RICE HUMANITIES AND ARTS
Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

COURSE SCHEDULE SPRING 2027

SWGS UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

The information on this handout is current as of Thursday, October 29, 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: Katherine Alexander
MW 2:00-3:15pm

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

AAAS 115
RELI 115 **Black Gods of the Caribbean**
Instructor: Eziaku Nwokocha
W 4:00-6:30pm

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

SWGS 200 **Theorizing Sexuality and Gender**
Instructor: Brian Riedel
MWF 10:00-10:50am

This class builds on SWGS 100 to take a closer look at how sexualities and genders come to be known. Students will become familiar with queer, trans, and feminist theory and will see that key issues and debates appear in both scholarship and political activism globally and in the United States. The course addresses intersectional frameworks for understanding race, class, and other social relations; normative sexualities and genders; and non-normative and marginalized sexualities and genders (e.g. queer, two-spirit, trans, nonbinary, asexual and more). Theorizing is an activity but also a writing genre. We explore classic and current works in that genre. Finally, we examine the interaction between theory and research practice, via the concept of engaged research, showing that theoretical debates inform more accurate and just research practices. SWGS 100 is recommended but not required. Recommended Prerequisite(s): SWGS 100
Distribution Group I; Analyzing Diversity.
CORE

ENST 204 **Queer Ecologies**
Instructor: Rebecca Potts
TTh 9:25-10:40am

This course will introduce students to queer ecology, where the study of gender and sexuality intersects with environmental studies. Students will learn to define and deconstruct the words that naturalize critical cultural, political, and environmental categories such as human, biological, queer, trans, animal, natural, toxic, pure and deviant. Through analysis of case studies from ecology, environmental history, infrastructure, and popular culture, we will explore the co-importance of queer ecology to our understanding of biology, race, colonialism, economics, futurity, (dis)ability, and other topics.
Distribution Group I.
ELECTIVE

FWIS 205 **Queerness Across Cultures**
Instructor: Agnibha Banerjee
MW 4:00-5:15pm

This course examines various configurations of (what we today call) “queerness” across cultures, both ancient and contemporary. Engaging with a wide variety of texts across genres and mediums—myths, folktale, short stories, poetry, music, cinema, TV shows—we will study how conceptions of gender and sexuality vary widely between different historical and sociocultural contexts.
ELECTIVE

HART 212 **Women Artists in Twentieth Century Latin America**
Instructor: Ana Franco
TTh 10:50am-12:05pm

This course examines the contribution of women artists to the history of art in Latin America in the twentieth century. Through a series of case studies, the course will introduce the artistic production of women artists from diverse national backgrounds (from Mexico to Argentina, including some Caribbean artists) who worked in a variety of media, techniques, and styles. In addition to analyzing artists, artworks and contexts in detail, the course will examine and question the role gender plays in configuring art and its discourses.
Distribution Group I.
ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH

FWIS	218	**Bad Moms: The Rhetoric and Reality of American Motherhood** Instructor: Elizabeth Cummins-Munoz TTh 1:00-2:15pm	This course examines the experiences of mothering parents who do not fit prevailing ideals of "good" motherhood – mothers who are absent, single, young, sick. Together, we will experiment with engaged reading and writing practices as we explore cultural texts and essays from the fields of sociology, history, philosophy, and others. **ELECTIVE**
FWIS	224	**The Ethics of Consent: Sex, Medicine, and Politics** Instructor: Nahum Shemi MWF 2:00-2:50pm	A philosophical exploration of the ethics of consent. What is consent, and why does it matter? When is consent valid? Must consent always be 'informed'? After examining these foundational questions, the course turns to consent in specific domains: sexual relations, medical treatment, and government. No philosophy background required. **ELECTIVE**
FWIS	234	**Meiji Japanese Women's Literature: Then and Now** Instructor: Mamiko Suzuki MW 2:00-3:15pm 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**
RELI	235	**Tales from the Ancestors: Religion and Literature in the Caribbean and Latin America** Instructor: Eziaku Nwokocha T 4:00-6:30pm	This course introduces we will explore the history and religious creative genre of Afrofuturism, Africanfuturism and Africanjujuism. We begin by considering the literary and scholastic works on Afrofuturism by focusing on the works of three writers and scholars: N.K. Jemisin, Nnedi Okorafor and Toni Morrison. In between, we will discuss issues of religion, language, dialect, political art, music, genre, and gender as we read poems, novels, speeches and short stories. Additionally, we will consider questions like what role has writing by Black religion played in the sci-fi and fantasy? How has this genre of writing been shaped by different ways of thinking about race and religion? How has race and religion, in turn, been shaped or constructed by that writing? And how do representations of gender and sexuality participate in a literary construction of race and religion? **Distribution Group I.** **ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH**
ARTS	237	**Body, Image, and Sound** Instructor: Devin Mays TTh 1:00-3:50pm	This course is an inquiry of contemporary art practices that complicate, simplify and question our understanding of the human experience. Students will study the work of artists, musicians, fashion designers, social scientists and writers. We will research W.E.B DuBois's Data Portraits for the 1900's Exposition Universelle in Paris, Rei Kawakubo's fashion philosophy, Ball and Drag culture and more. To help contextualize these practices, students will develop a visual language of their own by materializing body, image, and sound. **ELECTIVE**

