



RICE HUMANITIES

Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

COURSE SCHEDULE SPRING 2025

SWGS UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

*The information on this handout is current as of Tuesday, January 7, 2025. The General Announcements is authoritative.
See cswgs.rice.edu/courses for possible updates.*

SWGS	100	Introduction to Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Instructor: Stacie Cruz MWF 1pm-1:50pm	An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of these themes: 1) genders and sexualities as these intersect with race, class, migration status and other differences that shape our lives; 2) the social, political, and legal situations of women and LGBTQ+ people globally and in the United States; and 3) the production of gender and sexual identities and desires (e.g. queer, two-spirit, trans, nonbinary, asexual as well as normative). We will also touch on efforts to theorize gender, sexuality, race, class, and other differences and become acquainted with the concept of engaged research. This course is required for the SWGS major and the SWGS minor. CORE
FWIS	173	Gender and Race in U.S. Popular Music Instructor: Hannah Young MWF 11:00am-11:50am	This course aims to introduce students to popular music as a site for critical analysis. Listening to U.S. female artists across time and genre, students will consider how gender, race, and class become signified in sound and how the intersection of these categories shape iconic figures. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for FWIS 173 if student has credit for FSEM 159/HIST 159. ELECTIVE
FWIS	210	Jews on Film: Cinematic Representations of Jewish Life Instructor: Ofra Amihay MWF 11am-11:50am	This course will explore the modern Jewish life around the world through the medium of film. Students will be exposed to diverse Jewish communities and their cinematic representations. The course will consider modern Jewish identity through the lens of various themes including race, gender, religion, nationalism, assimilation and secularization. ELECTIVE

FWIS	219	<p>The Beauty of the Beast: Telling and Re-Telling the Tale as Old as Time Instructor: Nina Cook 001: MWF 9am-9:50am 002: MWF 10am-10:50am</p>	<p>This course examines filmic and literary adaptations of "Beauty and the Beast" from the "original" 1740 French version to the present day. It asks how the tale reflects cultural anxieties and fears and reinforces problematic representations of gender roles, toxic masculinity, and the tenuous fairy-tale conflation of goodness and beauty. CRITICAL RACE</p>
FWIS	234	<p>Plotting Marriage: Romance, Inheritance, and Jurisprudence Instructor: Nina Cook TTh 9:25am-10:40am</p>	<p>What does marriage do – socially, economically, legally? In "Plotting Marriage" we will examine representations of marriage in literature and film to answer these questions, revealing how the institution of marriage has largely constructed our understanding of gender roles and how representations of marriage have plotted to represent marriage as desirable. ELECTIVE</p>
SWGS	238	<p>Vietnamese American Feminisms Instructor: Karen Siu TTh 9:25am-10:40am</p>	<p>This interdisciplinary course surveys the work of Vietnamese American writers, artists, and filmmakers who are women, queer, and nonbinary in order to understand the intersection of Vietnamese American cultural production and the study of women, gender, and sexuality. We will explore Vietnamese American literature, art, and film that navigates issues such as reproductive politics, radical care, and refugee ingratitude. This course will serve as a space to ponder and conceive of how we might articulate Vietnamese American feminism in the aftermath of US-led war and conflict. Fifty years after the end of the Việt Nam War, we will learn about and reflect on legacies of war, imperialism, and colonialism in queer and feminist work of the Vietnamese American diaspora. GLOBAL SOUTH</p>
FWIS	251	<p>Think of the Children – Histories of 20th Century American Childhood Instructor: Danny Gibboney, Jr. MWF 10am-10:50am</p>	<p>This writing intensive seminar casts attention to some histories of twentieth century American childhood. Some of the topics explored include the advent of juvenile courts, psychologization of children, coming-of-age film, youth political disenfranchisement, and age as means of organizing collective life. Any and all majors are welcome. ELECTIVE</p>
HIST	258	<p>Food and Gender Instructor: Chin Jou TTh 1pm-2:15pm</p>	<p>Examines the history of food, cooking, feeding, and eating in relation to the history of gender relations in the US from the Industrial Revolution to the present. Topics include domestic and paid labor, food industry marketing, cooking technologies, and how particular foods and diets have been gendered, racialized, classed, and designated as "queer." ELECTIVE</p>
FWIS	262	<p>How to Write Essays About Love Instructor: Meredith McCullough 001: TTh 1pm-2:15pm 002: TTh 2:30pm-3:45pm</p>	<p>Love is an ancient philosophical problem. Writing about love means discussing politics, race, and sexuality, alongside psychology and biology. Our inherited ideas about love - how, who, and in what way, is it best to love? - are undergoing a revolution. Students will learn how to write to participate in these conversations. ELECTIVE</p>

