



COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

WOMEN'S AND GENDER
STUDIES PROGRAM

Spring 2023 Women's & Gender Studies Course Brochure

In Fall 2022 WGS launched a new structure for the major. If you declare the major in Fall 2022 or thereafter, the **SECOND** listing of requirements below is relevant to you. If you have declared your major prior to Fall 2022, then the **FIRST** listing of requirements below is relevant to you. And, if you are in a previous catalog year (prior to Fall 2022) you may change your catalog year if you choose. We recommend that you make an advising appointment with Dr. De Welde prior to doing so.

Catalog PRIOR to Fall 2022: Requirements for the Major in Women's & Gender Studies: 33+ semester hours, that must include:

1. **WGST 200:** Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies
2. **WGST 401:** Capstone in Women's & Gender Studies (taken spring semester of a student's senior year)
3. **Experiential Learning Component** (student may choose a minimum of one of the following to complete this requirement):
4. Complete **3 credits in the Political & Social course category.**
5. Complete **3 credits in the Historical & Global course category.**
6. Complete **3 credits in the Culture & Representation course category.**
7. Complete **3 credits in the Mind & Body course category.**
8. Take **an additional 12 credits in WGS** from any of the four course categories listed in 4-7.

Catalog Fall 2022 and beyond: Requirements for the Major in Women's & Gender Studies: 33+ semester hours, that must include:

1. **WGST 200:** Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies
2. **WGST 250:** Approaches to Research and Practice in WGS (**NEW COURSE**)
3. **WGST 401:** Capstone in Women's & Gender Studies (taken spring semester of a student's senior year)
4. **Experiential Learning Component** (student may choose a minimum of one of the following to complete this requirement):
5. Complete **6 credits in the Social & Behavioral Sciences course category.**
6. Complete **6 credits in the Arts & Humanities course category.**
7. Complete **an additional 9 credits in WGS** from any of course approved to count in WGS, including those that are explicitly **electives.**

Requirements for the Minor in Women's & Gender Studies: 18 semester hours, which must include:

1. **WGST 200:** Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies (to be taken early in the minor, preferably as one of the first 3 courses)
2. **An additional 15 courses in WGST classes or classes cross-listed with Women's & Gender Studies.**

** NOTE: No more than two courses may be taken in any single discipline except those courses designated as WGST.*

Certain "Special Topics" courses from the various departments may also be counted towards the minor or major requirements. Please consult the instructor or the director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Spring 2023 Women's & Gender Studies Courses

		CRN	Course	Title	Detailed Information
			WGST 200	Intro to Women's & Gender Studies	Multiple sections
			WGST 401	Capstone in WGS	W, 4-6:45, Kris De Welde
Pre-2022 Catalog	2022-23 Catalog	CRN	Course	Title	Detailed Information
P&S	S&BS	21582	ENVT 363	Race, Gender, & Environment	TR, 3:05-4:20, Shishav Parajuli
P&S	S&BS	20230 & 21373	SOCY 103	Sociology of the Family	MWF, 10-10:50 & 11-11:50, Eunice Von Bakanic
P&S	S&BS	21510 & 21511	SOCY 106	Sociology of Peace	Online, 2 sections, Reba Parker
P&S	S&BS	22974	SOCY 322	Sociology of Sexualities	TR, 10:50-12:05, Julia McReynolds Pérez
P&S	S&BS	22975	SOCY 337	Prejudice	MWF, 1-1:50, Von Bakanic
P&S	A&H	23239/ 23175	WGST 323/ LACS 320	ST: Latin American Feminists & Human Rights	Online, Malia Womack
P&S	S&BS	23237	WGST 321	ST: Queer & Trans Studies	M, 4-6:45, Cristina Dominguez
P&S	S&BS	23238	WGST 321	ST: Abolition Feminism(s)	R, 4-6:45, Kaj Brian
H&G	A&H	23079	ARTH 340	ST: Women in Art History	MWF, 11:30-12:20, Marian Mazzone
H&G	A&H	23174	HISP 252	ST: Más allá del Orgullo/Beyond Pride: LGBTQ+ Culture and Rights in the Spanish Speaking World	MWF, 12:00-12:50, David Dulceany
H&G	A&H	21297	HIST 225	History of the South Since 1865	TR, 12:15-1:30, Tammy Ingram
H&G	A&H	21966	HIST 252	Women in Europe	TR, 3:05-4:20, Cara Delay
H&G	A&H	21899	FREN 492	ST: French Colonial Exotique	M, 4-6:45, Lauren Ravalico
H&G	A&H	20825 & 20824	SPAN 333	ST: Popular Culture & Gender in the Caribbean: Divas, Drag Queens, and Deities	MWF, 9:00-10:50 & 10:00-10:50, David Dulceany
H&G	A&H	20518	THTR 318	History of Fashion & Manners	TR, 9:25-10:40, Caroline Baker
H&G	S&BS	20748	POLI 350	Global Gender Politics	TR, 10:50-12:05 Hollis France
C&R	A&H	23391	AAST 330	Black Images in Media	MWF, 12:00-12:50, Anthony Greene
C&R	S&BS	23205	AAST 360	Mass Incarceration & Its Roots	TR, 1:40-2:55, Mari Crabtree
C&R	A&H	22945	ENGL 315	Black Women Writers	MWF, 11-11:50, Valerie Frazier
C&R	A&H	21964	ENGL 390	ST: Alfred Hitchcock	TR, 1:40-2:55, John Bruns
C&R	A&H	23244	WGST 323	ST: Intersections of Spirituality, Anti-Racism, Social Justice, and Practice	TR, 9:25-10:40, Drisana McDaniel

