

Feminist Studies Graduate Certificate

Spring 2022 Course Offerings

WGSS 5365 001 Feminist Epistemologies and Methodologies

Tuesdays 12:30pm-3:00pm

Nancy Naples

This course is designed to explore the theoretical underpinnings of diverse feminist methodologies and interdisciplinary scholarship. We will discuss contemporary debates in the field and ethical dilemmas faced by researchers using feminist, interdisciplinary and intersectional epistemologies. We will also consider feminist engagement with critical race, indigenous, postcolonial, critical disabilities, queer, and trans scholarship. The course includes guided experience in designing and producing feminist scholarship through experiential assignments and guest presentations with the goal of advancing your MA or Ph.D. proposal or research paper.

PHIL 5397/WGSS 5398 The Gendered-Racial Mythologies of Predictive Policing and Knowing Crime

Thursdays 2:00pm – 4:30pm

Ayanna De’Vante Spencer

This seminar will explore current debates on big data policing in the US through engagement with Black feminist analysis of the US criminal punishment system. Connecting Feminist Theory, Social and Political Philosophy, Epistemology, and Science and Technology Studies, we will examine how gendered racial mythologies about crime/criminality inform the design and implementation of predictive policing technologies. We will analyze relationships between data used to create these technologies, how these technologies are deployed to create “crime data,” and knowledge production on “crime.” Some required readings include Angela Davis’ *Are Prisons Obsolete*, Safiya Umoja Noble’s *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism*, Andrew Guthrie Ferguson’s *The Rise of Big Data Policing: Surveillance, Race, and The Future of Law Enforcement*, and *Predictive Policing and Artificial Intelligence* edited by John McDaniel and Ken Pease. Additionally, we will study resistance efforts like [Carceral Tech Resistance](#), [Data for Black Lives](#), and the [Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab](#). This seminar may be of interest to scholars who aim to learn more about big data, Black feminisms, anti-carceral literatures, abolition, algorithmic oppression and injustice, epistemic oppression, and US policing.

LLAS 5100 Comparative Transnational Latin(o) American History

Thursdays, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Emma Amador

This graduate seminar will examine the history of Latin America and Latinas/as/xs in the United States with a focus on transnational and comparative histories and historiography. It will also consider how these histories relate to the intellectual traditions within Latin American Studies, Latino/a/x studies, and ethnic studies. By reading recent transnational and comparative scholarship, we will also consider the practice, difficulties, and rewards of writing histories of Latin(o) American communities facing displacement and migration. Core themes will include colonialism, imperialism, and immigration. The course will also center scholarship on the ethnic and racial diversity within Latin American and Latino/a/x communities. In addition, there will be an emphasis on the history of women, gender, and sexuality in these literatures.

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ENGL 6850 01 Seminar in American Studies: Keywords (Disability Studies)

Tuesdays, 4:00pm-6:30pm

Brenda Brueggemann

This is a course about “doing disability studies” in the arts and humanities. In order to maintain some focus we will center our reading and work on American texts (literature, film, popular culture artifacts) and the important (and sometimes also obscured) contexts, history, cultural, political, and rights movements that have shaped and grounded the field. Further, we will explore how the doing of disability studies is also deeply woven with the fabric of social justice and threads race, class/economics, gender, and sexuality through and through. Finally, although our focus will be “American,” we will make many transnational and global connections.

ENGL 6750-01 Seminar in Language and Literature: The British and Irish Gothic Novel and Its Contexts

