



WOMEN, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES

Spring 2026 Course Descriptions

GNDR 2110.002: Intro Wom, Gend, and Sexuality Stdy

Offered: Full Term, TR 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Instructor: Dania Ammar, dammar@unm.edu

This course introduces students to key concepts, debates, and analytical tools informing women, gender, and sexuality studies. As an interdisciplinary field of study, women, gender, and sexuality studies employs academic perspectives from a range of disciplines and theoretical approaches. It also incorporates lived experience and social location into its object of analysis. Though content will vary according to the expertise and focus of the instructor, this course will develop tools through readings and assignments that critically analyze how gender and sexuality are shaped by different networks of power and social relations and demonstrate how the intersections of race, class, disability, national status, and other categories identity and difference are central to their understanding and deployment. In addition to feminist thought, areas of focus might include gender and sexuality in relation to social, cultural, political, creative, economic, or scientific discourses. This class is recommended for those with a general interest in the topic area as well as for those seeking a foundational course for further study.

GNDR 2110.003: Intro Wom, Gend, and Sexuality Stdy

Offered: Second-Half Term, Online

Instructor: Benjamin Abbott, babbott@unm.edu

This course introduces students to key concepts, debates, and analytical tools informing women, gender, and sexuality studies. As an interdisciplinary field of study, women, gender, and sexuality studies employs academic perspectives from a range of disciplines and theoretical approaches including history, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and cultural studies. The class incorporates lived experience and social location into discussion of existing and foundational research and a variety of people's diverse intersections with a large range of advantages and oppressions. Through readings and assignments that critically analyze how gender and sexuality are shaped by different networks of power and social relations and demonstrate how the intersections of race, class, disability, national status, and other categories are central to their understanding and deployment, students will have a chance to do further engagement with the readings that stand out most to them.

This class is recommended for those with a general interest in the topic area, those entering the medical profession, as well as for those seeking a foundational course for further study in gender, sexuality, and better understanding of sociopolitical power relations.

WGSS 324.001: Contemporary Feminist Theory**Offered: Full Term, TR 11:00-12:15****Instructor:** Daisy Atterbury, daisyatterbury@unm.edu

An investigation of selected feminist theories from the past three decades. Learning the skills of analysis and applying these skills to theory will be stressed.

WGSS 336.002: Queer Theories**Offered: Second-Half Term, Online****Instructor:** Emma Mincks, emincks@unm.edu

The class will examine the field of queer theory alongside an intersectional approach to an analysis of power relations using those theories through primary texts from Black queer studies, testimonials from queer diasporic writers, working-class and queer-of-color theorists, and queer Indigenous studies scholarship.

Weaving analyses around foundational BIPOC queer texts, we will explore an expansive analysis of broader queer politics in North America and globally. Although our primary texts focus on micro historical and materialist conditions and writings from queer people through the experiences of colonialism, migration, and resistance to erasure, students will have the opportunity for deep class discussion, reflection, and engagement with their own histories and lived experiences. We will familiarize ourselves with the core texts and key debates that have shaped queer theory and trace the expansion of the term “queer” from its early contestation with LGBTQIA+ identities and politics to its current use as a broad framework that designates non-”normative” modes of knowledge, cultural practices, and political activism.

Central to our investigation are the intersections between queer theory, feminist materialism, cultural studies, class studies, and critical race theories. This class will ultimately engage theory by means of a rich philosophical and political interrogation of the meaning and content of “queer,” giving students tools and vocabulary to better understand key debates and conversation in the fields of women, gender, and sexuality studies, in queer theories and in contemporary society.

WGSS 337.001: Transgender Studies**Offered: Full Term, MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.****Instructor:** Benjamin Abbott, babbott@unm.edu

This course examines the emerging field of Transgender Studies in the U.S, a field that centers transgender scholarship, trans-identified scholars, and trans people’s experiences. The “trans” in transgender studies not only refers to a specific identity and political collective, “trans” also reflects the potential transgressive movement across all sorts of boundaries within the field. Through the optic of trans-, this field offers innovative analyses of sex, gender, identity, and the body and their normative enforcements in theory, culture, science, and law. And more recently, the field has turned its attention towards analyzing operations of colonialism, empire, white supremacy, and other systems of oppression.

