

UMaine Women's Studies Undergraduate Courses

Spring 2010

Interdisciplinary Core Courses in Women's Studies

WST 101 Introduction to Women's Studies

An introduction to Women's Studies, to its perspectives, and to its interdisciplinary nature. Using several disciplines, the class will examine women's positions in Western culture and will explore the genesis, the development, and the impact of our culture's assumptions about women's nature and women's roles. Satisfies the General Education requirements Eth., Soc. Cont. and Inst., and Cult. Div. & Intl. (001, Mazie Hough, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, #4169; 002, Nancy Lewis, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, #4171; 500, Audrey Minutolo, TuTh, 3:30-4:45, #5683; 501, Rhea Côté Robbins, TuTh, 2:00-3:15, #5685; 700, Tina Roberts, M, 5:00-7:30, #5687; 701, Jennifer Pickard, W, 6:00-8:40, #5689; 990, Mary Okin, Web-based, #7067). Cr. 3.

WST 103 (990) Introduction to LGBT Studies (Peg Cruikshank) (Web-based, #27369)

The class will cover a wide range of topics including the 19th century roots of gay liberation, lesbian feminism, political issues from Stonewall to the present, queer theory, the social construction of homosexuality, homophobia, anti-gay harassment in schools, LGBT family issues, the biology of sexual orientation, cultural diversity and cross-cultural research, and postmodern challenges to identity politics. This class is open to anyone interested in social change and contemporary intellectual movements. No previous knowledge of LGBT issues is required, and the prerequisite of WST 101 can be waived. Gen. Ed. = Soc. Cont., Cult. Div. & Int'l. Cr. 3.

WST 201 (860) Women, Blues, and Jazz (Betty Duff) (Tuesday, 5:45-8:15, #6287)

This course will explore the contributions of woman vocalists and musicians in blues and jazz from Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and Billie Holiday to the big band singers and jazz vocalists, such as Sarah Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald and Diana Krall. The course will focus on listening and identifying different styles and themes in the context of women's history. Cr. 3.

WST 230 (990) Women, Health, and the Environment (Sandra Haggard) (Web-based, #7069)

This course will examine the roles of women in shaping current practices and policies of the Western healthcare system and related environmental issues. It will draw on the work of environmentalists such as Rachel Carson and modern women healers of the body and the ecosystem. Students will be encouraged to be involved transformational work at the local, personal, or more global level. Can be taken at the graduate level as WST 501 (990) #7071. Gen. Ed. = Pop. & Envir., Eth. Cr. 3.

WST 235 (990) Franco-American Women's Experience

- FAS 230 (990) (Rhea Côté Robbins) (Web-based, WST 235 #27114; FAS 230 #27116)

This course will examine the immigration experience and subsequent lifestyles of the present-day Franco-American woman and her cultural ancestors. Studying their immigration from France to New France, Canada, and across the border into the U. S., class participants will learn about the historical and cultural implications of immigration for these women and the definition they imparted to the culture. These women braved the new worlds of the wilderness, farmlands, and industrial settings to help establish the French culture, as we know it today in North America. In addition to the readings and discussion, this course will use films, slide presentations, guest lecturers, and music to examine the artifacts, crafts, rituals, folklore, and more of the daily lives of the women. This can also be taken at the graduate level as WST 501 (991) #29963. Gen Ed = Cult. Div. & Intl. Prerequisites: FAS 101, WST 101 or permission. Cr. 3.

WST 298 Directed Study in Women's Studies (Section 001, #4185)

(Permission from the program director required. Call 581-1228 for an information sheet.)

WST 301 (860) Women and Religion (Nancy Lewis) (Monday, 4:00-6:30, #27373)

This overview of women's roles in some of the major world religions will examine the influence religion has on women's lives. We will look at Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Indigenous religious traditions, Christianity, Islam, and New Age traditions. Differences in women's experience of religion based on class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation will also be noted. This can also be taken at the graduate level as WST 501 (860) #30190. Cr. 3.

WST 340 (001) Women and Globalization (Mazie Hough) (TuTh, 3:30-4:45, #4195)

Constraints of geography on social and cultural arrangements are receding, a process with implications for the world's women. Topics investigated will include women's work in factories such as the maquiladoras, immigration, domestic work, and sex tourism to name a few. Graduate students may take this class as WST 501 (001) #4217. Gen. Ed. = Cult. Div. & Int'l. Cr. 3.

