Courses

WGSS 001 Gender and Society 4 Credits
The course introduces students to key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and interdisciplinary research in the field of Women’s and Gender Studies. Examines how gender interacts with race, age, class, sexuality, etc., to shape human consciousness and determine the social organization of human society. The course may include topics such as: gender and work; sexuality and reproduction; women’s health; media constructions of gender and race; gender, law, and public policy.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 015 (ASIA 015, MLL 015) Sex, War, Women, Art 4 Credits
Through the study of selected visual and literary works and their historical and social contexts, students will gain knowledge of cultures in Japan. This course examines various cultures from the perspectives of gender and sexuality as constitutive factors of Japanese society. Materials include a film depicting a romantic life of samurai, art works by contemporary artists, and writings on sex workers impacted by the Japanese empire. No prior knowledge of Japanese language is required. An introductory course taught in English.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 042 (SOAN 042) Sexual Minorities 4 Credits
How minority sexual identities have been the subject of speculation, misunderstanding, and sometimes violent attempts at correction or elimination. Sexual orientation, gender role, including transvestism and "drag"; transsexualism, sexism, heterosexism, and homophobia. Emphasis on critical thinking, guest speakers, and discussions.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 073 (ASIA 073, MLL 073) Film, Fiction, and Gender in Modern China 4 Credits
Study of the struggle for an individual "modern" identity out of traditionally defined roles for men and women as depicted by Chinese writers and filmmakers. Class, texts, and films in English. Students interested in setting up a corollary Chinese language component for credit as CHIN 371 or CHIN 251, may discuss this possibility with the professor.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 091 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 104 (ENGL 104) Special Topics in Gender Studies 4 Credits
This course will involve extended study in a sub-area of English language culture, and literature with a focus on gender, sexuality, and/or race/ethnicity. Prereq: 6 hours of freshman English.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 110 (SOC 110) Women’s Work in Global Perspectives 4 Credits
This course brings to the forefront the intersections of race, class, gender, and nation with women’s employment around the world. We will examine women’s paid and unpaid work in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, in effort to understand the striking persistence of gender inequality over time and across the world. Topics of study include: work and family relations, women’s domestic labor, factory work, and agribusiness. In addition we will explore the ways in which women have organized for changes in work and in their communities in order to conceive of possibilities for the future of women’s work.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 117 (HIST 117, STS 117) Pioneering Women: Women in Science, Medicine and Engineering 4 Credits
This course analyses the careers of professional women in science, medicine and engineering, principally in the United States. It examines historical barriers to training and entry into these professions; cultural stereotypes that shape women’s options; women’s participation in innovation in their fields; their concern for work/life balance; and their contribution to clients and patients, both male and female. It focuses on three locations of professional work: the laboratory, the clinic, and the job site.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 121 (ART 121) Women in Art 4 Credits
A history of women artists from Renaissance to present day, with emphasis on artists of the 20th and 21st century from a global perspective. We explore attitudes toward women artists and their work as well as the changing role of women in art world. There may be required visits to museums and/or artists’ studios.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 123 (ANTH 123) Anthropology of Gender 4 Credits
Comparative study of the meanings and social roles associated with gender. Psychological, symbolic, and cultural approaches.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 124 (HIST 124) Women In America 4 Credits
Roles of women in American society from colonial to present times: attitudes toward women, female sexuality, women’s work, and feminism.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 125 (HIST 125, HMS 125) Does Sex have a History? The History of Sexuality in the United States 4 Credits
Explores the history of sexuality in the United States from the colonial era to the present. While sexuality can appear timeless and stable, sexual ideologies, categories, and behaviors have consistently evolved and have transformed society in the process. The class pays special attention to relationships between sexuality, race, class, and the state, as well as how law, medicine, and the media have shaped sexual identities and experiences. In so doing, the class develops sophisticated readers of historical and contemporary cultures.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 126 (AAS 126, HIST 126) How Black Women Made Modern America 4 Credits
This course introduces students to the significant themes and events that have shaped the African American women’s historical experience from slavery to the present. We examine the social, political, and economic meaning of freedom for women of African descent.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 127 (SOC 127) Human Sexuality 4 Credits
