

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

- Students will demonstrate strong critical thinking skills that connect theory to action.
- Students will employ multiple theories informed by intersectionality.
- Students will demonstrate critical engagement with multiple epistemologies and methods of research.
- Students will articulate the ways diverse feminisms converge and diverge in the 21st century.
- Students will articulate contexts for intellectual, academic and artistic activism.

Special requirements

A Bachelor of Arts in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies requires a total of 120 credits with 30 credits in GSWS courses and at least 15 of those credits in upper-level courses. Students may choose a general interdisciplinary program or a health and science concentration.

All students must complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in the College of Humanities and Sciences. All students also must complete core course requirements of GSWS 301 and GSWS 401, in addition to the ancillary requirement of GSWS 201.

The general interdisciplinary program requires that students take at least one course in each of the following thematic areas: race, racism and antiracism; art, media, culture and creative expression; methods of social transformation; and systems of power. The remaining credits in the major are electives, but must be GSWS courses or courses crosslisted with GSWS. These electives may include GSWS 391, GSWS 492 and GSWS 493. Note, however, that an independent study or internship is permitted only after the student has an agreement with a supervising faculty member and permission from the major's adviser.

Degree requirements for Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Course	Title	Hours
General education (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
GSWS 301	Feminist Theory	3
GSWS 401	Topical Senior Seminar	3
• Additional major requirements		
GSWS art, media, culture and creative expression course (200-to 400-level)		3
GSWS methods of social transformation course (200-to 400-level)		3

GSWS race, racism and anti-racism course (200- to 400-level)		3
GSWS systems of power course (200- to 400-level)		3
• Major electives		
GSWS electives (three of four courses must be upper-level)		12
Ancillary requirements		
GSWS 201	Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
Experiential fine arts ¹		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-6
Open electives		
Select any course.		50-58
Total Hours		120

1

Courses offered by the School of the Arts

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Perspective areas

Note: A course listed in two different areas may not be used to fulfill both area requirements for the major. Some courses may have prerequisites to meet before enrollment.

Course	Title	Hours
Race, racism and anti-racism		
GSWS 291	Topics in Women's Studies (if topics deal with race, racism and/or anti-racism)	3
GSWS/AFAM/SOCY 305	Oppression, Resilience and the Black Family	3
GSWS 309	Gender and Global Health	3
GSWS/AFAM/POLI 318	Politics of Race, Class and Gender	3
GSWS/POLI 319	Women and American Politics	3
GSWS 356	Open Minds	3
GSWS 359/ENGL 355	Black Women Writers	3
GSWS 360	Mujerista Ethics	3
GSWS 361	Decolonial Feminisms	3
GSWS/POLI 366	Women and Global Politics	3
GSWS/RELS 371	Women in Islam	3
GSWS/CRJS 382	Gender, Crime and Justice	3
GSWS 383	Beyoncé: Music, Race and Fame	3
GSWS 384	Queer Nightlife	3
GSWS/AFAM/HIST 390	Forced and Coerced Labor in Africa and the Americas	3
GSWS 391	Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (if the topic deals with race, racism and/or anti-racism)	3
GSWS/DANC 415	Black Performance Theory	3
GSWS 450	Black Feminist Thought	3