C&R	A&H	23240	WGST 340/ JWST 340	Jews, Gender & Sex (Also JWST 340, CRN 21048)	MW, 2-3:15, Ashley Walters
C&R	S&BS	23385	LIBR 106	ST: Algorithm Awareness	TR, 3:05-4:20, Amanda Kraft
C&R	A&H	20844	MUSC 222	ST: Women in American Popular Music	Online, Frank Duvall
C&R	A&H	23249	PHIL 305	ST: Recovering Vanished Voices: Women Philosophers of the 17th-19th Centuries.	MW, 2-2:50, Deborah Boyle & Manuel Fasko
M&B	S&BS	21269	HEAL 217	Human Sexuality	TR, 4:30-5:45, Sara Stevenson
M&B	S&BS	21943	HEAL 323	Women's Health Issues	MWF, 11-11:50, Christy Kollath-Cattano
M&B	Elective	23242 & 23242	WGST 324	ST: Sexuality of Childbirth (Express I & II)	Online, Sarah Holihan-Smith
M&B	S&BS	23017	HONS 250	Reproductive Health	MW, 2-3:15, Cara Delay
M&B	S&BS	21131	PSYC 330	Psychology of Prejudice & Discrimination	TR, 10:50-12:05, Clarence Spicer
M&B	S&BS	22987	PSYC 350	Psychology of Gender	TR, 8-9:15, Lisa Ross

There is both a major and minor in Women's & Gender Studies for those with a serious interest in the intersections of gender, class, race, ethnicity, age, religion, ability, and sexuality. If you would like to learn more about the WGS major or minor, please speak with your WGS professor or with Dr. Kris De Welde (deweldek@cofc.edu). You can also find helpful resources for students at [our website](#) or at our program blog, [WGS Connect](#).

Catalog for anything prior to Fall 2022

P&S – Political and Social Organization
H&G – Historical and Global Perspectives
C&R – Culture and Representation
M&B – Mind & Body

Catalog for Fall 2022 and beyond

S&BS – Social & Behavioral Sciences
A&H – Arts & Humanities
Electives

Spring 2023 Course Descriptions

REQUIRED (major & minor)	WGST 200.01 - 09	Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies	Multiple Instructors (see course list), Multiple sections
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This is an interdisciplinary course designed to explore the rich body of knowledge developed by and about women and gender. We study gendered structures and their consequences in contemporary cultures and societies. In addition, we examine feminist theories and relevant social movements. Also satisfies a General Education Humanities requirement.

REQUIRED (major)	WGST 401.01 - 10	Capstone in WGS	Kris De Welde, W 4:00-6:45
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(Required for the WGS major for ALL WGS majors; open to minors) An intensive reading and writing seminar open to seniors pursuing a major or minor in Women's and Gender Studies. This course will create a synthesis of their studies in the field and deepen their skills in WGST research. Interdisciplinary topics will vary, but the curriculum will emphasize current research.

