WGSS - Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

WGSS408 Literature by Women Before 1800 (3 Credits)
Selected writings by women in the medieval and early modern era.
Prerequisite: Must have completed two English courses in literature; or permission of the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs. Cross-listed with: ENGL408.
Formerly: WMST408.

WGSS410 Women of the African Diaspora (3 Credits)
Explores the lives, experiences, and cultures of women of Africa and the African diaspora—African-America, the Caribbean, and Afro-Latin America. A variety of resources and materials will be used providing a distinctive interdisciplinary perspective.
Credit Only Granted for: WMST410 or WGSS410.
Formerly: WMST410.

WGSS425 Gender Roles and Social Institutions (3 Credits)
Relationship between gender roles and the structure of one or more social institutions (e.g., the economy, the family, the political system, religion, education). The incorporation of gender roles into social institutions; perpetuation or transformation of sex roles by social institutions; how changing gender roles affect social institutions.
Credit Only Granted for: SOCY425, WMST425 or WGSS425.
Formerly: WMST425.

WGSS428 Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (1-3 Credits)
Thematic exploration of a topic in women, gender, and sexuality studies.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.
Formerly: WMST428.

WGSS444 Feminist Critical Theory (3 Credits)
Issues in contemporary feminist thought that have particular relevance to textual studies, such as theories of language, literature, culture, interpretation, and identity.
Prerequisite: WMST200, WGSS200, WMST250, WGSS250, or ENGL250. Cross-listed with: ENGL444.
Credit Only Granted for: ENGL444, WMST444 or WGSS444.
Formerly: WMST444.

WGSS448 Literature by Women of Color (3 Credits)
Literature by women of color in the United States, Britain, and in colonial and post-colonial countries.
Prerequisite: Must complete two English courses in literature; or permission of the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs. Cross-listed with: ENGL448.
Formerly: WMST448.

WGSS452 Women in the Media (3 Credits)
Participation and portrayal of women in the mass media from colonial to contemporary times. Cross-listed with: JOUR452.
Credit Only Granted for: JOUR452, WMST452 or WGSS452.
Formerly: WMST 452.

WGSS454 Women in Africa (3 Credits)
The place of women in African societies: the role and function of families; institutions such as marriage, birthing, and child rearing; ritual markers in women’s lives; women in the workplace; women’s associates; women’s health issues; measures designed to control women’s behavior; women and development.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST494, WMST454 or WGSS454.
Formerly: WMST454.

WGSS455 Women in Medieval Culture and Society (3 Credits)
Medieval women’s identity and cultural roles: the condition, rank and rights of medieval women; their access to power; a study of women’s writings and the constraints of social constructs upon the female authorial voice; and contemporary assumptions about women. Cross-listed with: HIST495.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST495, WMST455 or WGSS455.
Formerly: WMST455.

WGSS456 Women and Society in the Middle East (3 Credits)
Examines the customs, values and institutions that have shaped women’s experience in the Middle East in the past and in the contemporary Middle East.
Recommended: Prior coursework in Middle East studies or gender studies. Cross-listed with: HIST492.
Credit Only Granted for: HIST492, WMST456 or WGSS456.
Formerly: WMST456.

WGSS457 Redefining Gender in the U.S., 1880-1935 (3 Credits)
Exploring changing perceptions of gender in the U.S., 1880-1935, and the impact of those changes on the day to day lives of men and women.
Credit Only Granted for: WGSS457 or WMST457.
Formerly: WMST457.

WGSS458 Literature by Women After 1800 (3 Credits)
Selected writings by women after 1800.
Prerequisite: Must have completed two English courses in literature; or permission of Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs. Cross-listed with: ENGL458.
Formerly: WMST458.

WGSS468 Feminist Cultural Studies (3 Credits)
Each version of this course focuses on one or several forms of popular culture -- such as TV, music, film, cyber-culture, or genre fiction (for example, science fiction) -- and demonstrates how feminists value, critique and explain such forms. Tools of feminist cultural studies include economic and social analyses of power, race, sexuality, gender, class, nationality, religion, technology, and globalization processes.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.
Formerly: WMST468.

WGSS469 Study Abroad Special Topics IV (1-6 Credits)
Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.
Repeatable to: 15 credits if content differs.
Formerly: WMST469.
WGSS471 Women's Health (3 Credits)
The women's health movement from the perspective of consumerism and feminism. The physician-patient relationship in the gynecological and other medical settings. The gynecological exam, gynecological problems, contraception, abortion, pregnancy, breast and cervical cancer and surgical procedures. Psychological aspects of gynecological concerns.
Restriction: Must be in a program in the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexualities; or must be in a major within SPHL-Behavioral & Community Health department. Cross-listed with: HLTH471.
Credit Only Granted for: HLTH471, WMST471, or WGSS471.
Formerly: WMST471.