FWIS	263	Sex, Death, and Spiritual Writing Instructor: Cameron Hammon 001: MWF 3pm-3:50pm 002: MWF 4pm-4:50pm	In this course we will look at the ways in which a variety of historical and contemporary “spiritual but not religious” texts grapple with sexuality, mortality, race, gender, class, and politics. This course will foreground discussion and reflection, and students will write weekly discussion posts on Canvas, in addition to the three major papers and a group presentation. ELECTIVE
SWGS	303	Gender and Science Instructor: Vic Overdorf TTh 9:25am-10:40am	This course introduces students to the historical, philosophical and social dimensions of science and technology through the lens of feminist and gender studies. It will explore the ways in which science has factored in producing cultural norms for gender and race, how gender figures in the authority of science, and the role of gender in scientific institutions. ELECTIVE
EDUC	304	Race, Class, Gender in Education Instructor: TBD M 6pm-9pm	This course examines the complex ways in which race, ethnicity, gender, and class intersect and influence the educational experience of students in American schools. By employing an interdisciplinary approach centered both on individuals' lived experiences and educational system as a whole, EDUC 304 explores and critiques these critical issues and their impact on student learning. Likely topics include the historical foundations of race, class and gender in education, segregation, Title IX, and other contemporary topics. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: EDUC 504. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for EDUC 304 if student has credit for EDUC 504. CRITICAL RACE
AAAS HART	311 311	Representations of Disability Instructor: Olivia Young T 1-3:30	How has disability been represented in different realms of our social lives? What do these representations say about our “ideal” or desired future? How are representations of disabilities shaping and are shaped by the concept of futurity? How are race, sexuality, gender, and disability intertwined in these visions of the future and its representations? Drawing upon artistic, mediatic, and medical representations of disability we will examine the ways disability, in its intersections with blackness, queerness and transness, are crucial for thinking about human difference and to disturbing normative arrangements. Students will be encouraged to think critically through an interdisciplinary approach that relies on the contributions of different fields, including Disability Studies, Crip Studies, Black Studies, Medical Anthropology, and Queer and Trans Studies. Cross-list: HART 311 CRITICAL RACE
SWGS	317	Transgender Studies Instructor: Brian Riedel TTh 2:30pm-3:45pm	This course surveys the evolving category of transgender in global context with a specific focus on the United States. Drawing on medicine, history, law, anthropology, cultural studies, women’s studies, and sexuality studies, participants will explore the contested meanings of “transgender” and related terms like “non-binary” and “gender non-conforming.” Instructor Permission Required. Recommended Prerequisite(s): SWGS 101, SWGS 201, SWGS 100, or SWGS 200. ELECTIVE
SWGS	325	Sociology of the Family Instructor: Christina Diaz TTh 10:50am-12:05pm	This course will teach students the important influences and consequences of American family life. We will consider issues such as sex and sexualities, marriage and cohabitation, divorce, family structure, same-sex marriage, domestic violence, and household labor. We will also examine the role of social institutions and social inequality in shaping family norms and constraints on family behaviors. Cross-list: SOCI 334. ELECTIVE

