

# Dickinson

## Women's and Gender Studies Department

### Course Offerings—Spring 2016

**Elizabeth Lee  
Chair  
Women's and Gender Studies**

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#### *Requirements for the Major*

- WGST 200 — Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
- WGST 250 — Methods in WGST
- WGST 300 — Topics in WGST
- WGST 400 — Senior Seminar in WGST
- Students must also take one course focusing on Feminist Perspectives:  
Example: WGST 300—Feminist Perspectives and Theories
- Students must take one course on the Cross-Cultural Study of Women & Gender:  
Example: WGST 201 — Global Genders
- *Students must take 4 electives. All WGST courses, except WGST 200, 250, and 400, can also count as WGST electives.*
- Students must participate in an internship related to Women's and Gender Studies.

#### *Women's and Gender Studies Department Faculty*

Amy Farrell—Professor of American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies

G. Melissa Garcia—Interim Director Women's Center and Women's and Gender Studies Faculty

Katie Oliviero—Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies

Katie Schweighofer—Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies

Megan Yost — Associate Professor of Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies

**WGST 101-01 Disorderly Women****Instructor** Jerry Philogene  
TR 10:30-11:45am

In this course, students will ask the questions: What does it mean to be a “disorderly woman” and what acts are considered “disorderly” and why? In this lecture and discussion-based class, students will seek to answer these questions by focusing on key texts and radical scholarship in the fields of Native American, Asian American, African American, and Euro-American women’s narratives. By doing this, we will interrogate the ways in which women have shaped ideas and experiences concerning race, class, sexuality, sexual orientation, labor, and political belonging. We will read novels and essays by Paula Gunn Allen, Audre Lorde, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Gloria Steinem while viewing the work of visual artists such as Catherine Opie and Kara Walker, and singers Rhianna and Beyoncé. Using a variety of primary and secondary textual sources, the course will explore how representations of “disorderly women” have been presented in memoirs, essays, visual arts, and popular media to both reflect and contribute to current debates within and about feminism, power, and social justice. *WGST elective. Fulfills U.S. Diversity requirement.*

**WGST 200-01 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies****Instructor** Katie Schweighofer  
MWF 12:30-1:20pm

This is an interdisciplinary course, integrating literature, economics, sociology, psychology and history. The focus will be primarily on the representation and experience of women in American Society with attention to issues like gender roles, the family, work, sexuality, race, class, and feminism. *Fulfills U.S. Diversity requirement.*

**WGST 201-01 Global Genders****Instructor** Katie Schweighofer  
MR 3:00-4:15pm

This course takes up the question of gender outside of the United States, with emphasis on how gender shapes the distribution of power transnationally, transculturally, and transhistorically. Recognizing that women often bear the brunt of gender inequalities, we will examine how women are affected by and organize against oppression. We will also pay attention throughout the course to the ways in which gendered power distributions affect men, and consider non-binariated systems of sex and gender and their different power distributions. The operation of gender and gendered power is always shaped by race, class, sexuality, nationality, citizenship, and ability, which are therefore critical to our conversation. Course topics include gendered nationalism, the politics of veiling, neoliberal capitalism and its effects, sex work, sex tourism, migration and border politics, and the gendered effects of militarism and military occupation, among others. *WGST elective, WGST Cross-Cultural Studies requirement. Fulfills CompCiv requirement.*

**WGST 201-02 Writing, Identity, & Queer Studies: In & Out, Either/Or, and Everything in Between****Instructor** Sarah Kersh  
MWF 8:30-9:20am

Throughout the semester we will explore and engage critically with established and emerging arguments in queer theory, as well as read and watch texts dealing with issues of identity and identification. Although “queer” is a contested term, it describes – at least potentially – sexualities and genders that fall outside of normative constellations. Students will learn how to summarize and engage with arguments, and to craft and insert their own voice into the ongoing debates about the efficacy of queer theory and queer studies. Moreover, we’ll take on questions that relate “word” to “world” in order to ask: How might our theory productively intervene in LGBTQ civil rights discourse outside our classroom? How do we define queer and is it necessarily attached to sexual orientation? How do our own histories and narratives intersect with the works we analyze? *WGST elective. Writing in the Discipline requirement.*

**WGST 201-03 Women, Gender and Judaism****Instructor** Andrea Lieber  
MWF 12:30-1:20pm

This course examines issues of gender in Jewish religion and culture. Starting with the representation of women in the Bible and other classical Jewish texts, we study the highly differentiated gender roles maintained by traditional Jewish culture, and examine the role American feminism has played in challenging those traditional roles. We will also study gender issues in contemporary Israeli society, such as the politics of marriage and divorce, public prayer and gender in the military. Some knowledge of Judaism and Jewish history is helpful, but not required as a prerequisite for this course. *WGST elective.*

