



RICE HUMANITIES AND ARTS

Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

COURSE SCHEDULE FALL 2026

SWGS UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

The information on this handout is current as of Monday, August 20, 2026.

When in doubt, consider the General Announcements as authoritative.

Updated versions of this list will be posted at cswgs.rice.edu/courses.

SWGS	100	Introduction to Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Instructor: Da In Choi MWF 10:00-10:50am	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. Distribution Group I; Analyzing Diversity. CORE
ENGL	111	The Politics of Book Bans, Challenges, and Censorship Instructor: Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan TTh 10:50am-12:05pm	This course examines the historical and contemporary struggles over what books can be read, taught, and circulated. From banned classics to recent controversies over school curricula and public libraries, the course explores how debates about books reflect broader social and political conflicts. Readings will include theoretical and historical perspectives on censorship, as well as primary texts that have been challenged or suppressed in and beyond the US. Distribution Group I. ELECTIVE

RELI	115	Black Gods of the Caribbean Instructor: Eziaku Nwokocha W 1:00-3:30pm	In Caribbean religions, practitioners may seek to be possessed by the spirit. This course uses a diverse range of texts to examine the process of interacting with the divine. We will explore the vibrant spiritual energy that sustains communal connections during ceremonies and the transnational imaginations that animate Caribbean religious practices. Special attention will be given to Santeria, Candomble, Vodou, Myal, Palo Monte, and Revival Zion in the Americas. Distribution Group I. ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH
FWIS	134	Meiji Japanese Women's Literature: Then and Now Instructor: Mamiko Suzuki MW 4:00-5:15pm	This writing-intensive seminar examines Meiji period (1868-1912) women's writings and what they tell us about women's lives and cultural output at the start of Japan's modern period. We will discuss fiction, speeches, diary entries, and newspaper articles and their historical, cultural, and literary contexts. ELECTIVE
HUMA	142	Can You Take a Joke? The How and Why of Political Humor – A Big Questions Course Instructors: Carly Thomsen and Michael Dango MW 2:00-3:15pm	Why is everyone laughing? Should you be laughing, too? What, after all, makes something funny? This course guides students through both the critical study of humor and the creative production of comedy in a diverse range of possible media forms, from stand-up to TikTok. By not only studying jokes and theories of jokes, but also writing jokes in a community of peers, students will navigate firsthand the complicated ways that humor gets at social and political questions. What does the need to laugh teach us about the human condition? How do jokes both create group belonging and police group boundaries? How do we account for differences in sense of humor? Is there such a thing as politically correct humor—or should there be? When should we laugh, or are there certain topics that we should never joke about? Who gets to decide? ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE
RELI	150	Sacred Birth Instructor: Judith Brunton M 5:00-7:30pm	In the hospital or in the home, child-birth is "everywhere socially marked and shaped" (Jordan 1993). This course is a survey of diverse ways birth is sacred for different religious and spiritual traditions and an exploration of how these religions are lived by birthing people in the contemporary context. Distribution Group I. ELECTIVE
FWIS	156	Care in Crisis Instructor: Da In Choi MW 4:00-5:15pm	This course examines care and inequality in a world interconnected by histories and legacies of slavery, colonialism, and imperialism. In this class, we will read, discuss, and engage with ongoing movements to counter the systemic devaluation of care in the US and elsewhere in the world. ELECTIVE
LING SWGS	205 205	Language and Society Instructor: Bryce McCleary MWF 10:00-10:50am	This course treats language as a social phenomenon to show how language, personal identity and institutions of social control inter-relate. The course focuses on linguistic interaction in daily life and how gender, ethnic, class, activity, and geographic variation affect language use. Distribution Group II. ELECTIVE