SWGS	327	Topics in Women Writers: Women Writing the Empire Instructor: Amy Huseby MW 8:30am-9:45am	This course focuses on writing by women of color in the nineteenth-century British empire. We will travel around the globe, assuming a comparative stance toward writing in and about the British Empire and engaging with Victorian women writers who were thinking about how women's bodies and lived experience represent national experiences and events. Some writers we will read include Mary Seacole, Torulata Dutt, and Pandita Ramabai. Cross-list: ENGL 381. ELECTIVE
FREN	337	Shakespeare in the Caribbean: Post/Colonial Readings Instructor: Jacqueline Couti MW 5:30pm-6:45pm	This course examines English translations of Caribbean and Latin American writers' retellings of Shakespeare's <i>The Tempest</i> . Students will explore the construction of identity (including race and gender) and otherness since the beginning of the colonial project (1492). We will question the relationship between colonized and colonizer, and tropes such as the Master/Slave relationship. Taught in English. CRITICAL RACE, GLOBAL SOUTH
FREN	340	Gender Around the World Instructor: Valentin Duquet TTh 9:25am-10:40am	This course focuses on the challenges of defining gender, race, and identity in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, or the Global South as this area is also known. The nations of the Global South are newly industrialized or in the process of industrializing and have had to battle the widespread effects of colonialism and globalization. Students will investigate the pervasiveness of stereotypes in literature, film, popular culture and the media in western and non-western contexts. We will examine theories from the Global South to avoid the simplification of Eurocentric analysis. Taught in French. CRITICAL RACE, GLOBAL SOUTH
ANTH	346	Queer Archaeology Instructor: Molly Morgan W 12pm-2:30pm	Through this seminar, students learn about queer theory and its role in constructing a queer and feminist archaeology in the past, present, and future. They practice questioning and deconstructing social norms in archaeological research and scholarship ("queering" archaeology). Primary readings include recent critical approaches to material culture. Toward the end of the term, students link archaeological research and scholarship to contemporary issues faced by minority communities (LGBTQ+, etc.) and situate queer archaeological scholarship within contemporary activism/impact. ELECTIVE
SOCI	351	Reproductive Health and Society Instructor: Miranda Waggoner MWF 9am-9:50am	This course examines the social dimensions of reproductive health, with a focus on the cultural, political, and economic forces that impact people's reproductive lives. It analyzes how reproductive health policies, discourses, and experiences shape and are shaped by inequalities in society. Topics explored in this course include population control, abortion, contraception, pregnancy, birth, reproductive technologies, and reproductive aging, among others. ELECTIVE
ENGL	352	Death Between the Wars: The Golden Age of Detective Fiction Instructor: Helena Michie TTh 10:50am-12:05pm	This course will look at British detective fiction written between the two world wars. We will be exploring the reasons for the ubiquity of the genre and its sub-genres from the country house mystery to the novel of global exploration, looking both at specific literary techniques and at the historical contexts of empire, gender relations, antisemitism, and shifting global power. ELECTIVE