Political & Social	ENVT 363.01	Race, Gender, & Environment	Shishav Parajuli, TR 3:05-4:20
Social & Behavioral			
<p>This course will explore environmental crises that disproportionately affect under-resourced communities and communities of color. The course centers the contributions of African Americans, Indigenous peoples, women of color and feminists to examine the ways in which interlocking social forces of oppression such as racism, sexism and settler-colonialism shape ecological problems.</p>			

Political & Social	SOCY 103.01-02	Sociology of the Family	Von Bakanic, two sections (see course list)
Social & Behavioral			
<p>An analysis of the family in its social context. Emphasis placed on how socio-cultural factors influence social interaction within families, on social change effects on families and on the relationship of families to the total social system.</p>			

Political & Social	SOCY 106.01-02	Sociology of Peace	Reba Parker, two sections
Social & Behavioral			
<p>This course examines the world through a sociological lens as students discover the making of a Culture of Peace. This class focuses on areas and practices of inter-cultural cooperation, positive peace, global transformation, non-violent communication, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and community peace-building.</p>			

Political & Social	SOCY 322.01	Sociology of Sexualities	Julia McReynolds-Pérez, TR 10:50-12:05
Social & Behavioral			
<p>This course uses a sociological perspective to examine human sexuality. Although biological explanations are often used to understand sexuality, this course focuses on how sexual attitudes and behaviors are shaped by society.</p>			

Political & Social	SOCY 337.01	Prejudice	Von Bakanic, MWF 1:00-1:50
Social & Behavioral			
<p>This course examines what prejudices are, how they are formed, the consequences they have and the social purposes they serve. Three types of prejudice are investigated: race, class and gender. In addition, the course explores the relationship between prejudice and discrimination and the conditions under which changes in prejudice occur.</p>			

Political & Social	WGST 323.01	ST: Latin American Feminists & Human Rights	Malia Womack, Online asynchronous
Arts & Humanities			
<p>International human rights are designed based on the ideology that all people deserve basic rights because of their shared humanity. However, Latin American feminists commonly argue that the international human rights processes are rife with inequalities at the local, transnational, and global levels, are not effectively enforced, are resources for Western imperialism, and are Western and male centric. This class problematizes human rights failures. In particular, the class explores how human rights treaties and operations (in their present form) cannot adequately address the complexity of lived experiences, diversity, and intersectionality. This course documents how feminists throughout Latin America have mobilized against colonialism, poverty, gender discrimination, and other inequalities by engaging in</p>			

domestic as well as transnational activism around international human rights. Latin American feminists have unrelentingly promoted equality and are transforming how human rights are understood throughout Latin America and the world.

Political & Social	WGST 321.01	ST: Queer & Trans Studies	Cristina Dominguez, M 4:00-6:45
Social & Behavioral			
<p>This course offers a selective, interdisciplinary introduction to queer and trans studies within LGBTQ+ studies. Students will explore trans and queer history; theoretical and conceptual writing; auto-ethnography and ethnography; autobiography, memoir, creative writing, film/tv and art; political writing and documentaries. Drawing on the #TransJustice Syllabus and other sources, some focal areas of this course are QTBIPOC (queer and trans Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and white anti-racist accomplice theorizing and feminisms, bodies and health, family and community building, nationalism and migration, criminalization and abolition, and, social justice organizing/movement work. Guiding questions that we will ask ourselves in this course include the following: What are some central concerns for queer and trans peoples/communities? How are visibility, representation, and inclusion problematic? and lastly, What do historic and contemporary trans and queer lived experiences and perspectives teach us all (those of us who are queer and trans and those of us who are not) about resistance, resilience, and futurity?</p>			

Political & Social	WGST 321.02	ST: Abolition Feminism(s)	Kristi "Kaj" Brian, online synchronous, T 4:00-6:45
Social & Behavioral			
<p>As feminists around the world call for an end to police violence and gendered criminalization, their resistance could be understood as the formation of what W.E.B. Du Bois called abolition democracy. Through the lens of intersectional feminism, and the pedagogy of facilitated dialogue, this course will allow us to liberate ourselves from carceral ways of being and to imagine a world without prisons. We will witness the deeply intertwined Indigenous feminist demands for land sovereignty and an end to climate catastrophe, alongside the radical re-imagining of public safety and an end to the prison industrial complex. We will analyze movements to abolish slavery, lynching, Jim Crow segregation, mass incarceration, police brutality, abortion bans and other mechanisms of violence, containment, and forced assimilation. And we will uplift the work of survivors and organizers who are dismantling hetero-patriarchal domination, racial capitalism, and settler colonialism to build new arrangements for care and healing.</p>			