FWIS	239	**Iranian Cinema: Gender, Politics, and Social Change** Instructor: Neda Zafaranian TTh 9:25-10:40am	This course uses post-1979-revolution Iranian cinema to develop analytical, argumentative, and research writing skills. Iranian cinema is renowned worldwide for being artistic and deeply emotional, often thriving despite strict government regulations. The course is structured around seven film-based writing assignments, with class time divided between screening key scenes and discussion. **ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH**
ENGL MDIA	243 243	**Not Just Stuff: Objects and the Making of Gender** Instructor: Carly Thomsen W 3:00-5:30pm	This course asks the following questions: What can material objects and cultural representations of these material objects teach us about gender? What can feminist thought teach us about objects, especially, perhaps, those that are not overtly gendered? In answering these questions, we will consider a wide range of sites responsible for the production of cultural ideas about gender and objects, including: thrifting; art deco movements; trad wives; interior design, and garage sales and estate sales. To think through these questions and cultural sites, students will have the opportunity to acquire and transform objects into original pieces of art through working with local artists and artisans, including woodworkers, textile artists, and painters. Collectively, we will curate our objects into a multi-media public-facing exhibition. **Distribution Group I.** **ELECTIVE**
ENGL CLAS	254 254	**The History of Love** Instructor: Sarah Ellenzweig and Scott McGill TTh 2:30-3:45pm	What is love? This team-taught course in Classical Studies and English explores answers to this question in the history of love poetry, with a focus on ancient Greece and Rome and early modern English literature. It examines how love shapes the concerns and forms of poetry, and how poetry shapes the experience of love. The course looks at how different authors in different periods treat a wide range of subjects related to love, including eroticism, seduction, sex and sexuality, gender, marriage, infidelity, and age and aging. It identifies modes of thought and expression particular to specific periods and poetic genres, while also investigating shared ideas, forms, and figurative language across literary history. Authors include Sappho, Catullus, Horace, Ovid, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, and Behn, among others. The course will also look at treatments of love in contemporary poetry that draw on and vary material from the relevant traditions: of central interest here will be works by women, LGBTQ+ authors, and Black poets. All readings are in English. **Distribution Group I.** **ELECTIVE**
PHIL	267	**Philosophy of Sex and Love** Instructor: Teresa Bruno-Niño TTh 2:30-3:25pm	This course will examine philosophical views of the nature and ethics of sex and love. The first half will focus on the historical development of the concept of love, from Plato to contemporary feminism. The second half will consider ethical debates over pornography, sex work, marriage, sexual consent, and more. **Distribution Group 1.** **ELECTIVE**

HART AAAS	311 311	**Representations of Disability** Instructor: Olivia Young W 1:00-3:30pm	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. **Distribution Group I.** **ELECTIVE; CRITICAL RACE**
PSYC SWGS	331 331	**Psychology of Gender** Instructor: Sandra Parsons MWF 11:00-11:50am	Overview of research and theory on gender in psychology. **Distribution Group II; Analyzing Diversity.** **ELECTIVE**
SOCI SWGS	334 325	**Sociology of the Family** Instructor: Christina Diaz MWF 11:00-11:50am	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. **Distribution Group II; Analyzing Diversity.** **ELECTIVE**
ENGL	342	**Survey of Victorian Fiction** Instructor: Helena Michie TTh 10:50am-12:05pm	A survey of the many genres of the nineteenth-century novel, this course will try to come to terms with some of the insistent questions posed by and through the fiction of the period. **Distribution Group I.** **ELECTIVE**
ENGL ANTH	349 349	**Zora Neale Hurston: Witness and Writer of the Black Diaspora** Instructor: Margarita Castromán Soto and Amarilys Estrella TTh 9:25-10:40am	This course introduces students to Zora Neale Hurston's groundbreaking work as storyteller of the Black diaspora. Inspired by Hurston's innovative interdisciplinary approach to cultural knowledge production, students will use research methods like close reading, archiving, and ethnography to interrogate the stakes of witnessing, storytelling, and evidence. **ELECTIVE**

SOCI	351	**Reproductive Health and Society** Instructor: Miranda Waggoner TTh 1:00-2:15pm	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. **Distribution Group II.** **ELECTIVE**
HART	364	**Gender and Sexuality in Film** Instructor: Lida Oukaderova M 1:00-3:30pm	This course examines how cinema has reflected, shaped and critiqued cultural understandings of gender and sexuality over the last 100 years. By pairing film analysis with critical readings in gender and sexuality studies, we will explore the development of sexual and gender conventions--as well as their transgressions--on screen across diverse historical periods and cultures. **Distribution Group I.** **ELECTIVE**
ENGL	381	**Women Talking Back to Empire** Instructor: Amy Huseby TTh 4:00-5:15pm	This course examines how nineteenth-century women around the world used biographies, essays, letters, and poetry to negotiate, contest, and sometimes sustain the British Empire. We will read writers from the Caribbean, India, Indigenous North America, Britain, and beyond, asking who gets to tell the stories of colonized and enslaved peoples, what such writing made possible, and how women's lives and bodies became sites of imperial power and resistance. **ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH**
HIST	428	**Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: Global and Local** Instructor: Kerry Ward TTh 1:00-2:15pm	Seminar examines contemporary slavery and human trafficking in global historical context. It examines forms of gendered unfree labor that persisted after the legal abolition of slave trades and slavery. It explores the emergence of human rights discourse, activism, and law from the 19th century onwards. Houston is the contemporary case study. Open to juniors and seniors. Open to others only with permission of instructor. (Please note that class rank is determined by year of matriculation, not credits.) **ELECTIVE; GLOBAL SOUTH**
SWGS	496	**Engaged Research Practicum** Instructor: Carly Thomsen Course credit for research time	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. **CORE**

SWGS 497 **Engaged Research Seminar**
Instructor: Carly Thomsen
W 6:00-8:00pm

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 policymaking around issues of women, gender, and sexuality (for example: domestic violence, gender and the prison industry, reproductive freedom, or the feminization of AIDS.)
CORE

SWGS GRADUATE COURSES

SWGS	501	**Feminist Debates** Instructor: Michael Dango T 4:00-6:30pm	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. **CORE**