GSWS/ENGL 451	Narratives of Asian American Sexualities	3	GSWS 302	Trans Theory and Activism	3
GSWS 460	Gender, Sexuality and HIV In African Literature	3	GSWS 356	Open Minds	3
GSWS 470	Latinx Feminisms	3	GSWS 358	Sex and Power	3
GSWS 491	Topics in Women's Studies (if the topic deals with race, racism and/or anti-racism)	3	GSWS 391	Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (when the topic is focused on methodology, research and/or activism)	3
Art, media, culture and creative expression			GSWS 393	Feminist Research and Methods of Inquiry	3
GSWS/ENGL 236	Women in Literature	3	GSWS 404	Activism Practicum Service-learning	3
GSWS 291	Topics in Women's Studies (if the course deals with art, media and creative expression)	3	GSWS 405	Activism Practicum in Feminist and Queer Organizing	3
GSWS 340/HIST 331	History of Gender and Sexuality in Europe II	3	GSWS 450	Black Feminist Thought	3
GSWS 341/HIST 365	History of Gender and Sexuality in America I	3	GSWS 491	Topics in Women's Studies (when the topic is focused on methodology, research and/or activism)	3
GSWS 342/HIST 366	History of Gender and Sexuality in America II	3	GSWS 492	Independent Study	1-6
GSWS/ENGL 352	Feminist Literary Theory	3	GSWS 493	Internship	1-3
GSWS/ENGL 353	Women's Writing	3	Systems of power		
GSWS/ENGL 354	Queer Literature: ____	3	GSWS 202	Introduction to Trans Studies	3
GSWS 355	Queer Cinema	3	GSWS 205	Introduction to LGBTQ+ and Queer Studies	3
GSWS/ENGL 357	Queer Comics	3	GSWS 291	Topics in Women's Studies (when the topic relates to a critique of systems of power)	3
GSWS 359/ENGL 355	Black Women Writers	3	GSWS/SOCY 304	Sociology of Families	3
GSWS 360	Mujerista Ethics	3	GSWS/SOCY 305	Oppression, Resilience and the Black Family	3
GSWS/HIST 369	Global LGBTQ+ History Since 1750	3	GSWS 309	Gender and Global Health	3
GSWS/RELS 371	Women in Islam	3	GSWS/POLI 316	Women and the Law	3
GSWS 380	Lesbian and Bisexual Women	3	GSWS/POLI 318	Politics of Race, Class and Gender	3
GSWS 383	Beyoncé: Music, Race and Fame	3	or AFAM 318	Politics of Race, Class and Gender	
GSWS 384	Queer Nightlife	3	GSWS/POLI 319	Women and American Politics	3
GSWS 391	Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (when the topic deals with art, media and creative expression)	3	GSWS/SOCY 333	Gender in Society	3
GSWS/DANC 415	Black Performance Theory	3	GSWS/SOCY 334	Sociology of Women	3
GSWS 450	Black Feminist Thought	3	GSWS/PSYC 335	Psychology of Women	3
GSWS/ENGL 451	Narratives of Asian American Sexualities	3	GSWS/SOCY 336	Violence Against Women	3
GSWS/ENGL/LING 452	Language and Gender	3	GSWS 356	Open Minds	3
GSWS 457	Women, Art and Society	3	GSWS/POLI 366	Women and Global Politics	3
GSWS 460	Gender, Sexuality and HIV In African Literature	3	GSWS 380	Lesbian and Bisexual Women	3
GSWS 461	HIV, Memory and Queer Archives	3	GSWS/CRJS 382	Gender, Crime and Justice	3
GSWS 470	Latinx Feminisms	3	GSWS 391	Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (when the topic relates to a critique of systems of power)	3
GSWS 491	Topics in Women's Studies (when the topic relates to art, media, culture and creative expression)	3	GSWS 392	Gender and Health Across the Life Span	3
Methods of social transformation			GSWS 409	LGBTQ Health and Wellness	3
GSWS 202	Introduction to Trans Studies	3	GSWS/PSYC 414	Psychology of Women's Health	3
GSWS 205	Introduction to LGBTQ+ and Queer Studies	3	GSWS 491	Topics in Women's Studies (when the topic relates to a critique of systems of power)	3
GSWS 291	Topics in Women's Studies (when the topic is focused on methodology, research and/or activism)	3			

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Freshman year

Fall semester		Hours
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University (or open elective)	1
UNIV 111	Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	Play course video for Focused Inquiry I	
	General education course	3
	General education course	3
	General education course	3
	General education course	3
Term Hours:		16

Spring semester

GSWS 201	Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	
	General education course	3
	Open electives	5
Term Hours:		15

Sophomore year**Fall semester**

GSWS 301	Feminist Theory	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	GSWS race, racism and anti-racism perspective (200-400 level)	3
	Foreign language (101-level)	3
	General education course	3
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