WGSS 379.001: T: Women, Medicine & Health**Offered: Full Term, Online****Instructor:** Arianna Trott, arianna8@unm.edu

Ever wonder how one-size-fits-all clothing could actually work for someone 5' tall weighing 100 lbs., 5'5" tall at 185 lbs. and someone 6'4" tall weighing 160 lbs.? Well, the same question can be asked of medicine and the health care system. The answer is simple: It doesn't! This course will trace the history of women's health and explore how both sex (genetics) and gender (social determinants of health) affect health. Although this course explores the intersection of sex and gender in any individual, it will mostly focus on examples of female biology (individuals with XX chromosomes) raised with assigned gender roles as girls/women. Using examples of sex and gender differences in health care - in prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment students will discuss the implications of sex and gender for health, health care policy, programs, services, products, practice and research, as well as education. Readings, videos and discussions will focus on the paradigm of thinking that has led to current women's health care practices, and a new paradigm of thinking that can lead to a deeper understanding of women's health and improve health care for everyone.

Objectives:

- By the end of the course, you will be able to describe the difference between the biologic (sex), social determinants of health (gender), and their complex interactions.
- You will analyze research, policy, programs, products, and services using a sex/gender/diversity lens through course discussions, exercises and projects.
- You will create a project using a set of sex- and gender-specific analytic methods and tools

WGSS 379.002: T: Native Am Hist Since 1850**Offered: Full Term, TR 12:30-1:45 p.m.****Instructor:** Sierra Ramirez, sramirez88340@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

WGSS 379.003: T: Sci Fi Sexualities**Offered: Full Term, M 1:00-3:45 p.m.****Instructor:** Eva Hayward, ehayward@unm.edu

Science fiction is a genre of possibility, of potential. Where reality has been marshalled by authority and power, Science Fiction has questioned such investments in certainty. Few genres of film/video, literature, and other artmaking have challenged the conceits of identity and identification than Science Fiction. In this course, we will question the limits of sexuality—of the identity claims called homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, and trans and intersexual—through the genre of Science Fiction. We will ask how Science Fiction expands, disrupts, and reimagines sexual identity. How does this genre play havoc with identities and their politics? What makes Science Fiction libidinal and anarchically sexual?

WGSS 379.004: T: Global Curanderismo**Offered: Full Term, Online****Instructor:** Mario Del Angel Guevara, mdelangel@unm.edu

Description Forthcoming.

WGSS 379.008: T: Women, Medicine & Health**Offered: Full Term, Online****Instructor:** Arianna Trott arianna8@unm.edu

Ever wonder how one-size-fits-all clothing could actually work for someone 5' tall weighing 100 lbs., 5'5" tall at 185 lbs. and someone 6'4" tall weighing 160 lbs.? Well, the same question can be asked of medicine and the health care system. The answer is simple: It doesn't! This course will trace the history of women's health and explore how both sex (genetics) and gender (social determinants of health) affect health. Although this course explores the intersection of sex and gender in any individual, it will mostly focus on examples of female biology (individuals with XX chromosomes) raised with assigned gender roles as girls/women. Using examples of sex and gender differences in health care - in prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment students will discuss the implications of sex and gender for health, health care policy, programs, services, products, practice and research, as well as education. Readings, videos and discussions will focus on the paradigm of thinking that has led to current women's health care practices, and a new paradigm of thinking that can lead to a deeper understanding of women's health and improve health care for everyone.

Objectives:

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WGSS 379.011: T: Land, Nation, & Body**Offered: Full Term, TR 3:30-4:45 p.m.****Instructor:** Emma Mincks, emincks@unm.edu

This interdisciplinary course will bring feminist ecologies, embodiment studies, sociology, Indigenous studies, disability studies, environmental justice and sustainability studies, literary studies, decolonial geography, and medical humanities perspectives to bear on the topics of land, nation, and embodiment.

Students will be challenged to express their own relationships to place and experiences of embodiment, as well as to research the ways that land and nation influence those experiences. Student-led research will assist in creating frameworks for exploring connections between the past and present.

