-3 Advanced Human Sexuality. (Same as PHSL 450) Advanced, comprehensive course intended to supplement and expand the critical examination of topics covered in PHSL 320, Reproduction and Sexuality. The objectives of this class are to examine the physiological and behavioral basis of human reproduction and sexuality. Examining how humans reproduce from a physiological perspective including all aberrations and clinically relevant dysfunctions, as well as, the spectrum of human sexual behaviors including typical and atypical sexual behavior, paraphilias and diversity of human relationships. Prerequisite: PHSL 320.

WGSS 450A-3 Women in Music. (Same as MUS 450A) Explores the creative contributions of women in music, examining women's participation across a range of genres, cultural/geographic areas, and time periods. Restricted to junior/senior/graduate music major or consent of instructor.

WGSS 452A-3 Traditions of Uppity Women's Blues. (Same as AFR 452A and MUS 452A) Examines the tradition of "uppity" women's blues from the so-called "classic" blues singers of the 19th century (Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, etc.) to the contemporary blues of Saffire, Denise LaSalle and others. Explores ways blues women challenge conventions of gender and sexuality, racism, sexism, classism and homophobia. Restricted to junior/senior/graduate music major or consent of instructor.

WGSS 456A-3 Feminist Philosophy. (Same as PHIL 446A) A general survey of feminist theory and philosophical perspectives.

WGSS 456B-3 Special Topics in Feminist Philosophy. (Same as PHIL 446B) A special area in feminist philosophy explored in depth, such as Feminist Ethics, French Feminism, Feminist Philosophy of Science, etc.

WGSS 456C-3 Women Philosophers. (Same as PHIL 446C) Explores the work of one or more specific women philosophers, for example Hannah Arendt, Simone DeBeauvoir, etc.

WGSS 464-3 Audio Documentary & Diversity. (Same as RTD

464) The purpose of this course is the creation of short and long form audio documentaries by students, regardless of production background. It will introduce students to basic production techniques and diversity considerations during the making of a documentary. This course uses qualitative methods to investigate an issue or document an event, with an emphasis on observation and interview techniques. Topics will explore the role of gender, race, ethnicity and class during the planning, gathering and production stages of the documentary. Course open to non-majors. Lab fee: \$55.

WGSS 465-3 History of Sexuality. (Same as HIST 465) Comprehensive survey of sexuality from the early modern period to the present. Examines social trends, politics, and cultural debates over various forms of sexuality. Students will engage in discussion, research, and writing. Emphasis varies by instructor.

WGSS 470-3 College Student Sexuality. (Same as EAHE 470) Seminar designed to provide students with a strong grounding in the field of college student sexuality and sexual identity, covering the lived experiences of U.S. college students, the construction of sexualized collegiate identities through U.S. history, and how institutions of higher education have attempted to regulate, control, and (intentionally as well as inadvertently) effect college student sexuality.

WGSS 476-3 Women, Crime, and Justice. (Same as CCJ 460 and SOC 461) A study of women as offenders, as victims, and as workers in the criminal justice system.

WGSS 489-3 Women, State and Religion in the Middle East. (Same as HIST 489) Following an introduction to the question of women in Islamic law and Islamic History, this course will examine the changing status and experiences of women in a number of Middle Eastern countries in the 20th century, focusing on Egypt, Iran, and Turkey. Major themes will include legal, social and political rights, participation in social and economic life, cultural and literary production, and recent secular and Islamist women's movements.

WGSS 493-2 to 6 Individual Research. Exploration of a research project under the supervision of a faculty member having graduate faculty status. The project must result in a written research report, which is filed with the Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Restricted to senior standing. Special approval needed from the instructor and Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

WGSS 494-1 to 6 Practicum. Supervised practical experience in situations centering on women's issues, organizations, services, etc. The setting may be in one's own field of study or in general content areas recognized in the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program. Special approval needed from the instructor and Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

WGSS 496-3 Advanced Special Topics in Sexual Diversity Studies. Advanced consideration of a topic of interest in Sexual Diversity Studies not offered through regular course listings.

WGSS 497-3 Independent Study in Sexual Diversity. Supervised readings in selected content areas in Sexual Diversity Studies. This is a capstone, synthesizing experience for students in sexual diversity studies. Prerequisites: WGSS 201, 203. Special approval needed from the instructor.

WGSS 507-3 Seminar in the Sociology of Sexuality. (Same as SOC 507) Examines the emerging body of work in the fast-growing field of sexuality studies. While the course focuses

on sociological research, it takes a few side trips into other disciplines. We begin by discussing the evolution of theory and methodology in the sexual sciences. After briefly considering the contributions of early sexologists and the work of Sigmund Freud, we will survey the sociology of sexuality from its beginnings in quantitative research, through classical sociological theory, social constructionism, and feminism. We'll then examine Foucault's radical rethinking of sexuality and grapple with the challenges of queer theory. The second part of the course will take up several substantive areas in the sociology of sexuality, drawing on cutting edge quantitative and qualitative research.

WGSS 515-3 to 9 (3,3,3) Studies in Gender, Sexuality, and Communication. (Same as CMST 515) How communicative activity creates and sustains human beings as gendered. Emphasis on gaining familiarity with contemporary research on gendering from a particular perspective (e.g., ethnography, performance, phenomenology, quantitative methods, rhetorical criticism). May be repeated when perspective varies. Perspective announced prior to each offering.