Thursdays, 1:00pm-3:30pm

Mary Burke

This seminar will broadly consider Irish, British, and American Gothic writing from the eighteenth- to the twenty-first century, with attention to the British and Irish particularities of the genre and to the novel and novella forms. Students will have the opportunity to utilize major theories and foci of interpretation, from queer theory, Marxism, feminism, gender, race, and psychoanalysis to postcolonial studies. Any call to “tradition” potentially elides questions of origin and naturalizes complex political, literary, and cultural relations between Ireland and Britain (Killeen). Nevertheless, it is difficult to create a literary history of the British Gothic without considering the impact of Anglo-Irish writers such as Maturin, Le Fanu, Stoker, Wilde, Yeats, and Bowen as well as a British writer born to an Irish father such as Brontë. Eagleton claims that politically tumultuous colonial Ireland did not possess the conditions required for realism, but are there other reasons why Ireland produced so many writers of Gothic? The question of the predominantly British readership of Irish Gothic its appetite for narratives of the counter-Enlightenment Celt (Anolik; Malchow) is pertinent. Writers used Gothic to probe issues specific to their own cultural and/or geographic “fringes” (Brontë) but we will resist notions of coherence. The colonial relationship between Ireland and Britain means that the course will be less of a literary history and more of an anti-tradition of discontinuities, fracture, gaps, silences and fragments (McCormack; Watt). One of the few coherent connections between most Irish Gothic writers is their origins in or links to the colonial order or “Anglo-Irish” cohort. Foster reads this “siege-mentality” Protestant Irish class as preoccupied with its own impending extermination (Bowen). As hybrid, conflicted figures, the Anglo-Irish were well positioned to nurture a literature that emphasizes “hesitancy over certainty, and which refuses to dissolve binaries such as living/dead, inside/outside, friend/enemy, desire/disgust” (Killeen). Thus, there is a *specifically* colonial context to Irish Gothic’s use of the broader British tradition’s deployment of the Catholic archaic as site of terror (Walpole; Lewis) and its emphasis on the return of the dispossessed Other. Nevertheless, the prevailing theorization of Anglo-Irish Gothic *does not account for* the other colonizer-settler cohort in Ireland, the Ulster-Scots, nor for the cultural productions of or about their descendants in America (the Scots-Irish) by important names in American Gothic such as Poe, James, and Faulkner. Thus, we will set earlier themes and texts into relief and broaden our lens on race and colonialism by pivoting to the Americas and the authors just listed, closing with a recent Gothic metafiction centered on a rapacious Anglo-Irish settler-colonial family in midcentury Mexico (Moreno-Garcia)

ENGL 5530-01 World Literature: Shipwrecked: Oceanic Trajectories of World Literature

Wednesdays, 9:30am-12:00pm

Bhakti Shringarpure

“World literature” is an academic field that serves to complicate literature’s long-standing relationship with nation, translation and circuits of global dissemination. At once a theory, a method and a particular set of texts, “world literature” gains impetus from decolonial and postcolonial histories, the Cold War and our rapidly transforming technological landscapes. This seminar will focus on literature’s “world-making” potential by honing in on the ways in which writers and artists invest in, upon and across aquatic trajectories. When poet Dionne Brand writes that “the sea was its own country, its own sovereignty” she is referring to the all-consuming nature of the sea, its life-giving and life-taking force. Water is our anchor and islands, coastlines, shores, banks, archipelagoes, peninsulas, ships and pirogues become the site of life-worlds while we remain cognizant of the death-worlds of slavery and the mass graves that lie at the bottom of the sea. We will examine theoretical, affective and cultural formations such as the Black Mediterranean, Black Atlantic and the Black Aquatic and will work within the shadow of the fact that today, perilous migrations across the seas evoke the Middle Passage and reproduce precarity for Black and Brown lives. We will also engage with discourses of gender and sexuality through a focus on women writers and filmmakers as well as feminist and queer theory, and the ways in these contributions constitute the canon of world literature. Novels include *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat, *Dragonfly Sea* by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, *Belly of the Atlantic* by Fatou Dioume, *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, *A Door to the Map of No Return* by Dionne Brand, *Zong* by NourbeSe Philip, *Black Mamba Boy* by Nadifa Mohamed and poetry selections from Derek Walcott and Mahmoud Darwish. We will watch *Atlantics* by Mati Diop, *La Pirogue* by Moussa Toure, selected works by John Akomfrah, *Aleel/Seashell* by Abdulcadir Ahmed Said and *Salt of this Sea* by Annemarie Jacir. Selections from Paul Gilroy, Edouard Glissant, Saidiya Hartman, Christina Sharpe and Rinaldo Walcott will also be included. Students will make 3 presentations on a theoretical text and write a research paper of 20-25 pages.