WST 371 (001) Immigration, Women, and Society

-SOC 371 (001) (Kim Huisman) (Wednesday, 3:10-5:40, WST #29011; SOC #26821)

How do issues of gender, race, ethnicity, class, religion, and sexuality affect immigrant women as they adjust to life in the US? In this course, immigrant women's experiences will be examined through a lens that views gender as a social system that intersects with other hierarchies and systems of domination. The interplay between human agency and social structure will be explored, and women immigrants will be viewed as active participants in the migration and settlement process. Gen Ed = Cult. Div. & Int'l., Pop. & Envir. Cr. 3.

WST 401 (860) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Women's Sexuality

(Sandra Caron) (Thursday, 4:00-6:30, #4197)

This course explores the nature of women's sexuality from a developmental perspective, with the intent of enhancing students' understanding of how women's sexuality is shaped, changed, and expressed throughout life. Moving beyond the traditional focus on sexual functioning, this course emphasizes the complex interaction of psychological, social, cultural, and biological influences on the creation of sexual meanings for women. Cr. 3.

WST 401 (861) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Interpersonal Violence

= CHF 404 (861) (Carey Nason) (Tuesday, 4:10-6:40, WST 401 #5693; CHF 404 #3133)

This course is designed to describe interpersonal violence (specifically sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and harassment), discuss its causes, and examine various strategies to promote awareness and intervention of interpersonal violence through peer to peer education. Ultimately, this is a practice-based course that strives to give you tools to eliminate interpersonal violence in your community. The discussion situates violence within a socio-political perspective, examines psychological issues, and explores the wide range of socially institutionalized and individually perpetuated political, social, economic, and physical events and circumstances. Through the use of experiential components, this course raises students' awareness and develops students' skills as agents of social change. Cr. 3.

WST 401 (990) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Maine Women

(Carol Toner, Jennifer Pickard) (Web-based, #7085)

This course will explore women's experiences in Maine, both historical and current, through a multidisciplinary approach including history, literature, political science, and economics. Through readings and discussions, we will analyze Maine women individually and collectively in such roles as industrial workers, reformers, writers, politicians and mothers. As we study Maine women, we will keep in mind several major questions. How have Maine's particular environment, culture, economy, and history shaped women's experiences in the state? How have national movements (for example abolitionism, temperance, suffrage, the ERA, welfare reform) shaped women's lives in Maine? How have women responded to these issues and events? And how have issues of class, gender, and race/ethnicity played out in Maine? Cr. 3.

WST 480 Senior Seminar in Women's Studies: Women and Education (Ann Schonberger)

(Section 001, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, #4203; Section 002, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, #4205)

The topic will be broadly interpreted to include the diversity of experience of women and girls as teachers and students, now and in the past. Beyond the common core of the course, specific emphasis will depend on the interests of the students. (Gen. Ed. = Soc. Cont. & Inst., Cult. Div. & Int'l., Writing Intensive, and Capstone Experience Requirements.) Prerequisite: WST 101, WST 410, and senior standing or permission. Cr. 3.

WST 498 Directed Study in Women's Studies (Section 001, #4209)

(Jr./Sr. standing and permission from the program director required. Call 581-1228 for an information sheet.) Cr. 3.

If you have any questions about the WST courses, check the spring schedule of classes or call 581-1228.

Departmental Electives in Women's Studies

- ARH 270** **Women in Visual Arts**
Karen Linehan, TuTh, 3:30-4:45, Section 500, #5949
- CHF 404** **Topics in Family Studies: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Gender and Violence**
Renate Klein, Web-based, Section 990, #6997
- CHF 452** **Violence in the Family**
Robert Milardo, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, Section 001, #1921
- CMJ 405** **Women and Communication**
Kristin Langellier, TuTh, 2:00-3:15, Section 001, #28338
- ENG 246** **American Women's Literature**
Margo Lukens, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, Section 001, #27176
- ENG 481** **Topics in Women's Literature: Rebecca West**
Laura Cowan, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, Section 001, #27187
- PHI 236** **Feminist Ethical, Social, and Political Philosophy**
Jessica Miller, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, Section 001, #25549
- SOC 329** **Sociology of Gender**
Amy Blackstone, TuTh, 2:00-3:15, Section 001, #2513
- SOC 330** **Perspectives on Women**
Ann Leffler, MWF, 1:10-2:00, Section 001, #26820

**To request an accommodation, contact Ann Smith,
Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 581-2319.**