



SUMMER & FALL 2025 UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

For questions about permits, course registration, and degree requirements please make an appointment to see your academic advisor by visiting <https://cloud.usf.edu/eScheduler/student>.

WST 2250: Female Experience in America

Summer B:

Offered online with David Rubin, Ph.D.

Our understanding of the past is transformed when considered through women's experiences. This course reexamines U.S. history through the lived experiences and theories of women from the late 1800s to the present, providing alternative conceptions of U.S. history that take gender, race, class, sexuality, ability, and nationality seriously as analytic categories. While we will identify common experiences between different groups of women, we will also notice the differences and divisions among them. The course will cover: sex, gender, and science; the history of feminism; women's experiences in colonial America; consumer beauty culture and the beauty myth; women's health; structural inequalities; and social justice.

Looking carefully at women's roles in American history, science, culture, and politics, this course will teach students how to critically analyze a variety of texts—scholarship from various fields, as well as materials from popular culture, literature, and film—from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. In addition to providing an overview of the diversity of female experiences in America, the goal of this course is to help you develop the basic critical thinking skills necessary for succeeding in undergraduate studies.

WST 2600: Human Sexual Behavior

Summer B:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:30-4:50 PM with Amanda LeBlanc, Ph.D.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:15-4:45 PM with Jill McCracken, Ph.D.

Fall 2025:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-4:45 PM with Dana Ahern, Ph.D.

Let's talk about sex! Mainstream America is awash in mixed and often conflicting messages about sex. On one hand we are bombarded by sexually explicit imagery, yet there is a conspiracy of silence when it comes to having frank, honest discussions about sex. In this class we will begin to delve into and pull apart notions about sex and gender from historical, social, cultural, political, and biological perspectives in an effort to create a holistic and interdisciplinary paradigm that more accurately encompasses human experience.

We will touch on topics such as: sexual response, double standards, gender vs. sex, gender roles, masculinity, heteronormativity, gender non-conforming, birth control, sexually transmitted infections, sexy safer sex, sexual expression and variation, and sexual violence/coercion. In addition to spirited discussions, there will be in-class activities, and videos that will allow students the opportunity to engage in problem-solving that embraces sex-positive and equitable answers to questions current issues faced across mainstream American culture.

Think of it as the sex education class that you only wish you would have taken in high school... only a lot more fun and thought-provoking! Upon completion, students will have the tools and knowledge necessary to make informed choices about their sexual health and address real-world issues in a way that is grounded in human and civil rights in relation to sexuality.

This course is part of the University of South Florida's General Education Curriculum. It is certified for Creative Thinking. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This will involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review via Canvas. This class also meets the FKL requirement for Social and Behavioral Science.

WST 3015: Introduction to Women's Studies

Summer B:

Offered online with Milton Wendland, Ph.D., J.D.

Fall:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 AM with Staff

Offered online with Milton Wendland, Ph.D., J.D.

Offered online with Staff

WST 3015 Intro to Women's Studies will give us some language and frameworks to consider, analyze, and reflect on the ways that we are similar and the ways that we differ, as individuals and as groups of people. We will use diverse readings, media, statistics, and our personal experiences to understand and critically examine the ways that sex, gender, race, class, ability, and sexuality are socially constructed and enacted. Using a lens that helps us see how different identities intersect, we will learn about and analyze the world in which we live, discovering the nuanced ways in which gender intersects with other identities to permeate our everyday lives and our society. This course draws heavily on the notions that the personal is political and that the political is personal, connecting theory and academic thinking with "real life" and helps students become adept at doing the same.

More specifically we'll think about sex and gender converge with other identities like ability and race in our friendships and love lives, in our families and kin networks, in our schools and workplaces, in pop culture and politics, and in our culture more generally. This course is foundational if you're going into education, medicine, law, social welfare, journalism, parenthood, or any other livelihood that involves working with other humans. Why? Because all humans have some relationship to sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, and ability as individuals and as part of larger social structures, and we'll encounter them as family members, colleagues, clients, patients, etc.

This course meets the FKL requirement for social and behavioral science. This course is part of the University of South Florida's General Education Curriculum. It is certified for Human & Cultural Diversity. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This will involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review via Canvas.

WST 3311: Issues in Feminism

Summer B:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am-1:00 PM with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

In this course, we'll dive into some of the most important issues in feminism today. We'll explore how gender and sexuality are regulated both nationally and globally, looking at how our identities and bodies are shaped by social norms and economic forces. From the home to the global workforce, we'll discuss the many ways gendered bodies are impacted by the world around us. We'll discuss issues like control of reproduction, population management, the movement of sexualized labor, sexual economies of tourism and militarism, among others. Through our readings, assignments, and discussions, you'll develop a deeper understanding of feminist issues both locally and globally and gain insights into how global forces shape the regulation of bodies based on gender, sexuality, race, class, and more.