Students in this course view human sexuality through a sociological lens. This includes theory, research methods, and topics such as LGBTQ identities, family formation, sex work, teenage sexuality, sadomasochism, and sexual technologies. We pay particular attention to ways in which sexual behavior is regulated, as well as social constructions of “the normal.” Course material focuses on the United States, although students are encouraged to bring cross-national perspectives into papers and class discussions.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 128 (SOC 128) Race, Gender and Work 4 Credits
Race, Gender and Work is a class designed to help students understand racial and gender inequalities as they relate specifically to work and employment. We explore the origins and histories of inequalities, the ways in which inequalities persist and/or change today, and what steps might be taken toward creating a more equal society.
Attribute/Distribution: SS
WGSS 129 (DES 129, THTR 129) History of Fashion and Style 4 Credits
Dress and culture in the Western Hemisphere from prehistory to today. The evolution of silhouette, garment forms and technology. The relationship of fashion to politics, art and behavior. Cultural and environmental influences on human adornment.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 138 (JST 138, REL 138) Sex, Gender, Jews 4 Credits
How do Jews of all genders tell their stories? What are the varied Jewish approaches to sexuality? How have feminist movements affected Jewish rituals? In this course, we will consider how religion, gender, sexuality, race, and class intersect in the lives of Jews, with a particular focus on North America. Topics will include: Jewish women’s memoirs; the voices of LGBTQ Jews; recent innovations in Jewish ritual and leadership; Jewish masculinities; and the gendering of Jewish children’s literature, among others.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 145 (AAS 145) African American Women Writers 4 Credits
Literature by African American women writers with a focus on the experiences and images of black women in the U.S. Explores the written portraits and voices of 20th century black female novelists and poets, including Hurston, Petry, Morrison, Angelou, and Walker.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 146 (PHIL 146) Philosophy of Sex and Gender 4 Credits
An examination of concepts, values, and assumptions relevant to gender and sex(uality) in our diverse society, investigating how they affect our lives in both concrete and symbolic ways. Intersections among gender, sex(uality), race, class, religion, ethnicity, etc., will be explored. Special attention will be paid to how gendered assumptions color our understandings of experiences of embodiment and emotion, reasoning and decision-making, knowledge production, and public and private relationships and activities.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 173 (ASIA 173, REL 173) Sex, Celibacy and Sainthood: Gender and Religion in East Asia 4 Credits
This course explores themes of sexuality, celibacy, gender, and sainthood in East Asian religions. We will pay special attention to the experiences of religious women from many walks of life and time periods, from traditions including Buddhism, Daoism, and shamanism. Through film, poetry, autobiography, philosophical writing, visual art, and descriptions of visionary experience, students will encounter Buddhist and Daoist nuns, lay women, mothers, shamanic healers, oracles, activists, and royalty, from Tibet, Korea, Japan, China, and the U.S.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 179 (POLS 179) Politics of Women 4 Credits
Selected social and political issues relating to the role of women in American society. Focuses on such questions as economics equality, poverty, and work roles, the older woman, gender gap, political leadership, reproduction technology, and sexual violence.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 182 (REL 182) Sex and Gender in the Bible 4 Credits
The Bible is often invoked—and often simplistically—as an authoritative source in contemporary discussions about the role of women and what kinds of human sexual expression is acceptable. This course will examine how sex and gender are constructed in different biblical periods and biblical books. We will see that things are not nearly as simple as they are often made out to be.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 184 (REL 184) Religion, Gender, and Power 4 Credits
Gender differences as one of the basic legitimations for the unequal distribution of power in Western society. Feminist critiques of the basic social structures, cultural forms, and hierarchies of power within religious communities, and the ways in which religious groups have responded.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 191 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 226 (PHIL 226) Feminism and Philosophy 4 Credits
Analysis of the nature, sources and consequences of the oppression and exploitation of women, and justification of strategies for liberation. Topics include women's nature and human nature, sexism, feminism, sexuality, reproduction, mothering. Must have completed one HU course in Philosophy or one course in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 232 (ENTP 232) Gender Issues in Entrepreneurship 4 Credits
Explore role of women entrepreneurs in society & economic development; impacts of women’s entrepreneurship in different economic and cultural contexts; research on why women still represent a minority or entrepreneurs; gender differences in patterns of entrepreneurship; related policy challenges. Also addresses pragmatic and personal life choices facing women entrepreneurs, including identifying key characteristics of entrepreneurial opportunities and mapping those against values, skills, ethics and definitions of success; and planning for professional and personal development.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 271 Independent Reading and Research 1-4 Credits
Independent study of selected topics designated and executed in close collaboration with a member of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies faculty. May be repeated for elective credit. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