ASIA	207	Gender and Power in Modern South Asia Instructor: Sourav Chatterjee TTh 4:00-5:15pm	This course explores gender, culture, and power in modern South Asia (c. 1900-2025). It will situate gender and power within broader discussions of British imperialism, conflict zones, modernity, desire, revolution, and representation. Distribution Group I. ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH
EDUC	304	Race, Class, Gender in Education Instructor: Shelah Crear W 6:00-8:30pm	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. Distribution Group 2; Analyzing Diversity. ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE
HART AAAS	306 306	Radical Black Thought in the Studio Instructor: Olivia Young Th 4:00-6:30pm	This course asks "who and what are black contemporary artists citing and why does it matter?" This class will tackle key readings in the field of black studies through investigating the theoretical attentions of contemporary artists. Why are the readings of Zora Neale Hurston, Frantz Fanon, Hortense Spillers, W.E.B. Du Bois, Toni Morrison, Saidiya Hartman, Claudia Rankine, and Fred Moten, to name a few, necessary for the critical analysis of black visual and performance art? This art history course will expose students to the interdisciplinary field of black studies, feminist studies, visual culture, queer theory, disabilities studies, and performance studies. The course ends with the creative development of an analytical essay on an art object of the student's choice. This assignment is methodically organized over the semester to encourage each student to develop an argument that arises from their own close reading, application of theory, and lived experiences. It is priority to make this course on black aesthetics joyous, safe, and accessible to students of all genders, sexualities, and disabilities. ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE
MDHM AAAS	315 317	Race, Medicine, and Mass Incarceration in the United States Instructor: Chin Jou MW 11:00am-12:15pm	There are some two million people locked up in local jails, state prisons, and federal prisons across the United States. Toward the beginning of this multi-disciplinary course, we will examine the historical development of this mass incarceration, as well as racial inequities in America's criminal justice system. We will then explore some of the medical issues in historical and contemporary U.S. carceral settings, including: medical experimentation on prisoner populations, mental health and suicide, substance abuse, HIV and sexual health, pregnancy and labor conditions, foodborne illnesses, chronic disease, temperature-related medical emergencies, and aging in prisons. Please be advised that some readings for this seminar will refer to instances of violence, sexual assault, and medical trauma. ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE

ANTH	334	Black Feminist Science and Technology Studies Instructor: Victoria Massie W 1-3:30pm	This course engages Black feminist theory as a foundation for science and technology studies (STS). STS is a field that focuses on how power is infused in how we create scientific knowledge, how we disseminate “objective” information, and how it materializes in the technology we build into our everyday lives. However, how might we better understand “science” through an intersectional framework that attends to race, gender, sexuality, and disability simultaneously? Drawing on critical methods of speculation, the course will address the following themes: the role of racism in social reproduction through the body from colonialism and slavery to contemporary genomics; humanism; the racialization of physical matter and space; and concluding with Afrofuturism. In addition to mobilizing the theories and concepts developed to bear witness to the particularity of Black womxn’s lived experience, this class has us consider what Black feminism can teach us about how to reckon with building a more with just and equitable world with science and technology against various oppressive forces. Distribution Group II ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE
ENGL SWGS	343	Jane Austen’s Worlds Instructor: Helena Michie TTh 4:00-5:15pm	An exploration of Jane Austen as Regency writer and contemporary icon. The course will focus both on Austen’s writing her novels, her juvenilia and her letters and on visual and textual adaptations of her work. ELECTIVE
SOCI	343	Race, Society and Population Change Instructor: Kevin Thomas TTh 4:00-5:15pm	The U.S. population is more diverse than ever before - how did that happen? This course looks at how race and ethnicity patterns demographic processes. This course explores demographic techniques and collection of racial data. Topics include: Roots of racial diversity, collecting racial data, immigration and population growth, and population policies. ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE
HART	363	Sensorial Queerness: Queering the Sensorial Instructor: Olivia Young T 2:30-5:00pm	This course introduces students to key concepts in the interrelated fields of queer studies, visual culture and art history. We will consider the slippages and contours of non-visual sensory registers (senses other than sight) and queer aesthetic practices and theories in contemporary art. What does it mean to queer the visual realm? What does it mean to center an expanded sensorial queerness? In this class, we will look at how artists engage the sensory modalities of sound, touch, proprioception, and interoception as both method and material within their work. We will consider the use of spit, bodily fluids, blood, sweat, vibrations, visceral inclinations, indigestion, balance, and other sensory things to ask: How do senses evoke dissident feelings? As Kyle Wazanna Tompkins writes in the 2015 winter issue of A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies, “To aim for the visceral, we have found, is to come at feeling, at sex, at sensation, at theory itself, from a queer place.” It is my priority to make this course on contemporary art joyous, safe, and accessible to students of all genders, sexualities, and disabilities. ELECTIVE
ENGL SWGS	370	African American Literature Instructor: Phillip Williams T 6:00-8:30pm	A course that traces, through various genres and themes, African American literary history from the late eighteenth century to the present. Attention is given to theories and critiques of African American literature and culture. Distribution Group I; Analyzing Diversity. ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE

SPAN	372	Reproductive and Maternal Health in Latin America Instructor: Claire Branigan TTh 9:25-10:40am	This course provides a humanities-based approach to examining maternal and reproductive health and medicine in Latin America. Special attention will be paid to the effects of colonization and the medicalization of pregnancy and birth, the intersection of authoritarian regimes, pregnancy, and birth, as well as current debates, social movements, and policy on reproductive healthcare in Latin America. This interdisciplinary course will draw on a variety of sources, including film, scholarly texts, and guest speakers. Taught in Spanish. ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH
POLI	379	Gender and War Instructor: Taylor Dammann Rice Global Paris Center students only	This course introduces students to the core concepts, theories, and debates that shape global politics. We examine why states cooperate or go to war, how international institutions function, and how global issues such as trade, human rights, climate change, and security affect relations among nations. Students will learn to analyze world events through major theoretical perspectives and to apply these frameworks to contemporary cases. By the end of the course, students will have a foundational understanding of how power, interests, and ideas interact to shape the international system. Distribution Group II. ELECTIVE
SOCI	389	Race, Gender, Class in Film Instructor: Jenifer Bratter TTh 2:30-3:45pm	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. Distribution Group II. ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE
ANTH	399	Anthropology of Reproduction Instructor: Eugenia Georges Th 2:30-5:00pm	This course examines a variety of issues related to reproduction. Using a cross-cultural and critical approach, we will analyze how social negotiations over biological processes bring reproduction to the center of social theory. We will explore a variety of topics, such as pregnancy, prenatal testing and childbirth, reproductive rights, kinship and belonging, the use of new reproductive technologies, and the politics of the nation-state as they affect women's and men's reproductive lives. Ethnographic readings and examples from around the world will illustrate our discussions and enable students to gain an understanding of the complex intersection of local and global politics regarding reproductive experiences and choices. ELECTIVE
FREN AAAS	414 414	Sex and Race in the French Atlantic Instructor: Jacqueline Couti Th 4:00-6:30pm	This course examines the carnal violence and brutality associated with sex, gender, and race in folktales and fairy tales in French from the Americas. In so doing, this course will also put European and African folklore in conversation with the New World's oral traditions. Taught in French. ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH

SPAN 456 **Latin American Women's Culture**
SWGS 466 Instructor: Claire Branigan
TTh 1:00-2:15pm

Studies the cultural production (literary, artistic, cinematic) of intellectual women in Latin America. Examines the struggles for interpretive power in works by women from the colonial period to the present.

Distribution Group I.

ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE

SWGS 494 **Pre-Seminar in Engaged Research**
Instructor: Brian Riedel
MWF 2:00-2:50pm

This course prepares students for the Spring semester of the Feminist Engaged Research Capstone sequence (SWGS 496 and SWGS 497) by establishing a baseline of skills in research design and filing paperwork with the Institutional Review Board at Rice and elsewhere as needed.
CORE

SWGS GRADUATE COURSES

SWGS	502	Writing Workshop: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Instructor: Cymene Howe W 4:00-6:30pm	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. CORE
EDUC	504	Race, Class, Gender in Education Instructor: Shelah Crear W 6:00-8:30pm	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. ELECTIVE
ANTH	534	Black Feminist Science and Technology Studies Instructor: Victoria Massie W 1-3:30pm	This course engages Black feminist theory as a foundation for science and technology studies (STS). STS is a field that focuses on how power is infused in how we create scientific knowledge, how we disseminate "objective" information, and how it materializes in the technology we build into our everyday lives. However, how might we better understand "science" through an intersectional framework that attends to race, gender, sexuality, and disability simultaneously? Drawing on critical methods of speculation, the course will address the following themes: the role of racism in social reproduction through the body from colonialism and slavery to contemporary genomics; humanism; the racialization of physical matter and space; and concluding with Afrofuturism. In addition to mobilizing the theories and concepts developed to bear witness to the particularity of Black womxn's lived experience, this class has us consider what Black feminism can teach us about how to reckon with building a more with just and equitable world with science and technology against various oppressive forces. ELECTIVE
SOCI	543	Race, Society and Population Change Instructor: Kevin Thomas TTh 4:00-5:15pm	The U.S. population is more diverse than ever before - how did that happen? This course looks at how race and ethnicity patterns demographic processes. This course explores demographic techniques and collection of racial data. Topics include: Roots of racial diversity, collecting racial data, immigration and population growth, and population policies. ELECTIVE