WGSS 525-3 Theorizing the Body. (Same as ANTH 525) This seminar explores a broad range of theoretical readings centering on the human body. Once the province of medical science and certain schools of philosophy, recent research in the social sciences and the humanities position "the body" as a primary site of socialization, gendering, social control.

WGSS 535-3 Seminar: Gender in Higher Education. (Same as EAHE 535I) A seminar for specialized study of administrative practice and policy in gender in higher education.

WGSS 544-3 Sociology of Gender. (Same as SOC 544) Examines major theories, themes, and research methods on the intersection of gender, race, class and sexuality. Topics may include: construction of gender, race, class and sexual identities; work; social movement; intersection of family and work; parenting and reproduction; historical and cross-national dimensions.

WGSS 545-3 Gender and Work. (Same as SOC 545) This course is designed to investigate how gender structures the workplace, as well as how men and women both reproduce and negotiate gender at work. Focusing on select topics, we will develop an understanding of workplaces as gendered organizations and discuss sex segregation, wage inequality, the glass ceiling, the glass escalator, sex work, men and women in nontraditional occupations, the body at work, emotional labor, aesthetic labor, immigration and work, globalization, and unemployment and welfare. Also, this class will take an intersectional approach to analyzing and discussing issues of gender inequality at work; meaning, we will take seriously how gender intersects with race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality to shape both inequality and resistance at work.

WGSS 546-3 Language, Gender and Sexuality: Anthropological Approaches. (Same as ANTH 546, LING 545) This course examines the study of language in society with a particular focus on how linguistic practices are part of the construction of gender and sexuality identities, ideologies, social categories and discourses. Anthropological theories applied to the study of language, gender and sexuality will be covered along with a variety of methodological approaches.

WGSS 547-3 Gender and Social Change. (Same as SOC 547) This graduate seminar is a sociology of gender course that focuses on changes in the subfield itself and in peoples'

lived experiences in terms of gender, gender relations, and gender stratification. Readings and discussions will trace the development of the sociology of gender over the last several decades. We will discuss how ideas and theories have changed over the years including changes in concepts and in how sociologists define, problematize, and theorize about sex and gender as traits, identities, relations, structures, and systems. We will also explore 'objective' or actual change (or lack of change) related to gender in individuals, groups, and societies.

WGSS 550-3 The Psychological Construction of Gender. (Same as PSYC 550) This course will focus on the psychology of gender within a feminist perspective and using a feminist approach. The term feminism, as used here, primarily implies that we will consider information and ideas for more diverse than simple empirical data. In our reading and discussion, we will consider politics, discrimination, the history of science, the history of patriarchy, the development of theory and ideas in general and the development of feminism in particular, and objective versus subjective views of science, and within these contexts, we will consider and study the psychology of gender.

WGSS 560-3 Gender and Sport: Sociological and Psychological Perspectives. (Same as KIN 560) This course explores psychological and sociological dimensions underlying the concept of gender and critically examines how gender relates to sport and physical activity. Students will be introduced to non-traditional as well as traditional research that addresses the issue of gender in various physical activity contexts.

WGSS 565-3 Continental Feminist Philosophy. (Same as PHIL 565) An examination of major figures and problems in continental feminism, focusing on metaphysical, ethical, political, and aesthetic theories in the works of Beauvoir, Kristeva, Irigaray, Butler, and Kofman.

WGSS 575-3 Women in Higher Education. (Same as EAHE 575) The goal of this course is to provide an overview of women in higher education. Topics that will be considered are: feminism's impact of women in higher education; the division of labor for women (including faculty and professional staff positions); historical and sociological perspectives of access to higher education including curriculum and pedagogy.

WGSS 576-3 College Men and Masculinities. (Same as EAHE 576) This course is a readings-based seminar covering concepts of masculinity as demonstrated by collegiate men in the United States. The readings in this course cover cultural as well as identity elements of what being a "college man" means (and how that definition has changed over time and contexts). The readings consist of historical, contemporary and theoretical scholarship concerning collegiate masculinity.

WGSS 590-1 to 3 Readings. Supervised readings in selected advanced subjects. Special approval needed from the instructor and the Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

WGSS 591-1 to 3 Special Topics. Concentration on a topic of interest not offered through the regular course listings. Special approval needed from the instructor and the Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

WGSS 592-3 Women and Religion. This course will heighten and strengthen student's awareness of the roles and responsibilities of women as outlined in the sacred writings and scriptures of various world religions and as carried out in various cultures around the world.

WGSS 593-3 Masculinity in the United States. This course is a

readings-based seminar covering concepts of masculinity in the United States. The readings cover cultural as well as identity elements of what being a “man” means (and how that definition has changed over time and contexts), historical as well as contemporary understandings of masculinity.

WGSS 595-1 to 3 Practicum in Educational Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. This course provides students with supervision in their work toward course development in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. The instructor of record will meet with practicum members on a regular basis, and, together, they will work towards the research and syllabus construction necessary for a WGSS course. Pedagogical strategies will also be covered. Must have consent of the Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Graded by S/U only.

WGSS 596-3 Advanced Feminist Theories. This course introduces students to the past, present, and potential future of feminism and its various permutations. Readings are designed to stress historical, intellectual, and contemporary issues in order to inspire in-class discussion and to provide foundations for written assignments. Emphasis varies by instructor.

WGSS 597-3 Graduate Pro-Seminar in Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies. This proseminar introduces graduate students to the field of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). The approach is both interdisciplinary as well as multidisciplinary. The course guides students through a process by which they build a detailed map of the intersection between their course of study and the field of WGSS. Emphasis varies by instructor