WGSS 272 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 275 (LAS 275, SPAN 275) Introduction to Hispanic Women Writers 4 Credits
The objective of this class is to introduce students to Hispanic contemporary female authors from Latin America, Spain, and the United States through the analysis of all literary genres (novel, short story, poetry, essay, and drama). This class provides students with a solid introduction to Hispanic women's writing from the last years of the Nineteenth Century to the present, as well as to feminist literary theory.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 291 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 300 Apprentice Teaching 1-4 Credits
Supervised participation in various aspects of the teaching of a course. Transcript will identify department in which apprentice teaching was performed. Consent of department chairperson and permission of the Dean. The transcript will reflect the subject area in which the teaching was done.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
LGSS 303 (ENGL 303, GERM 303, MLL 303) Grimm's Fairy Tales: Folklore, Feminism, Film 4 Credits
This intercultural history of the Grimms' fairy tales investigates how folktales and gender stereotypes developed and became models for children and adults. The course covers the literary fairy tale in Germany, Europe and America. “Little Red Riding Hood”, “Cinderella”, or “Sleeping Beauty” exist not only in the Grimms' collection but in many forms of world literature/film. Modern authors have rewritten fairy tales in feminist ways, promoting social change. Taught in English. German language students may receive a German component.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

LGSS 304 (ENGL 304) Special Topics in Gender Studies II 3,4 Credits
This course will involve extended study in a sub-area of English language, culture, and literature with a focus on gender, sexuality, and/or race/ethnicity.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

LGSS 310 (AAS 310, SOC 310) Gender, Race and Sexuality: The Social Construction of Differences 4 Credits
Students will engage with current debates about the meaning and use of racial and sexual classification systems in society. We will examine the historical and sociological contexts in which specific theories of racial and sexual differences emerged in the U.S. We will also explore the ways in which changes in the images have implications on the role of racial, gender, and sexual identity plays in our understanding of the relationship between difference and inequality.
Prerequisites: SOC 103 or SSP 103
Attribute/Distribution: SS

LGSS 311 (ENGL 311) Gender and Literature 3-4 Credits
Exploration of constructions of gender and sexuality in literature from different historical periods, traditions, and nationalities. How do female and male writers envision what it means to be a "woman" or to be a "man" at various moments in history and from various places around the world? How have gendered (and sexed) identities been shaped in various constraining and empowering ways in the literary imagination? What specifically gendered issues (such as love and violence) have been represented in literature? Content changes each semester.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

LGSS 318 (PSYC 318) Seminar in Gender and Psychology 4 Credits
Gender as shaped by psychological and social psychological processes. Socialization, communication and power, gender stereotypes, methodological issues in sex differences research. Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: PSYC 210
Can be taken Concurrently: PSYC 210
Attribute/Distribution: SS

LGSS 325 (HIST 325, SOC 325) History of Sexuality and the Family in the U.S. 3-4 Credits
Changing conceptions of sexuality and the role of women, men, and children in the family and society from the colonial to the post-World War II era. Emphasis on the significance of socioeconomic class and cultural background. Topics include family structure, birth control, legal constraints, marriage, divorce, and prostitution.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

LGSS 326 (LAS 326, SPAN 326) Tradition and Resistance: Women Writers of Latin America 4 Credits
Study of poetry and narrative works by Latin American women writers. Authors include Rosario Ferré, Rosario Castellanos, Elena Poniatowska, Cristina Peri Rossi, among others.
Prerequisites: SPAN 152
Attribute/Distribution: HU