	GSWS art, media, culture and creative expression perspective (200- to 400-level)	3
	GSWS methods of social transformation perspective (200- to 400-level)	3
	Experiential fine arts	1-3
	Foreign language (102-level)	3
	Open elective	3
Term Hours:		13-15

Junior year**Fall semester**

	GSWS systems of power perspective (200- to 400-level)	3
	GSWS elective (300- or 400-level)	3
	Open electives	9
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

	GSWS elective (300- to 400-level)	3
	Open electives	12
Term Hours:		15

Senior year**Fall semester**

GSWS 401	Topical Senior Seminar	3
	Open electives	12
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

	GSWS electives (upper-level)	6
	Open electives	10
Term Hours:		16

Total Hours: 120-122

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

GSWS 201. Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An interdisciplinary and intersectional introduction to the perspectives and core concerns pertaining to gender, sexuality and women's studies.

GSWS 202. Introduction to Trans Studies. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to the field of transgender studies. Introduces students to trans identities, communities and politics and explores the historical and contemporary production of gender norms and the institutions and mechanisms that police those norms.

GSWS 205. Introduction to LGBT+ and Queer Studies. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Stresses intersectional approaches to LGBT+ and queer studies. Introduces students to a broad field of study across disciplines, cultures and historical periods.

GSWS 236. Women in Literature. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 112 or both ENGL 295 and HONR 200. An introduction to literature by and/or about women. Crosslisted as: ENGL 236.

GSWS 291. Topics in Women's Studies. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a total of 6 credits. An in-depth examination of specialized areas of interest in women's studies. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

GSWS 301. Feminist Theory. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: UNIV 200 or HONR 200. This course will introduce students to areas of generative struggle and critique within feminist theory. Will examine these conflicts not as moments of danger, but as constituting a key genealogy of feminism. Will be structured around important debates that constitute this genealogy of feminist theory, including: early woman of color critiques of the notion of "universal sisterhood," debates over the "proper object" of feminist inquiry, post-structuralist approaches to theorizing the subject, queer theory's shift toward a "subject-less critique" and transnational feminist praxis.

GSWS 302. Trans Theory and Activism. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: GSWS 202. Examines the production and policing of gender norms, both historically and in the contemporary moment. Offers students the opportunity to delve more deeply into the field of trans studies, reading key new works in the field and developing their own substantive research projects.

GSWS 303. Sociology of Masculinities. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SOCY 101. Examines the sociological theories and empirical studies of men and masculinities. Topics include the relational thinking of gender inequality, hegemonic masculinity, subordinated masculinities, inclusive masculinity, hybrid masculinity, toxic masculinity, female masculinity and male femininity, and intersectional masculinities. Addresses the effects and mechanisms of masculinities in social settings, such as the workplace, family, marriage, intimacy, pop culture, politics, migration, globalization and social movements, through empirical studies. Crosslisted as: SOCY 335.

GSWS 304. Sociology of Families. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or ANTH 103/INTL 103. The family in its social and cultural context. Analysis of child rearing, marriage, kinship, family crises and family change in various societies around the world. Crosslisted as: ANTH 304/SOCY 304.

GSWS 305. Oppression, Resilience and the Black Family. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SOCY 101. Explores the historical and contemporary experiences of Black families, with a central focus on the resilience and contributions of Black families in the U.S. Engages in intersectional analysis of systems of oppression and the full range of Black family structures. Centers Black liberation and Black joy. Crosslisted as: AFAM 305/SOCY 305.

GSWS 309. Gender and Global Health. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines how health policies produce and regulate gendered bodies and sexualities. Topics may include how colonial medicine and health policies of detection, diagnosis, surveillance, quarantine and confinement were implemented as methods of social control. Analyzes continuities between colonial medicine and more contemporary interventions that in the name of individual and communal health attempt to shape proper sexualities and gendering. Crosslisted as: AFAM 309/ANTH 309/INTL 309.