Historical & Global	ARTH 340.01	Women in Art History	Marian Mazzone, MWF 11:30-12:20
Arts & Humanities			
<p>This course studies women artists – as creators of art and their changing roles in the art world. The approach will be historical, with emphasis on modern and contemporary art. Non-ARTH majors welcome (<i>prerequisites may be waived, check with Dr. Mazzone</i>).</p>			

Historical & Global	HISP 252.01	ST: Popular Culture & Gender in the Caribbean: Divas, Drag Queens, and Deities	David Dulceany, MWF 12:00-12:50
Arts & Humanities			
<p>This course is an overview of recent and contemporary expressions of LGBTQ+ culture in the Spanish speaking world with a particular focus on popular culture, film, literature, and music. We will also explore the full diversity of the LGBTQ+ experience by discussing various communities, cultures, and subcultures in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain. In addition, we will discuss ongoing movements and key organizations that have fought for LGBTQ+ rights and representation.</p>			

Historical & Global	HIST 225.01	History of South since 1865	Tammy Ingram, TR 12:15-1:30
Arts & Humanities			
<p>This course is an introduction to the study of the American South. Although we will study different events, people and places from various angles throughout the semester, we will ground our survey of the South with the theme of southern "distinctiveness." Why, after all, do we study the history of the South as a separate</p>			

subdiscipline? What is the South, exactly? How have the region's defining characteristics changed over time? Nothing, of course, is distinct in isolation, so we will also situate the South within the context of American History (and World History, too). At what points could we say that the South was more (or less) integrated into the (inter)national economy and the body politic? Do ideas about southern "distinctiveness" change during major events like wars, economic depressions, or political realignments?

Historical & Global Arts & Humanities	HIST 252.01	Women in Europe	Cara Delay, TR 3:05-4:20
<p>This course examines women and gender in Europe from c. 1500 through the present day. Through an analysis of social, economic, political, religious, and cultural developments, we will assess how women shaped the European past and how ideas about gender have been central to daily life throughout history. Topics covered include politics, work, feminism, women's writing, crime and disorder, religion, marriage, motherhood, and sexuality. Our focus will be primarily on Western Europe and on social history, with a particular emphasis on sexuality. Throughout the semester, we will read a variety of works, including writings by historians and primary-source documents, such as diaries and letters.</p>			

Historical & Global Arts & Humanities	FREN 492.01	ST: French Colonial Exotique	Lauren Ravalico, M 4:00-6:45
<p>Course description TBD</p>			

Historical & Global Arts & Humanities	SPAN 333.01 & .02	ST: Más allá del Orgullo/Beyond Pride: LGBTQ+ Culture and Rights in the Spanish Speaking World	David Dulceany, MWF 9-9:50 & 10-10:50
<p>This course explores the intersection of race, class, gender, and national identity in the Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora communities through an exploration of popular culture and media. We will expand on notions of gender and identity by questioning the limits of terms like "Diva" and "Drag Queen". To this end we will analyze music videos, social media posts, articles, short stories, novels, and films with the goal of investigating the impact of popular culture on history, politics, and religion. By exploring a diverse set of literary, historical, and pop culture materials, we will seek to critically expand the notion of the diva with a particular focus on the Caribbean region and its broader cultural and sociopolitical impact on the world stage through its diasporas.</p>			

Historical & Global Arts & Humanities	THTR 318.01	History of Fashion & Manners	Caroline Baker, TR 9:25-10:40
<p>This course will allow the student to develop an overview and recognition of Western costume and fashion from pre-history to the present. Through lecture, discussion and research, the course will examine the social, political and practical influences upon dress and mannerism.</p>			

Historical & Global Social & Behavioral	POLI 350.01	Global Gender Politics	Hollis France, TR 10:50-12:05
<p>Global Gender Politics addresses the ways in which gender is socially constructed historically and situated in a global context. The course explores how gender intersects with multiple forms of oppression such as colonialism and capitalism, and how it is constituted by multiple social identities such as race. In other words, gender is always raced, classed, etc. An intersectional lens is employed to enable making connections between and thinking about differences across the experiences of women and minoritized groups in diverse countries and geographies, and to allow us to explore how society works, in order to think about, and evaluate strategies for making social change.</p>			

Culture & Representation	AAST 330.01	Black Images in the Media	Anthony Greene, MWF 12:00-12:50
Arts & Humanities			
In this course, students will critically examine the representations of African Americans in major forms of mass media, including newspapers, television, and film. The course will review the historical development of the archetype images and trace their progression up to the contemporary portrayals.			