SPAN 6405 20th Century Spanish American Literature: Decolonial Theory and Practice

Wednesdays, 4:00pm-6:45pm

Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann

This course examines contemporary works of decolonial theory and criticism alongside works of 20th and 21st century Spanish American literature, especially from the Caribbean. The course approaches the “decolonial” paradigm as a body of work that is both future-oriented and historically rooted in resistance to empire and coloniality, including racial and gender hierarchies. Decolonial theory is not neutral, as it challenges many disciplinary paradigms, including the presumed innocence and neutrality of knowledge production. This course will investigate the possibilities and limits of decolonial theory and critique in relation to works of literature that challenge, rewrite, and dismantle colonial paradigms. Course discussions will focus on identifying, analyzing, and critiquing decolonial methods of investigation, fabulation, and creation. Readings may include works by: Soleida Ríos, Aida Cartagena Portalatín, Mara Pastor, Rita Indiana, Lydia Cabrera, Alejo Carpentier, Virgilio Piñera, Manuel de Rueda, Walter Mignolo, Maria Lugones, Audre Lorde, Aimé Césaire, Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Paget Henry, C. L. R. James, E. K. Brathwaite, Lorgia García-Peña, Frances Negrón-Muntaner, and Yomaira Figueroa-Vasquez.

POLS 5409 01 American Race, Gender, and Ethnic Politics

Thursdays 1:30-4:00pm

Evelyn Simien

This course is an advance exploration of the study of race, gender, and ethnicity in the subfield of American politics. It is a comprehensive examination of the way scholars, primarily in American politics, have ignored, conceptualized, measured, modeled and sometimes fully engaged the concepts of race, gender, and ethnicity as well as their intersection across several domains of U.S. government. In this course special attention will be paid to the presidency and congress (leadership, representation), public policy (social welfare, criminal justice), social movements (civil rights, women's liberation), public opinion (racial divides, gender gaps), political participation (elections, voting), ideology and partisanship. We begin (and end) the course with an explicit focus on *both* the commonalities *and* differences between groups—African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and women—evidenced by the research. Along the way, we also focus on a range of theoretical perspectives, research designs—quantitative, qualitative, and mixed—as well as analytical approaches that are more inclusive (like intersectionality-type) and get beyond a strict Black-White paradigm. At the same time and, no less importantly, we consider the plurality of differences *within* groups. While the list of assigned readings does not exhaust the full range of possibilities, it does highlight some of the most vexing and controversial issues under empirical investigation by political scientists, including seminal works by scholars who have had a significant impact in a variety of ways from providing indispensable historical perspectives to contributing major theories (linked fate) and methods of analysis—for example, sampling and survey methods as well as experimental and quasi-experimental methods.

POLS 5010-04 Critical War Studies

Wednesdays, 1:30pm-4:00pm

Christine Sylvester

This course considers distinctly critical approaches to the study of war. War has long been considered a core topic in the Political Science field of International Relations. Indeed, war was the *raison d'être* for IR's emergence in the UK in 1917, where it was studied largely using historical, philosophical, and normative frameworks of inquiry. With the advent of the Cold War, the study of war shifted more to American IR, where the focus turned to the scientific investigation of war causes, war types, and strategies of security using mostly quantitative methodologies. In IR war is studied as sustained armed conflict engaging the militaries and paramilitaries of at least two sides. International war is its forte and the topic of the predecessor course to this one: Critical War Studies. In this extension of concern with studying war critically, the emphasis shifts from wars conducted internationally and overseas, to “wars” occurring in the domestic sphere of the USA and other industrialized states, or in the aftermaths of international wars. In effect, the course brings war home for analysis. To do so requires an interdisciplinary orientation that includes current IR concerns with violence and race, class, and gender issues internationally, as well as insights from critical military and police studies, postcolonial studies, criminology and sociology, philosophy, and history. The war studies II link between these fields is violence of the sort usually associated with war that is planned or exercised against groups or the state in the USA. In effect, this course brings war right to our doorsteps. Included among the topics explored here are: race, war and the white power movement, paramilitary/militarized America, militarized policing, gang violence, border violence, and post-war scars that fail to heal.

POLS 5010-01 Politics of the Body and the Body Politic

Thursdays 4:00pm-6:30pm

Sandy Grande

The body has always been a nexus of political theory, social policy, and collective action. As such, this course explores the socio-cultural and political construction of the body not only as a subject and analytic but as a locus of governance and power. We will consider how bodies – whether human, other-than-human, cellular, political, or planetary – relate to each other and how these relations are shaped by the forces of colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism. In so doing, we will examine how bodies come to be marked as normative or deviant, and the political implications of these normative discourses and processes. Finally, we will explore the body as a site of critical resistance, artistic expression, and the decolonial imaginary. Course texts will draw upon the fields of Native American and Indigenous Studies, Black Studies, Critical Disability Studies, Feminist, Queer and Transgender Studies, Critical Aging Studies, and their intersections.