GSWS 316. Women and the Law. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course will introduce students to the history, politics and status of women under the American legal system. Topics to be covered may include equal protection, sexual violence, the particular rights of women of color and lesbians, reproductive rights of women of color and lesbians, reproductive rights, women criminals and women in the legal profession. Crosslisted as: POLI 316.

GSWS 318. Politics of Race, Class and Gender. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the racial, class and gender influences on the history and development of political values, conflicts, processes, structures and public policy in the United States. Crosslisted as: AFAM 318/POLI 318.

GSWS 319. Women and American Politics. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course analyzes the participation of women in American politics. Attention is given to both women's historical and contemporary roles in politics, their participation as voters and citizens, and their behavior as candidates and office holders. Additional topics may include workplace, family and education issues and reproductive rights. Crosslisted as: POLI 319.

GSWS 333. Gender in Society. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor. Explores different theoretical approaches to gender and its intersections with other sources of inequality, including sexuality, race, class and age. Possible topics include masculinities, gender and the body, and how gender operates in various institutional settings, such as the economy and the family. Crosslisted as: SOCY 333.

GSWS 334. Sociology of Women. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or consent of instructor. This course will examine the position and status of women across societies and the social forces that maintain existing patterns and arrangements. The integration of family and work in women's lives will be emphasized. Crosslisted as: SOCY 334.

GSWS 335. Psychology of Women. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 101. Overview of issues in psychology relevant to women. Topics include: research methods of women's issues; sex-role socialization; women and hormones; psychological androgyny; personality theory and counseling strategies for women; women and language; women and violence; and rape and abuse. Crosslisted as: PSYC 335.

GSWS 336. Violence Against Women. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or GSWS 201. An examination of violence against women from a global and local perspective with a primary focus on violence perpetrated against women in the U.S. Requires a minimum of 20 hours of community service. Crosslisted as: SOCY 336.

GSWS 339. History of Gender and Sexuality in Europe I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyzes historical changes in gender and sexuality from c. 500 BCE through industrialization. Explores the notions of femininity and masculinity as they were expressed in the economics, family structures and intellectual and religious discourse within and amid Greek, Hellenistic, Roman, Germanic and Norse, and medieval Latin Christian cultures, and traces the changes brought to the medieval cultural synthesis by European colonial expansion, the reformations and the Industrial Revolution. Crosslisted as: HIST 330.

GSWS 340. History of Gender and Sexuality in Europe II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of gender and sexuality in Europe since industrialization. The course offers a particular focus on the lives of European women, as well as sexual and gender minorities who by the end of the 20th century would identify as LGBTQ+. Topics will include the development of European feminisms, treatment of gender and sexuality under fascism, and the sexual revolution. Crosslisted as: HIST 331.

GSWS 341. History of Gender and Sexuality in America I. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyzes historical changes in gender and sexuality from the first colonial settlements through the Civil War. Explores the changing relation of femininity and masculinity to families, economics, politics, religions, race and culture for the wide variety of peoples who inhabited, immigrated to or were forced to migrate to America and the subsequent United States. Crosslisted as: HIST 365.

GSWS 342. History of Gender and Sexuality in America II. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyzes historical changes in gender and sexuality from Reconstruction to the present. Examines the relationship between gender, race, ethnicity and class within American society and the struggles for suffrage, social reform, employment opportunities and sexual freedom in the modern United States. Crosslisted as: HIST 366.

GSWS 352. Feminist Literary Theory. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 201, ENGL 202, ENGL 203, ENGL 204, ENGL 205, ENGL 206, ENGL 211, ENGL 215, ENGL 217, ENGL 236, ENGL 250, ENGL 291, ENGL 295 or NEXT 240. The study of contemporary feminist thought and feminist approaches to analyzing literature and culture. This course examines the history and development of feminist theory as a methodology in the humanities, explores several of the major theoretical trends of the past 30 years and examines applications of feminist theory to specific works of literature. Crosslisted as: ENGL 352.