Culture & Representation	AAST 360.01	Mass Incarceration & Its Roots	Mari Crabtree, TR 1:40-2:55
Social & Behavioral			
Between 1972 and 2012, the U.S. prison population increased nearly sevenfold to an astonishing 2.23 million people, and the policies behind these numbers have disproportionately impacted African Americans and Latinx people. Given these trends, mass incarceration and the destruction caused by the carceral state more generally are emerging as this generation's civil rights issue. The imperative to reimagine the justice system is as real as it is immediate, for maintaining the status quo carries devastating consequences: the growth of economic inequalities, the erosion of the democratic process, the persistence of gendered and racialized violence, and the reification of insidious racial injustices. This course examines the major contours of the issue: its precursors, origins, consequences, and solutions.			

Culture & Representation	ENGL 315.01	Black Women Writers	Valerie Frazier, MWF 11:00-11:50
Arts & Humanities			
A study of a representative selection of black women's fiction, poetry, and drama, focusing on how these writers use the figure of the woman and her intersectional identity to explore social, political, and aesthetic ideas. Readings may vary from year to year.			

Culture & Representation	ENGL 390.01	ST: Alfred Hitchcock*	John Bruns, TR 1:40-2:55
Arts & Humanities			
Despite more than fifty years of steady critical explication, the films of Alfred Hitchcock are as uncanny as ever. His films are exemplary sites for speculative theory and the radical recasting of critical protocols. Indeed, the most notable gains in the Auteur Theory, Feminist Theory, Queer Theory, and recent studies that situate Hitchcock in his historical context, come from careful attention to, and sensitive analyses of, Hitchcock's work. We will use the films as a means of understanding the major contributions to Hitchcock Studies, as well as to film theory in general. In addition, we will examine closely the historical and cultural underpinnings of these films.			

Culture & Representation	WGST 340/ JWST 340	Jews, Gender, & Sex	Ashley Walters, TBD
Arts & Humanities			
This class explores the history, religion, and cultures of Jews, from Biblical times to the present, through the lens of gender and sexuality. It introduces students to the origins of gender and sex in Judaism and explores how authorities have maintained or altered proscriptions of sex and gender in order to preserve order in Jewish society. It considers how gender and sex inform Jewish national identity from antiquity to the present and accounts for the coexistence of marginalized queer Jewish identities. It addresses how outside perceptions of Jews are informed by the gendered and sexual norms of the dominant society.			

Culture & Representation	LIBR 106.02	ST: Algorithm Awareness*	Amanda Kraft, TR 3:05-4:20	
Arts & Humanities				

This course addresses the increasing influence of algorithms—the computational processes embedded into software. Students and faculty alike routinely engage with and rely on systems that predict, recommend, and speculate based on the digital fingerprint they provide with clicks, scrolls, searches, and “likes,” but we all struggle to understand how and why those systems work. Students are introduced to basic mathematical formulas and codes within algorithms before using their lived experience and empirical research to describe a variety of systems that utilize algorithms and consider the resulting effects within those systems. This course will specifically address the implications of gender and racial diversity within algorithmic systems and the ethical ramifications of current and future algorithmic programs.

Culture & Representation	PHIL 305.01	ST: Recovering Vanished Voices: Women Philosophers of the 17th-19th Centuries*	Deborah Boyle & Manuel Fasko, MW 2-3:15	
Arts & Humanities				

While female thinkers have been part of philosophy since its inception, their contributions were systematically neglected and ignored from the 19th century onwards, when philosophy became the university subject it is today. This started to change in the last three decades when new research found many works of philosophy by women philosophers that, for hundreds of years, were left out of the standard, androcentric narrative of the history of philosophy. That picture of the history of philosophy is now being challenged and rewritten. In this course, we will read and discuss some of these exciting new finds, drawing from works by women philosophers such as Margaret Cavendish (1623–1673), Anne Conway (1631-1679), Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648–95), Mary Astell (1666–1731), Emilie du Châtelet (1706–1749), Mary Shepherd (1777–1847), Sojourner Truth (c.1797–1883), or Constance Naden (1858-1889). We will discuss how these thinkers contributed to well-known philosophical problems such as the mind-body-problem or raised new questions, such as the role of women in philosophy or society more generally. Become part of the effort to let these previously vanished voices be heard, thereby changing the way we look at the past, and, in doing so, ultimately shaping the future. Course prerequisite is 6 hours in philosophy, but others are encouraged to enroll with the permission of one of the instructors.