LGSS 327 (FREN 327) Women Writing in French 4 Credits
Reading and discussion of works written by women in French. The emphasis is on 19th and 20th Century writers, such as G. Sand, Colette S. de Beauvoir, M. Duras, André Chérid. 
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 303 Internship in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 1-4 Credits
Supervised work in women's organizations or settings, combined with an analysis, in the form of a major paper, of the experience using the critical perspectives gained in WGSS courses. Placements arranged to suit individual interests and career goals; can include social service agencies, women's advocacy groups, political organizations, etc. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Prerequisites: WGSS 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 331 (GS 331, SOC 331) Gendered Experience of Globalization 4 Credits
Women and men experience globalization differently and globalization affects women in different cultural and national contexts. Gender stratification has been intensified by the transnational flow of goods and people. provides students with a survey of new development in feminist theories on globalization and on gender stratification and development, and links these theoretical frameworks to empirical research about gender issues that have become more prominent with globalization.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 334 (HMS 334, PSYC 334) The Psychology of Body Image and Eating Disorders 4 Credits
The course addresses the psychosocial aspects of the development of healthy and unhealthy body image and eating disorders. The roles of personality traits/individual factors, family and interpersonal functioning, and cultural factors will be examined, as will the impact of representations of body image in mass media. Public health and psychological interventions for prevention and treatment will be explored. Personal accounts/memoirs, clinical case presentations, and documentary and dramatic films will be incorporated in the presentation of topics.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 341 (HMS 341, SOC 341) Gender and Health 4 Credits
Relationships of sex differences and gender norms to disease and longevity in the U.S. and around the world. Influence of medical systems on men's and women's lives and the impact of gender-based consumer health movements on health and medical care. Focus on specific topics, e.g. medicalization and commercialization of women's bodies, the politics of reproductive choices, masculinity and health, and gender and mental health.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 342 (GS 342, POLS 342) Gender and Third World Development 3-4 Credits
Focus on gender implications of contemporary strategies for Third World economic growth, neo-liberalism. How do economic theories affect 'real people?' How do economic theories affect men vs. women? What is the role of people who want to 'help?' Some background in economic theories and/or Third World politics desired, but not required.
Prerequisites: POLS 001 or WGSS 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 346 (LAS 346, SPAN 346) Contemporary Hispanic Women Writers: The Novelists 4 Credits
This course explores the works of Hispanic women writers who have been oppositional to hegemonic cultural politics during the Twentieth Century in Latin America and Spain. Within their particular contexts, we examine issues these writers define as important in their work, their literary and political impact, use of literature to empower minority positions, and their narratives' effects on the changing literary canon. Selected topics include: historical interpretations, exile, forms of violence and repression, expressions of desire, and sexuality.
Attribute/Distribution: HU
WGSS 349 (POLS 349) American Social Policy: Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality 4 Credits
This course examines criminal justice, housing, health, education, and welfare policies across US states through the lenses of class, race, gender, and sexuality. Students will learn how social regulations structure opportunities and assess the implications of those opportunity structures.

WGSS 350 Seminar in Feminist Theory 4 Credits
An upper-level seminar serving as a capstone experience that challenges students to systematize insights gained from introductory and elective courses through the more deeply analytical lens of feminist theory. Consent of program director.
Prerequisites: WGSS 001
Attribute/Distribution: ND

WGSS 351 (SOC 351) Gender and Social Change 4 Credits
Changes in gender roles from social psychological and structural perspectives. Comparative analyses of men and women (including people of color) in the social structure; their attitudes and orientations toward work, family, education, and politics.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 364 (SOC 364) Sociology of the Family 4 Credits
Sociological analysis of families in the United States, including investigations of historical and contemporary patterns. Issues addressed include parenting, combining work and family, divorce and remarriage, family policies.