GSWS 353. Women's Writing. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit once (for a maximum of six credits) when a different group of writers is studied. Prerequisite: ENGL 201, ENGL 202, ENGL 203, ENGL 204, ENGL 205, ENGL 206, ENGL 211, ENGL 215, ENGL 217, ENGL 236, ENGL 250, ENGL 291, ENGL 295 or NEXT 240. A study of selected literature written by woman-identified writers. Crosslisted as: ENGL 353.

GSWS 354. Queer Literature: _____. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 201, ENGL 202, ENGL 203, ENGL 204, ENGL 205, ENGL 206, ENGL 211, ENGL 215, ENGL 217, ENGL 236, ENGL 250, ENGL 291, ENGL 295 or NEXT 240. A study of queer literature. Considers issues of history, theory, aesthetics, politics, authorship and/or interpretive communities and examines the intersection of social identities with particular attention to race/ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, class and/or nationality. Topics will vary by section. Crosslisted as: ENGL 354.

GSWS 355. Queer Cinema. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 200 or HONR 200. Theoretical focus on cinematic works about and/or by those identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer. Examines concepts of gender, sexuality and women's studies through analysis of selected works in the medium of film as well as engages with theoretical texts in the field.

GSWS 356. Open Minds. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 200 or HONR 200. Experiential seminar held at a local correctional institution that connects students to inmates as learning partners. Examines the history and development of American prisons in context, supplementing theoretical studies with the lived experiences of inmates.

GSWS 358. Sex and Power. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: GSWS 201. Challenges the taken-for-granted beliefs about the naturalness of sexuality and, instead, considers the relationship between and among individual sexualities, sexual (sub)cultures, institutions and politics. Links the contemporary context for sexual lives, experiences and feelings with the history of sexuality in the United States, focusing on how sex and power interact. Covers a wide range of topics, including but not limited to sexual identities (e.g. LGBTQ+ and plurisexualities); racism, White Supremacy and desirability; abortion, birth control, reproduction and sterilization; relationships, intimacies and kinship (including non-monogamies); commercial sex, pornography, prostitution and sex work; sexual health and "disease"; and sexual exploitation and violence.

GSWS 359. Black Women Writers. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 201, ENGL 202, ENGL 203, ENGL 204, ENGL 205, ENGL 206, ENGL 211, ENGL 215, ENGL 217, ENGL 236, ENGL 250, ENGL 291, ENGL 295 or NEXT 240. Explores the variety of ways African-diasporan women and woman-identified writers gained self-expression in the midst of gender and race oppression from slavery to the present. Also explores the rise of Black feminist discourse as a project of reclaiming and giving voice to writers who had previously been silenced or suppressed. Crosslisted as: ENGL 355.

GSWS 360. Mujerista Ethics. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or co-requisite: GSWS 201. Introduces students to the study of ethics from a "mujerista" feminist perspective. Focuses on decolonial philosophies from Latin American and Latinx perspective as centered on community and from the organizational perspectives of women in the Latin American and Latinx community. Emphasizes the inherent connections between liberation theory and political action that have inspired decolonial thought.

GSWS 366. Women and Global Politics. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of women and global politics, providing both a feminist re-examination of traditional international-relations theories and a comparative analysis of the political, legal and economic status of the world's women. The impact of women on global political institutions such as the United Nations will be addressed as well as other feminist and grass roots means of taking political action. Crosslisted as: POLI 366/INTL 368.

GSWS 369. Global LGBTQ+ History Since 1750. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Investigates sexual and gender non-normativity in global perspective since 1750. The course emphasizes colonialism and global interconnectivity, and the way they have shaped identities and experiences of same-sex desiring and gender nonconforming individuals. Crosslisted as: HIST 369.

GSWS 371. Women in Islam. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 200 or HONR 200, RELS 108, GSWS 201 or ENGL 215. Critical study of the roles and rights of women in Islam. Crosslisted as: RELS 371.