WGSS486 Advanced Feminist, Critical Race, and Queer Theories (3 Credits)
Provides undergraduates with a survey of foundational texts in the intersecting fields of feminist, critical race, and queer studies, as well as an overview of current scholarship in order to give students an opportunity to understand the origins and the development of these fields. This course is especially recommended for students interested in pursuing graduate education. Our discussions will be focused on the trajectories of these intellectual conversations as they have developed in the academy.
Prerequisite: WMST301 or permission of the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

WGSS487 Advanced Research Seminar in Gender, Race, and Queer Studies (3 Credits)
A research seminar that allows students to focus their developed skills on a single topic of their own choosing while meeting regularly in seminar to discuss, critique, support, and learn from their peers' projects and assessments. Students choose a topic based on their own interests and prior coursework, perform advanced research appropriate to the question, and formulate an appropriate method of presentation of their research findings. The culminating presentation may take the form of a written paper or a creative, digital, or activist project.
Prerequisite: WMST300 or WGSS301, and WMST400 or WGSS302.
Credit Only Granted for: WMST487 or WGSS487.
Formerly: WMST487.

WGSS488 Senior Seminar (3 Credits)
Seminar for advanced majors in women's studies or other students with appropriate preparation. Interdisciplinary topics will vary each semester.
Restriction: Permission of the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.
Formerly: WMST488.

WGSS489 Individual Research in Gender, Race and Queer Studies (3 Credits)
Allows students who wish to continue the research they began in WMST487 or WGSS487 to do so under the guidance of an individual faculty mentor. Each student taking this class will develop an individual syllabus based on the project on which they are working, with the goal of developing a work of scholarship specific to their interests that can serve as an entry point for graduate study or professional work.
Prerequisite: WMST487 or WGSS487.
Credit Only Granted for: WMST489 or WGSS489.
Formerly: WMST489.

WGSS491 Judaism and the Construction of Gender (3 Credits)
The study of Jewish culture, religious practice, communal authority, and literature through the frame of such critical categories of analysis as gender, sexuality, masculinity, power, ethics, and the feminine.
Prerequisite: 1 course in JWST; or 1 course in LGBT; or 1 course in WMST or WGSS. Cross-listed with: JWST491.
Credit Only Granted for: JWST491, WMST491 or WGSS491.
Formerly: WMST491.

WGSS494 Lesbian Communities and Differences (3 Credits)
The meanings of lesbian communities across many lines of difference. Using lesbian-feminists of the 1970s as a starting point, we will look both back and forward in history, tracing changes and exploring the meanings of these in their social and historical contexts.
Prerequisite: 1 course in LGBT, WMST, or WGSS. Cross-listed with: LGBT494.
Credit Only Granted for: LGBT494, WMST494 or WGSS494.
Formerly: WMST494.

WGSS496 African-American Women Filmmakers (3 Credits)
Examines the cinematic artistry of African-American women filmmakers and the ways in which these films address the dual and inseparable roles of race and gender.
Credit Only Granted for: WMST496 or WGSS496.
Formerly: WMST496.

WGSS497 Professional Development (1 Credit)
To assist students in thinking about the next step post-undergraduate degree and to think long term about the importance of their WMST degree in lifelong career, personal, and political development. This course will provide students an opportunity to reflect upon where they are going beyond the B.A. and develop ways to communicate how their coursework and experiences at UMD have prepared them for the next step. The course will focus on the practicalities of resume writing, internship or job searches, etc. but also on the specific challenges/opportunities of translating interdisciplinary training to professional internship or beyond-the B.A. sites. Students may take this course in preparation for their internship (working to select an appropriate internship that can translate well to post-undergraduate aspirations) or they may take it post-internship as they determine their post-graduation steps.
Prerequisite: 12 credits in LGBT, WMST or WGSS courses.
Restriction: Must have completed a minimum of 75 credits.
Credit Only Granted for: WMST497 or WGSS497.
Formerly: WMST497.

WGSS498 Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (1-3 Credits)
Advanced study of a thematic topic in women, gender, and sexuality studies.
Restriction: Permission of the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.
Formerly: WMST498.

WGSS499 Independent Study (1-3 Credits)
Research and writing or specific readings on a topic selected by the student and supervised by a faculty member of the Women's Studies Department.
Prerequisite: 1 course in WMST or WGSS.
Restriction: Permission of the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Repeatable to: 9 credits if content differs.
Formerly: WMST499.