FREN	370	Women in Tales of the Fantastic Instructor: Deborah Harter F 2pm-4:15pm	This course will explore those stories “behind the story” of the 19th century—that strange and often misunderstood genre, the “fantastic tale.” Reading such writers as Gautier, Balzac, and Maupassant, we will discuss this genre’s anxieties about madness and machines, misbehaving objects, and especially about women and their bodies. Taught in French. ELECTIVE
PJHC	371	Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities Instructor: Kerry Ward MW 4pm-5:15pm	This course provides an introduction to the study of poverty, justice, and human capabilities. The course examines diverse approaches towards improving human well-being in the US and internationally. Drawing from fields ranging from philosophy and economics to history and sociology, readings address material deprivations and inequalities, racial and ethnic disparities, gender, sexual orientation, health status, education, human rights, and political freedoms. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for PJHC 371 if student has credit for HUMA 371/SOCI 371. GLOBAL SOUTH
MUSI	374	Accessible Sounds: Exploring Diversity and Inclusion in Classical Music Instructors: Kurt Stallmann, Badie Khaleghian, Jie Chen TTh 1pm-2:15pm	This course addresses the facets of diversity and inclusion in the realm of classical music. Each segment of the curriculum is dedicated to an examination of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), encompassing dimensions such as ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. The methodology is analytical, supported by theoretical underpinnings, and illustrated with pertinent case studies. Key theoretical frameworks such as social constructionism, intersectional feminism, and the capability approach will be addressed. Through a series of case studies, students will examine pieces of music by marginalized composers, and films and scholarly works highlighting DEI issues. In addition, they will analyze policies and institutional approaches that have either hindered or fostered diversity and inclusion within the field. Additionally, the course offers opportunities for students to interact with guest scholars, accomplished musicians, and artists from the local community who work on promoting DEI initiatives. The objective of this course is to empower students with the necessary skills to analyze diversity and inclusion issues through the lens of art and music. ELECTIVE
ENGL MDHM	378 378	Politics of Reproduction: Sex, Abortion, and Motherhood Instructor: Carly Thomsen MW 2pm-3:15pm	Cultural ideas about reproduction shape how we experience and understand gender and sexuality and ideas about gender and sexuality influence how we view reproduction. As such, we cannot challenge dominant ideas about gender and sexuality without critical conversations about reproductive issues. Because requirements for being considered a “good” woman are so closely connected to what it means to be a “good” mother, any analysis of gender requires critical engagement with ideas about reproduction—even for those of us who plan to avoid parenthood or do not have heterosexual sex. This class focuses on the politics of reproduction in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and the social and political relations that shape reproductive issues today. We will assess the ways that different women experience reproduction differently, considering throughout how the construction of gender, race, class, ability, sexuality, and geography inform understandings and experiences of reproduction. Throughout the course, we will take on the paradoxes, horrors, complexities, and joys of reproduction. Cross-list: MDHM 378. ELECTIVE
ENGL	381	Topics in Women Writers: Women Writing the Empire Instructor: Amy Huseby MW 8:30am-9:45am	This course focuses on writing by women of color in the nineteenth-century British empire. We will travel around the globe, assuming a comparative stance toward writing in and about the British Empire and engaging with Victorian women writers who were thinking about how women’s bodies and lived experience represent national experiences and events. Some writers we will read include Mary Seacole, Torulata Dutt, and Pandita Ramabai. Cross-list: SWGS 327. ELECTIVE

SOCI	389	Race, Gender, Class in Film Instructor: Jenifer Bratter TTh 2:30pm-3:45pm	<p>This course explores how race, gender, and class-based differences are presented in the body of American film. We will explore these images as raw materials to understand sociological concepts of identity, bias, and stratification as well as the cultural narratives, or frames, that guide how the public defines these concepts.</p> <p>CRITICAL RACE, GLOBAL SOUTH</p>
PHIL	460	Advanced Topics in Ethics: Ethics of Personal Relationships Instructor: Elizabeth Brake T 1p-3:30p	<p>This course will begin with an overview of philosophical answers to this general question, before examining a range of specific cases. We will discuss marriage and family relationships, as well as less-studied relationships such as friends, neighbors, siblings, enemies, colleagues, parasocial relationships and relationships with non-human animals and robots. We will also explore the ethics of beginning and ending relationships.</p> <p>ELECTIVE</p>
SWGS	477	Queer Activism in the Global South Instructor: Anzi Dong MW 4pm-5:15pm	<p>This course invites students to engage with radical knowledge and praxes rooted in and informed by Global-South queer feminist struggles. We will focus on the lived experiences, cultural-spiritual worlds, and sociopolitical life of marginalized queer communities in the Global South and their collective resistance against the interlocking power systems of colonialism, imperialism, global capital, the nation-state, and heteropatriarchy. This course allows students to explore new approaches to building social justice movements and transnational solidarity for collective liberation.</p> <p>GLOBAL SOUTH</p>
SWGS	496	Engaged Research Practicum Instructor: Carly Thomsen Course credit for research time	<p>An applied research complement to the Seminar consisting of six hours/week participating in a research-based project at a local public service agency that addresses the needs of women or is focused on gender and/or sexuality related work. Planning for the practicum takes place during the previous fall semester in consultation with the SWGS Director. Practicum projects are presented to a public audience. Permission of the instructor and some background in the study of women, gender or sexuality required.</p> <p>CORE</p>
SWGS	497	Engaged Research Seminar Instructor: Carly Thomsen M 4pm-6pm	<p>Taken in conjunction with SWGS 496, the Seminar develops students' research skills and situates the practicum project within a range of perspectives on feminist theory and practice, grassroots organizing, and policy-making around issues of women, gender, and sexuality (for example: domestic violence, gender and the prison industry, reproductive freedom, or the feminization of AIDS).</p> <p>CORE</p>