GSWS 380. Lesbian and Bisexual Women. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course examines the lives of contemporary lesbian and bisexual women from psychological, sociological, developmental, political and cultural perspectives. The intersection of race, class, ethnicity, religion, age, disability and locale with lesbian/bisexual identity will be explored.

GSWS 382. Gender, Crime and Justice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181 or permission of instructor. Examines the role of gender as it relates to crime and justice. Special attention will focus on the gendered experiences of practitioners, offenders and victims within the criminal justice system in terms of processing, adjudication and institutional responses. Crosslisted as: CRJS 382.

GSWS 383. Beyoncé: Music, Race and Fame. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the popular music industry, the celebrity industry, Black Twitter, divas and the racial politics of beauty to offer a critical context for Beyoncé, divadom and Black female performance.

GSWS 384. Queer Nightlife. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the boundaries between nightlife, queer worldmaking and subcultural media. Explores queer nightlife as a space where transgressive performances of the self are made possible via music, media, fashion and performance. Through close readings and sustained cultural analysis, students acquire a critical understanding of the potentialities of queer "after hours" in the making of subcultural identity and emerging aesthetic practices.

GSWS 390. Forced and Coerced Labor in Africa and the Americas. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines a broad range of forced and coerced labor in Africa and selected parts of the Americas, including the United States, Canada and the Caribbean, from around the 17th century to the 20th century. The role that gender and race played in slavery and coerced labor will be given particular attention. Crosslisted as: AFAM 390/HIST 380.

GSWS 391. Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 12 credits. An in-depth examination of specialized areas of interest in gender, sexuality and women's studies. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

GSWS 392. Gender and Health Across the Life Span. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Uses a gendered perspective to critically examine the inequity in access to health care and differential treatment by health care researchers and service providers. Places the issues of gender in their historical and geographical context by reading critical texts and authors in the field of gender, sexuality and women's studies, alongside historical accounts and current social science texts at the intersection of gender and health.

GSWS 393. Feminist Research and Methods of Inquiry. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines attempts to challenge traditional Western ways of knowing and to propose alternative feminist methods for research. Students will engage in critical, autobiographical and/or creative projects that address some of the central questions posed by the class about what constitutes research, evidence and authoritative knowledge.

GSWS 401. Topical Senior Seminar. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: 21 credits in gender, sexuality and women's studies or permission of the instructor. Students are required to produce a senior research project on a topic related to the theme of the seminar.

GSWS 409. LGBTQ Health and Wellness. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: GSWS 201; and UNIV 200 or HONR 200. Examines LGBTQ health and wellness, broadly defined. Examines core health issues, such as physical and mental health disparities, health care access, wellness practices and policy/care systems dimensions. Focuses on multiplicative marginalization and how race, ethnicity, class, gender, rurality, poverty, immigration and adolescence, among other factors, impact core health issues.

GSWS 414. Psychology of Women's Health. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Overviews the psychological research on women's health. Topics include health behavior change, personality and individual differences, cognitive factors, disease-specific behaviors and interventions. Crosslisted as: PSYC 414.

GSWS 415. Black Performance Theory. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: DANC 103, DANC 104 and UNIV 200. This course will focus on performance as apt method for analysis of notions/experiences of Blackness. Students will read scholarly texts which contend with the ubiquity of Black death and gratuitous violence alongside sonic, visual and written texts by significant cultural contributors – including works by Rihanna, Dapper Dan, Cardi B, Beyonce and Janet Mock – in order to examine and contend with expressions of complex personhood by people who exist under the constant threat of annihilation. The course focuses on embodied knowledge – that is, the harnessing of insight derived from lived experiences of hegemonic racial, gender, sexual and class subjection – and how such wisdom is transformed into strategies, tactics and tools that enable black people to acquire the human and material resources needed for survival. Crosslisted as: DANC 415.