**WGST 201-04 Jewish Masculinities**

**Instructor** Ted Merwin  
**TR 10:30-11:45am**

From Samson to Seinfeld, how has Jewish masculinity been constructed? This course surveys Biblical, rabbinic, early modern, modern and postmodern sources to examine the manifold forms that Jewish masculinity has assumed throughout history. In the latter part of the course, we will analyze representations of Jewish men in film and television, with particular attention to the influence of the feminist movement, the effects of acculturation, and the differences between American and Israeli male stereotypes. *WGST elective.*

**WGST 202-01 Introduction to Sexualities Studies**

**Instructor** Katie Oliviero  
**TR 10:30-11:45am**

This course explores how practices, identities, behaviors, and representations of sexualities shape and are shaped by political, cultural, social, religious, medical and economic practices of societies across time and space. It will put sexuality at the center of analysis, but will develop understandings of sexuality as they are related to sex, gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, nationality and geographical location. Students will explore the historical and social processes through which diverse behaviors are and are not designated as sexual. They will then analyze how these designations influence a range of institutional forces and social phenomena. *WGST elective. Fulfills U.S. Diversity requirement.*

**WGST 202-02 Fat Studies**

**Instructor** Amy Farrell  
**MR 1:30-2:45pm**

This course introduces students to an emerging academic field, Fat Studies. By drawing from historical, cultural, and social texts, Fat Studies explores the meaning of fatness within the U.S. and also from comparative global perspectives. Students will examine the development of fat stigma and the ways it intersects with gendered, racial, ethnic and class constructions. Not a biomedical study of the "obesity epidemic," this course instead will interrogate the very vocabulary used to describe our current "crisis." Finally, students will become familiar with the wide range of activists whose work has challenged fat stigma and developed alternative models of health and beauty. *WGST elective.*

**WGST 202-03 The Personal is Political: Gender, Politics, and Policy in the U.S.**

**Instructor** Kathleen Marchetti  
**TF 1:30-2:45pm**

Overview to field of gender and politics. Examines role women play in U.S. policy process, how public policies are "gendered", and how specific policies compare to feminist thinking about related issue areas. Course also discusses theories of the role(s) gender plays in various aspects of politics. *WGST elective.*

**WGST 300-01 Feminist Perspectives and Theories**

**Instructor** Katie Oliviero  
**TR 9:00-10:15am**

This course deepens students' understandings of how feminist perspectives situate power and privilege in relationship to interlocking categories of gender, race, class, sexuality, ability and nation. Through foundational theoretical texts, it expands students' understandings of significant theoretical frameworks that inform women's, gender, critical race and sexuality studies, as well as debates and tensions within them. These frameworks include political activism, materialist feminism, standpoint epistemologies, critiques of scientific objectivity, intersectionality, postcolonialism, psychoanalysis, queer theory, transnational critique and feminist legal theory. By interweaving core feminist texts with contemporary cultural and artistic artifacts, the course helps students examine the relationships between everyday experiences, political institutions, forms of resistance and theoretical meaning-making. *WGST Feminist Perspectives; WGST elective. Fulfills U.S. Diversity requirement.*

**WGST 300-02 Women and Society in Modern Japanese History**

**Instructor** William Young  
**W 1:30-4:30pm**

This course is an exploration of women's lives and livelihoods in modern Japanese history. We will analyze the changes Japanese society underwent from the 19th Century to the present, paying particular attention to transformations as well as continuities in family structure and gender roles. A key theme of the course is the socially-constructed nature of gender norms and feminine ideals and how women frequently transgressed such norms, a theme that we will explore

through both primary sources in translation and secondary scholarship. Building upon in-class workshops and a series of short-essay assignments, the final goal of the course will be to produce an original research paper. *WGST elective; WGST Cross-Cultural Studies.*

**WGST 300-03 History of Motherhood in the U.S.**

**Instructor** Crystal Moten  
**TR 1:30-2:45pm**

This course examines the history of motherhood in the United States, paying special attention to how the institution of motherhood, and experiences of mothering, have been constructed over time. Throughout the semester, we will examine the changing and multiple meanings of motherhood, how these meanings have been constructed and disseminated through the media, and the impact of these on women's lives. Additionally, we will examine the ways in which the platform of motherhood has been used to agitate for political power, both historically and in contemporary moments. Throughout the semester, we will pay special attention to the ways in which race, class, and alternative ideas about the family have shaped our understanding of the meaning of motherhood. *WGST elective.*