Culture & Representation	WGST 323.02	ST: Intersections of Spirituality, Anti-Racism, Social Justice, and Practice	Drisana “Dru” McDaniel, TR 9:25-10:40	
Arts & Humanities				

This course explores dimensions of spirituality and healing in relationship with how we collectively meet the challenges of these times. Rethinking what it means to act for change, students will consider the limitations of modernity to determine how a relational approach to social transformation may be generative.

Culture & Representation	MUSC 222.05	ST: Women in Popular Music	Frank Duvall	Online asynchronous
Arts & Humanities				

This course surveys women in popular music from the early 1900’s to present. Early stars, trendsetters and super stars will be studied including social settings and music business obstacles.

Mind & Body	HEAL 217.01	Human Sexuality	Sara Stevenson, TR 4:30-5:45
Social & Behavioral			
<p>The format focuses on providing information necessary for establishing a sound knowledge base on topics including sexual anatomy and physiology, birth control, basic psychological concepts of sexuality, sexually transmitted infections, family planning and parenting. The information is presented in relation to the decision-making process as applied to understanding one's own and others' sexuality.</p>			

Mind & Body	HEAL 323.01	Women's Health Issues	Christy Kollath-Cattano, MWF 11:00-11:50
Social & Behavioral			
<p>The course deals with a wide variety of health issues of concern to women. Major categories of topics include utilization of the health care system, issues of concern to women of diverse backgrounds, normal physiological health and well-being, common physiological and psychological health problems, and cultural as well as societal influences on women's health.</p>			

Mind & Body	HONS 250.02	Reproductive Health	Cara Delay, MW 2:00-3:15
Social & Behavioral			
<p>In this Honors seminar, students examine reproductive health in the United States, exploring the medical, political, legal, social, historical, and cultural contexts of our current reproductive health systems and policies. Through an interrogation of readings including court decisions, memoirs and autobiographies, historical primary sources, and the writings of feminist and health activists, students will learn about abortion, contraception, the maternal health crisis, and more. In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's <i>Dobbs</i> decision that overturned <i>Roe v. Wade</i>, particular attention will be paid to the history of abortion, debates about abortion, and abortion realities today.</p>			

Mind & Body	PSYC 330.01	Psychology of Prejudice & Discrimination	Clarence Spicer, TR 10:50-12:05
Social & Behavioral			
<p>This course offers an examination of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination, their relationships, and relevant theories. Challenges that people face in their personal efforts to reduce their own prejudices will be examined. Finally, students will appraise organizational strategies for reducing prejudice and discrimination and examine the debate on affirmative action.</p>			

Mind & Body	PSYC 350.01	Psychology of Gender	Lisa Ross, TR 8:00-9:15
Social & Behavioral			
<p>This course presents social, cognitive, biological, evolutionary, and cross-cultural perspectives on gender, including gender development and roles. Major themes include nature and nurture contributions to gender, gender differences versus similarities, gender versus sex, the influence of gender assumptions, biases and roles, and challenging prejudice to improve gender relations.</p>			

Mind & Body	WGST 324.01-02	Sexuality of Childbirth	Sarah Holihan-Smith, Online asynchronous, Multiple sections
Elective			
<p>This course examines the sexuality of pregnancy and birth in the context of feminist thought and theory by carefully studying the medical model of birthing and comparing this with the midwifery model of birthing. Medicalized childbirth tends to dissociate sexuality from the experience of birth, and a cultural anxiety around childbirth points to a larger anxiety about female sexuality in general. But a vaginal birth happens through female genitalia and needs to be understood physiologically as a sexual event. Childbirth really can be transformative, even positive and pleasurable: erotic, ecstatic, and orgasmic, yet currently in the United States there is so little education or exposure to pregnancy and childbirth in our culture, and the media tends to portray birth as a gruesome medical emergency. Here we will explore how supportive care potentially plays a key role in easing the physical, emotional, and psychological transition to motherhood while situating childbirth as a place of radical feminist discourse.</p>			

* Please note that you will be asked for information about *Special Topics* (ST) courses listed in *other* departments after the add/drop period in the fall so that they can be reflected on your DegreeWorks audit. Prior to this, while the courses listed here are approved, they will not appear as satisfying the WGS requirements until “exception petitions” are processed and approved. Again, we’ll take care of that in the fall!