GSWS 450. Black Feminist Thought. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 200 or HONR 200. Theoretical focus on black feminist thought, spanning the first wave of feminism in the U.S. from the late-19th and early 20th century onward. Though primarily U.S.-focused, this course examines black feminist thought globally, as well as that of lesbians, transgendered or queer individuals, foregrounding topics such as race, gender, class, sexuality, activism, liberation, labor and social movements. Also examines the history and development of black feminist thought, considers it as a methodology in the humanities and social sciences, explores several of its major theoretical trends of the past 100 years and examines its applications to cultural phenomena and current events.

GSWS 451. Narratives of Asian American Sexualities. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines representations of gendered Asian American sexualities in literature (novels, short stories, an autobiographical novel, poetry and a play), as well as visual texts (graphic novels, films and video). Pays particular attention to how the texts participate in and challenge the constitution of Asian American subjectivities in the contexts of (neo)colonialism, neoliberal restructuring and the emergence of pan-Asian and feminist movements in the United States.

GSWS 452. Language and Gender. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 200 or HONR 200. A study of relationships between gender and language focusing on such issues as differences between the ways women and men use language, relationships between language and power and ways in which language reflects and reinforces cultural attitudes toward gender. May not be used to satisfy the literature requirement of the College of Humanities and Sciences. Crosslisted as: ENGL 452/LING 452.

GSWS 453. Western Religions, Women and Social Justice. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: UNIV 200 or HONR 200; and RELS 108, GSWS 201 or WRLD 210. Explores the experience and portrayal of women in the three Abrahamic traditions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Study focuses on how these religions and their texts bear upon the social, economic, political and spiritual lives of women. Special attention is given to the impact of globalization and religious fundamentalism on women. Crosslisted as: INTL 453/RELS 453.

GSWS 457. Women, Art and Society. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A re-examination of a variety of issues concerning women, art and society: the position assigned women within the history of art as it relates to historical place and the aesthetic values of the canon, the gendering of style, patronage, audience, and gaze. Through a survey of images of and by women, as well as through an analysis of art historical and critical texts, this course addresses the question: "How are the processes of sexual differentiation played out across the representations of art and art history?" Crosslisted as: ARTH 357.

GSWS 460. Gender, Sexuality and HIV In African Literature. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: GSWS 201, UNIV 200 or HONR 200. Analyzes representations of HIV/AIDS in literature in English from Eastern and Southern Africa. Pays particular attention to how authors depict the anxieties and conflicts provoked by HIV/AIDS around gender, sexualities, racism, modernity, global inequities and urbanization. Features fiction, autobiographies, poetry and short stories that challenge stigmatization, commemorate the lives lost and demand that readers both bear witness and respond to the narratives.

GSWS 461. HIV, Memory and Queer Archives. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: GSWS 201, UNIV 200 or HONR 200. Explores some of the complexities of HIV/AIDS archives and the counter-histories that they attempt to preserve, produce and disseminate. Further analyzes works that represent themselves as metaphor and medium of the archive and that address some of the central contradictions of HIV/AIDS archives and their processes.

GSWS 470. Latinx Feminisms. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: GSWS 201 or UNIV 200. Focuses on how the intersections of history and identity are reflected through writing, film and visual art, as expressions of Latinx feminist thinking. Will use the method of "testimonio," or testimony, as a political tool that has gathered the lived experience of politically persecuted vulnerable communities in Latin America, and continues as a method of validating lived experience, or biography as text.

GSWS 491. Topics in Women's Studies. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a total of 12 credits. An in-depth examination of specialized areas of interest in women's studies. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

GSWS 492. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.

Semester course; 1-6 lecture hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits per semester; maximum total of six credits in all independent study courses. Enrollment is restricted to students of junior and senior standing who have acquired a minimum of 12 credits in gender, sexuality and women's studies courses. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and coordinator must be obtained prior to registration for the course.

GSWS 493. Internship. 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; variable hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: internship credit is limited to students with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and junior or senior status. Directed internship, local or abroad, or other approved study-abroad experience with the objective to provide real-life experience. Determination of the amount of credit (based on hours or effort required) and permission of departmental internship coordinator must be obtained prior to registration for the course. Graded pass/fail.