WGSS 498.002: T: Feminism in Action**Offered: Full Term, Online****Instructor:** Eva Hayward, ehayward@unm.edu

This capstone course consists of a volunteer work practicum whereby students have the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained through past courses covering a variety of topics related to gender, race, sexuality, class, and nation to issues that affect women, men, and gendered-others locally, regionally, and globally. Through this community-engagement study course, students can experience the creation of community, social change, and empowerment working as part of a community organization/service agency staff team. A crucial and most valuable aspect of students' field experience involves placing the theoretical background gained through previous classes in conversation with the practical knowledge earned through working directly for local advocacy, resource services, grassroots organizations. Furthermore, Students will gain experience that will enhance their professional credentials and attain practical job skills that may prove useful upon entering the job market sphere after college. WMST 498 is open to non-WMST major/minor students.

WGSS 512.002: Feminist Queer & Trans Methods**Offered: Full Term, W 4:00-6:30 p.m.****Instructor:** Eva Hayward, ehayward@unm.edu

This course discusses feminist, queer and trans* approaches to methods (research strategies) and methodologies (approaches to knowledge production) across the humanities. We will explore what it means "to queer" writing and research, using transdisciplinary perspectives to identify debates and tensions in conceptualizing, conducting, analyzing, writing, and disseminating scholarship within and beyond the academy. Our inquiry will focus on how interlocking systems of power related to gender, race, sexuality and coloniality impact the production of knowledge, thinking about the potential efficacies and limitations of research in facilitating the disruption of normative social systems.

This is an applied course that emphasizes skills-building and workshop facilitation, supporting graduate students in both the sustenance of present, ongoing writing projects and the development of early research programs incorporating queer and feminist methods. Readings draw on a range of thinkers, from José Esteban Muñoz to Maria Lugones, Amin Ghaziani, Amber Musser, Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Heather Love and Billy-Ray Belcourt.

By the end of the course, students will have a draft of a methodology that can be used in research and funding proposals and will support the development of graduate-level independent scholarship.

WGSS 579 004: T: Sci Fi Sexualities**Offered: Full Term, M 1:00-3:45 p.m.****Instructor:** Eva Hayward, ehayward@unm.edu

Science fiction is a genre of possibility, of potential. Where reality has been marshalled by authority and power, Science Fiction has questioned such investments in certainty. Few genres of film/video, literature, and other artmaking have challenged the conceits of identity and identification than Science Fiction. In this course, we will question the limits of sexuality—of the identity claims called homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, and trans and intersexual—through the genre of Science Fiction. We will ask how Science Fiction expands, disrupts, and reimagines sexual identity. How does this genre

play havoc with identities and their politics? What makes Science Fiction libidinal and anarchically sexual?

WGSS 579 006: T: Nucl Colonial & Resistance

Offered: Full Term, T 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Instructor: Daisy Atterbury, daisyatterbury@unm.edu

Graduate study of the nuclear industrial complex in the Southwestern US and global context, from parallels in 20th-Century nuclear testing in the US-MX borderlands and pre-independence Algeria, to 21st-Century conversations around nuclear energy and AI. Interdisciplinary topic that touches on science/technology studies, environmental justice, political economy of nature, environmental social movements, race and nature, ecofeminism, law and violence.

WGSS 579 007: T: Feminist Technoscience

Offered: Full Term, R 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Instructor: Silas Grant, soagrants@unm.edu

This seminar examines genealogies, central themes, critiques, and emerging literatures in the interdisciplinary field of feminist science and technology studies (STS). The course is concerned with the roles of gender, sex, race, class, and colonialism in knowledge production across science, technology, and medicine. We will begin by engaging with key texts that have helped shape the field of feminist STS by challenging binaries such as nature/culture, epistemology/ontology, subjectivity/objectivity, and center/periphery. We will then spend the rest of the course exploring topics including toxicity, climate change, sexed and raced reproduction, militarism and surveillance, multi-species relations, and digital cultures. Throughout, we will ask if and how STS methodologies can support students in pursuing their own research questions, and will attend to the kinds of practices, forms of experimentation, and modes of relation that might make up a feminist and anti-colonial technoscience.