WST 3324: Women, Environment, and Gender

Summer B:

Offered online with Zoe Fine, Ph.D.

Fall:

Offered online with Zoe Fine, Ph.D.

We are our environments. We concurrently create, consume, and are consumed by the images and messages about difference that bombard us every day. In Women, Environment, and Gender, students excavate and analyze their individual and collective experiences of sex, gender, race, socioeconomic status, sexuality, dis/able-bodiedness, age, and nationality in and through the lenses of the very environments we create and perpetuate. Students accomplish this all while having this multisensory, multimedia 100% online class count as an Exit Requirement Major Works, an FKL Natural Science (NS) Life Science core, and/or an Environmental Policy Concentration course! In WST 3324, students will learn course content ranging from feminist and critical race theories to environmental and socioeconomic oriented scholarship, and from historically situated narratives to literature centered on difference, and apply it to their life experiences. Through these reflective and reflexive applications, students will illustrate in their course assignments how theory and practice inextricably coalesce in Women's and Gender Studies.

This 100% online learning experience will give students the rare opportunity to discover strategies of resistance and subversion while gaining tools that will empower us to positively change our environments, to create a brighter 21st century for all. Join us on this journey of a lifetime!

WST 3334: Queer Film and Television

Summer A:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:15-4:45 PM with Amanda LeBlanc, Ph.D.

Although queerness has been represented since the earliest days of moving pictures, queer characters and issues have become increasingly visible in popular film and TV starting in the 1960s. This course investigates the socio-cultural contexts of queer film and TV production, reception, and the texts themselves. We will interrogate such questions as: How have LGBTQ+ people and issues been represented in popular film and TV? How have these images changed over time? What has been the impact of changing viewership practices (from movie theaters to streaming, for example)? How have shifts in public sentiment, policy, and law affected queer film and TV (the motion picture production code giving way to the ratings system, for example)? Students will engage in queer, feminist, critical race, crip, and decolonial theories alongside film and TV studies as they explore not only media texts, but the very concepts of gender, sexuality, and identity. This will be a discussion based course.

WST 3380: Sexuality Studies

Fall 2025:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15 PM with Beth Gaines, M.A.

This course provides an interdisciplinary exploration of sexuality, examining its social construction and cultural representation. Through lectures, readings, and discussions, students will investigate the beliefs, practices, debates, and political struggles that shape sexual identity, behaviors and norms. The course highlights how individuals from various backgrounds, across historical periods and societies, have understood and expressed their sexuality. Topics may include: the scientific study of sexual differences; sexuality in the context of romantic love, marriage, and parenthood; reproductive technologies and birth control; interpersonal violence; health and illness; sexuality in pop culture; and the role of feminist movements in challenging and shaping sexual norms.

ISS 3420 Disability Studies

Summer B:

Offered online with Viki Peer, Ph.D.

Fall 2025:

Offered online with Viki Peer, Ph.D.

In this course we will examine disability as an aspect of human and cultural diversity by exploring perspectives on minds and bodies that do not fit neatly within normative expectations. This course was developed by faculty representing three different USF departments: Women's and Gender Studies, Sociology, and Communications Sciences and Disorders. Thus, it is interdisciplinary and will explore a variety of disability experiences (e.g. those related to physical, developmental, sensory, and psychiatric impairments and chronic illnesses). This course will use disability justice as a theoretical framework as we examine disability's intersections with other aspects of identity such as race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and nation. This course will approach disability as a socially constructed and politically mediated category of difference as we learn how disabled people respond to marginalization through forms of activism, action, and collective care.

WST 4262: Women of Color Writers in the Diaspora

Fall 2025:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-4:45 PM with Diane Price-Herndl, Ph.D.

For far too long, American history was conceived as a history of white, mostly male, settlers and politicians forging a new land. But what of all the women of color? Don't they have a history too? This course will examine how women writers of color and/or immigrant background in the U. S. use narrative to rewrite and reimagine history.

Readings will include: Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior* (1975); Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987); Louise Erdrich, *Tracks* (1988); Isabel Allende, *Daughter of Fortune* (1999); Leslie Marmon Silko, *Gardens in the Dunes* (1999); Octavia Butler, *Kindred* (2004); Alicia Gaspar de Alba, *Calligraphy of the Witch* (2012). We will also read some feminist literary and cultural criticism.

