GSWS and GSWS Cross-listed Courses for Spring 2027

GSWS Courses

GSWS 2252 – Theories of Gender and Sexuality (3 units)

Instructor David Tenorio, Scheduled Tuesday 2:30 – 5:00 PM

This course provides an overview of the formation, debates, and important trajectories of gender and sexuality studies, emphasizing foundational readings as well as emerging directions in scholarship. Gender and sexuality studies are interdisciplinary fields in conversation with not only feminist and queer theory but also across disciplines of study. Engaging various practices of knowledge production, students will work through some of the key moments, concepts, and frameworks shaping thinking/doing/feeling about gender and sexuality even as they gain familiarity with the conversations, problems, and approaches reorienting gender and sexuality studies now. The course also serves as a graduate level introduction to the skills and practices of reading, discussing, and writing in a variety of theoretical idioms, inviting students to think through materials and ideas in relation to their own research, interests, and commitments.

GSWS 2240 – Decentering Queer Theory (3 units)

Instructor Raed El Rafei, Scheduled Wednesday 2:30 – 5:00 PM

Queer theory as a field of study that challenges normative social understandings of gender and sexuality has largely been shaped by a deep engagement with art, performance, film, and other manifestations of culture. What transpires from the works of queer theorists like José Esteban Muñoz, Jack Halberstam, and Jasbir Puar is that queer theory is deeply rooted in the embodied practices of queer individuals and communities and the counter-publics and counter-archives they've historically created in response to heteronormative representations and constraints. This seminar will examine the world-making potential of the term queer as it has been theorized in the early 1990s to explore how normative understandings of gender and sexuality have historically shaped all aspects of life. We will focus on the emergence, in subsequent years, of a queer-of-color critique that emphasized studying queerness through the intersections of race, gender, class, ethnicity, and other factors. We will explore examples from various parts of the world of queer theorists and art practitioners who have challenged a US-centric lens into queer subjectivities. We will, in particular, engage critically with how decentered approaches to queer theory have drawn on precolonial practices to understand local, premodern expressions of queerness beyond the hegemony of Western definitions and categorizations.

GSWS Cross-Listed Courses

The courses listed below are taught by GSWS affiliated faculty and count as GSWS cross listed course for the MA and PhD GSWS certificates.

THEA 2202 – Queer Methods and Methodologies of Research and Performance

Instructor Mina Kawahara, Scheduled Monday 3:00 – 5:30 PM

Queer methods can reveal and critique skewed power dynamics within academic research and destabilize normative categorizations of both identity and research. This course continues these

investigations with an emphasis on embodied research and performance, empowering students to construct their own queer methodologies. Students will learn to evaluate and adapt queer methods to analyze and/or create performance. The course brings together a conversation between major theoretical works of queer theory with performance and media, traversing key concepts such as queer temporalities, affect, and failure, through case studies such as the musical *Fun Home* and the video game *Undertale*, and mediums such as popular music and film. As a result, students will use theory to analyze performance, experiment with practice-based research methods, and develop their own queer methodologies.

EFOP 2359 – Gender, Education and International Development
Instructor Maureen Porter, Scheduled Tuesday 3:00 – 5:40 PM

A critical, cross-cultural examination of current issues that drive gender empowering international "development" programs and innovations. We look at the varied meanings of power, local mobilization, advocacy, local and national policies, and full inclusion. Case studies will be drawn from several regions, and students will have the freedom to customize their projects and presentations. This course has a focus on the meaningful implementation of decolonial, feminist, empowering, and grassroots innovations. We also look at the social construction of problems and how the wisdom of women and genderqueer people globally can provide new standards, means, and paths onward. Discussions of doing research with and for women will draw on the professor's many international field sites and educational initiatives (with the United Nations and CSW). Participants will have the chance to join in ongoing "development" partnerships that honor African, South American, and regional Indigenous knowledge frameworks. Welcome to all levels and degrees of previous exposure to the topics.