**WGST 300-04 Seminar in Social Psychology: Intimate Partner Violence**

**Instructor** Kiersten Baughmann  
**WF 9:00-10:15am**

Social psychology is the science of how people interact with, relate to, influence, and motivate one another. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is an area of research within social psychology that examines extreme aggressive actions that occur within the context of a romantic relationship. This course will expose students to in-depth scientific research in the area of IPV in order to more fully understand the nature of IPV, its many precursors, how and when it occurs, and ultimately offer some suggestions for interventions. Students in this seminar-based course will read original journal articles, critically evaluate empirical findings and in-class discussions, compose individual and group presentations, and collaborate very closely with a local non-profit agency working in the area of preventing and responding to IPV. Course work will address critical research questions that will directly impact both clients of the agency and the greater Carlisle community. Through this service-learning course, you will forge a lasting partnership with a local Carlisle agency while gaining a solid research background from which to understand and address the real problems faced by victims of IPV not only in Carlisle, but around the world. *WGST elective. Prerequisite: WGST 250.*

**WGST 300-05 Dance History Seminar: Modernism and the Body**

**Instructor** Sarah Skaggs  
**MR 1:30-2:45pm**

This course will focus on contemporary dance history using theoretical frameworks that interrogate how race, class and gender resist, assimilate, and converge to create the construction of American modern concert dance. We will explore how the politics of the dancing female body on the concert stage produced a radicalized agenda for contemporary dance. We will address key themes and questions throughout the semester, questions such as: What makes a body modern? How does the feminist agenda on the concert stage aid in the construction of a modern body? What was the role of appropriating from exotic cultures in the making of contemporary concert dance? What is the role of technology in the creation of modern dance? What are the effects of war and politics on the dancing body? Orientalism, the Africanist presence in Western concert dance, and the restaging of Native American dances by American choreographers will be addressed as part of the overall construction of American modern dance. Through response papers, in-class presentations, and an in-depth research paper, students will engage with significant issues contributing to the development of modern concert dance. *WGST elective. Writing in the Discipline requirement. Prerequisite: WGST 200.*

**WGST 300-06 Romantic Women/Victorian Men**

**Instructor** B. Ashton Nichols  
**TF 1:30-2:45pm**

This course in 19th-century literature will use gender as a lens through which to view this revolutionary era. How did male authors talk about female subjects in these works? How did female authors invest authority in male and female voices? What current stereotypes about gender can be traced to Romantic and Victorian literature? How do these texts resist our efforts to make simple generalizations about men and women? Do lyric poems pose particular problems for gender and biographical forms of interpretation? Is the importance of the novel in the nineteenth century related to the gender of authors or readers? *WGST 300; WGST elective*

**WGST 378-01 Society and the Sexes**  
**Instructor Regina Sweeney**  
**TR 10:30-11:45am**

This is a reading seminar that investigates three separate but interrelated threads - the history of sexuality, the history of the body and the construction of gender - in both pre-industrial and modern Europe. The course explores how definitions of male/female and feminine/masculine have changed over time and how they shaped the life experiences of men and women. Readings will include medical opinions, legal texts, diaries, novels, and political debates. *WGST 300 Equivalent; WGST elective.*

## *Courses that Fulfill the Major*

### *Cross-Cultural Study of Women and Gender*

ANTH 245-01 – Global Genders  
EASN 306-01 – Women and Society in Modern Japanese History  
HIST 315-01 – Women and Society in Modern Japanese History  
WGST 201-01 – Global Genders  
WGST 300-02 – Women and Society in Modern Japanese History

### *Feminist Perspectives*

WGST 300-01 – Feminist Perspective and Theories

### *Electives*

*All WGST courses, except WGST 200, 250, and 400, can also count as WGST electives.*

AFST 320-02 – History of Motherhood in the U.S.  
AMST 101-01 – Disorderly Women  
AMST 101-03 – Football: Gender, American Culture, and the Gridiron Game  
AMST 200-01 – Health, Illness and Narrative  
AMST 200-02 – Fat Studies  
ANTH 245-01 – Global Genders  
EASN 306-01 – Women and Society in Modern Japanese History  
ENGL 212-02 – Writing, Identity, & Queer Studies: In & Out, Either/Or, and Everything in Between  
ENGL 360-01 – Romantic Women/Victorian Men  
HIST 311-02 – History of Motherhood in the U.S.  
HIST 315-01 – Women and Society in Modern Japanese History  
HIST 378-01 – Society and the Sexes  
JDST 216-01 – Jewish Masculinities  
JDST 240-01 – Women, Gender and Judaism  
POSC 290-05 – The Personal is Political: Gender, Politics, and Policy in the U.S.  
PSYC 145-01 – Psychology of Human Sexuality  
PSYC 440-01 – Seminar in Social Psychology: Intimate Partner Violence  
RELG 250-02 – Women, Gender and Judaism  
THDA 316-01 – Dance History Seminar: Modernism and the Body