WGSS 365 (SOC 365) Inequalities at Work 4 Credits
Primary focus is on race, gender, and class as axes of disadvantage and privilege in work and employment. We will explore both theories and empirical studies of inequality as well as their social, political, and practical ramifications for the workplace. The course will be conducted seminar-style and the class will rely heavily on student participation.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 371 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 373 Internship On-Campus 1-3 Credits
Supervised work in on-campus student services office such as the Center for Gender Equity, the Pride Center, Office of Gender Violence, etc., allows WGSS students to bring critical perspectives on women and gender into the campus community. This course may be repeated for credit up to a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisites: WGSS 001 and consent of the Center director and WGSS director.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Prerequisites: WGSS 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 376 (AAS 376, COMM 376) New Media, Race and Gender 4 Credits
This class explores the relationship among race, gender and new media. It examines depictions of racial minorities and women online; how users access and use new media across race and gender (including a look at the digital divide); and differences in use of social media websites across race and gender. The goal is for students to understand how existing racial and gender categorizations are/are not transmitted to the online community and do/do not become extensions of present social hierarchy.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 381 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 382 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 391 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 392 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 399 Senior Thesis 2-4 Credits
Research during senior year culminating in a senior thesis. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: ND

WGSS 403 (MLL 403) Grimms' Fairy Tales: Folklore, Feminism, Film 3 Credits
This intercultural history of the Grimms' fairy tales investigates how folktale types and gender stereotypes developed and became models for children and adults. The course covers the literary fairy tale in Germany as well as Europe and America. Versions of "Little Red Riding Hood", "Cinderella", or "Sleeping Beauty" exist not only in the Grimms' collection but in films and many forms of world literature. Modern authors have rewritten fairy tales in feminist ways, promoting social change. Taught in English. German language students may receive a German component.

WGSS 405 (CIE 405) Experiencing the United Nations: Gender and Education in International Development 3 Credits
Building on the Lehigh University/United Nations partnership initiative, this course provides a structured practical experience for students to learn about the dynamics of UN and civil society relationships, focusing on the issues of gender and education in international development. Class activities include trips to the UN to attend NGO briefings and other events. Students develop experiences and skills in international development such as policy blogging, brief writing, and education sector analysis.

WGSS 411 (ENGL 411) Gender and Literature 3 Credits
This seminar explores constructions of gender and sexuality in literature from different historical periods, traditions, and nationalities. Content changes each semester.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 418 (SOC 418) Gendered Experience of Globalization 3 Credits
Women and men experience globalization differently and globalization affects women in different cultural and national contexts. Gender stratification has been intensified by the transnational flow of goods and people. provides students with a survey of new development in feminist theories on globalization and on gender stratification and development, and links these theoretical frameworks to empirical research about gender issues that have become more prominent with globalization.

WGSS 430 Internship in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 1-3 Credits
Internship related to women, gender, and sexuality studies. Supervised by WGSS faculty. Consent of program director required.

WGSS 441 (SOC 441) Gender and Health 3 Credits
Relationships of sex differences and gender norms to disease and longevity in the US and around the world. Influence of medical systems on men's and women's lives and the impact of gender-based consumer health movements on health and medical care. Focus on specific topics, e.g. medicalization and commercialization of women's bodies, the politics of reproductive choices, masculinity and health, and gender and mental health.
WGSS 449 (POLS 449) American Social Policy: Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality 3 Credits
This course examines criminal justice, housing, health, education, and welfare policies across US states through the lenses of class, race, gender, and sexuality. Students will learn how social regulations structure opportunities and assess the implications of those opportunity structures.

WGSS 450 Seminar in Feminist Theory 3 Credits
A graduate seminar providing foundational study of multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks of women, gender, and sexuality studies.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, ND

WGSS 458 (HIST 458) Readings in Gender History 3 Credits
Study in small groups under the guidance of a faculty member on the literature of an issue, period, country or culture within gender history.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 465 (SOC 465) Inequalities at Work 3 Credits
Primary focus is on race, gender, and class as axes of disadvantage and privilege in work and employment. We will explore both theories and empirical studies of inequality as well as their social, political, and practical ramifications for the workplace.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 484 (PSYC 484) Psychology of Gender 3 Credits
Major theoretical approaches and empirical debates in the psychology of gender, with a focus on the interplay of nature and nurture in producing gender similarities, gender differences and gender variation in personality, social behaviors, cognitive abilities, achievement, sexuality, and mental health. Methodological issues in gender research. Consent of program director required.

WGSS 491 Independent Study 3 Credits
Individually supervised course in area of women, gender, and sexuality studies not ordinarily covered in regularly listed courses. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.