SWGS GRADUATE COURSES

SWGS	501	<p>Feminist Debates Instructor: Kamala Visweswaran M 4pm-6:50pm</p>	<p>This course identifies and traces three streams of thought by debates about major issues in women's studies. While the content of these streams will vary, the course will always be attentive to the historical and theoretical context of the debates in question and to the intersection of these debates with others. Topics might include: public and private spheres; the relation between the local and the global links between gender and sexuality; the problem of identity; the relation between activist and academic feminism.</p> <p>CORE</p>
SWGS	502	<p>Writing Workshop: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Instructor: Helena Michie W 6:30pm-9:30pm</p>	<p>Structured as a workshop, this course offers SWGS certificate students critically to engage cross-disciplinary feminist scholarship as they integrate the study of women, gender and/or sexuality into their doctoral writing by transforming existing papers into works that are of publishable quality.</p> <p>CORE</p>
EDUC	504	<p>Race, Class, Gender in Education Instructor: TBD M 6pm-9pm</p>	<p>This course examines the complex ways in which race, ethnicity, gender, and class intersect and influence the educational experience of students in American schools. By employing an interdisciplinary approach centered both on individuals' lived experiences and educational system as a whole; EDUC 504 explores and critiques these critical issues and their impact on student learning. Likely topics include the historical foundations of race, class and gender in education, segregation, Title IX, and other contemporary topics. This graduate equivalent of EDUC 304 requires additional assignments.</p> <p>ELECTIVE</p>
PHIL	560	<p>Advanced Topics in Ethics: Ethics of Personal Relationships Instructor: Elizabeth Brake T 1p-3:30p</p>	<p>This course will begin with an overview of philosophical answers to this general question, before examining a range of specific cases. We will discuss marriage and family relationships, as well as less-studied relationships such as friends, neighbors, siblings, enemies, colleagues, parasocial relationships and relationships with non-human animals and robots. We will also explore the ethics of beginning and ending relationships.</p> <p>ELECTIVE</p>
SWGS	585	<p>Postcolonialism and Beyond Instructor: Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan W 2pm-4:50pm</p>	<p>A course that serves both as an introduction to postcolonial theory and as a reevaluation of its political and ethical ends vis-a-vis recent debates around globalization and cosmopolitanism. For additional course information please consult the English department website. Cross-list: ENGL 585.</p> <p>ELECTIVE</p>

SWGS 677 **Theories of Gender/Sex/Violence**
Instructor: Michael Dango
T 4pm-6:50pm

This course surveys queer and feminist theories of gendered and sexual violence drawn from across academic disciplines and activist traditions, from radical feminism and Wages against Housework in the 1970s to #MeToo and #NiUnaMenos in the present. We will compare overlapping but ultimately diverging legal, philosophical, historical, public health, and sociological paradigms for understanding the structural causes of forced and coerced sex and labor, as well as how gender and sexuality intersect with race and class under capitalism to unevenly distribute health and mortality.

ELECTIVE