WST 4645: Queer Theory

Fall 2025:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45 PM with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

What does it mean to be “queer,” and how has the term evolved over time? Once used as a slur, queer has been reclaimed as both an identity and a powerful tool for questioning what is considered “normal.” This course examines the development of queer theory, particularly its emergence in response to the HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s, and its enduring influence in reshaping our understanding of gender, sexuality, and power. Through feminist and trans studies perspectives, we will explore how queer and trans communities have resisted oppression, built networks of care, and reshaped cultural and political landscapes. Key topics include rethinking ideas about sexual/gender oppression and liberation, as well as exploring intersecting theorizations of race, gender, sexuality, nation, class, and other sites of lived experience. The course will also delve into the vital role of queer and trans joy, mutual aid, and coalition-building in imagining and working toward more just futures. By engaging with histories and theories, students will gain tools to think critically about the structures that constrain queer and trans life—and the possibilities for reimagining belonging and resistance.

WST 4930: Global Race/Gender/Sexuality, a.k.a. Global Color Lines: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Making of the Modern World

Fall 2025:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00-12:15 PM with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

Global Color Lines: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Making of the Modern World: This course explores how racial hierarchies, gender norms, and sexual politics have shaped global history, from colonialism and slavery to contemporary migration and digital culture. This interdisciplinary course examines the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality in the construction of modern societies, economies, and identities. Through historical analysis, feminist and postcolonial theory, and case studies from across the world, students will critically engage with systems of oppression and resistance, tracing how the “color line” continues to define power, privilege, and belonging in the modern world.

WST 4930: Reproductive Justice: History, Literature, Theory, and Politics

Fall 2025:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15 PM with Diane Price-Herndl, Ph.D.

Reproductive justice is a theory developed by women of color that is defined as “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities” (SisterSong). This course will explore the history of reproductive rights and justice in North America from its earliest days to the present controversies surrounding the Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade. It will be an interdisciplinary exploration that encompasses history, poetry, fiction, social studies, and feminist legal/political/economic theory to understand reproduction’s role in gender equity and community sustainability. This will include attention to the histories of abortion and birth control. We will pay special attention to racial, ethnic, and religious differences in attitudes toward reproduction as well as overlapping issues in LGBTQ rights and reproductive justice.

Students will write weekly participation papers and will produce a semester project that may be scholarly, policy-related, or creative.

WST 4935: Capstone

Fall 2025:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:15 PM with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

This course offers students an opportunity to connect academic insights with life beyond graduation. Together, we will explore students' internal strengths and external skills, discovering how they align with living a feminist life in both personal and professional spheres. Throughout the course, students will engage in various activities designed to help them synthesize and communicate their WGS knowledge in meaningful ways. We will tackle questions that encourage deep reflection and critical thinking: What unique skills have students developed through their WGS courses, and how can they apply them in their future careers? How can students weave the key concepts of WGS into a compelling narrative or project that resonates with diverse audiences? And most importantly, what does it mean to live a feminist life, and how do students plan to carry these values forward after graduation? By the end of the semester, students will leave with a richer appreciation for their WGS major and a toolkit for integrating its principles into their professional and personal lives. This course is about celebrating students' achievements and equipping them to confidently carry their WGS knowledge into the world.

WST 4940: Internship in WGSS

Restricted to WGSS Majors and minors in WGSS, and Queer and Sexuality Studies

Fall 2025:

Days/hours variable with Milton Wendland, Ph.D., J.D.

Do you ever wonder, "What will I do with a WGSS degree?!" Do you want some real world experience putting your WGSS knowledge into action? Do you want a rockin' resume when you start applying for jobs or graduate school?

A WGSS Internship is your chance to connect your educational and learning experiences in women's, gender, and sexualities studies with real-life experience in a professional business or non-profit environment.

That means you'll intern on-site, virtually, or in a hybrid way with a local organization for the entire semester -- earning academic credit that count toward your degree and toward graduation, gaining valuable skills for your own career, and making contacts that might eventually be references or even job contacts -- all within the context of a WGSS framework.

Best of all, starting Fall 2025 internships will be paid!

That's right, you can earn 1-hour of course credit and a paycheck (\$20/hour) during your 50-hour internship. This is thanks to a \$4.8 million Mellon Grant to support student internships in the humanities. If you'd like to use your internship to satisfy USF Gen Ed requirements, you'll enroll in an additional two hours and have a plethora of bonus learning opportunities via Canvas.

To learn more -- even if you're still not quite sure what an internship is -- and chat about options, drop WGSS Internship Director Dr. W an email at miltonw@usf.edu