

# WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES (WGS)

**WGS 101. Window on Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. (1.5 h)**  
An opportunity to experience and reflect analytically in writing on the diverse cultural and intellectual life of Wake Forest, with an emphasis on women's, and gender, and sexuality studies events and topics.

**WGS 121. Feminist Leadership Project. (1.5 h)**  
Explores the principles of feminist leadership to deepen self-awareness about personal leadership skills and gain tools for creating feminist social change. This highly interactive class welcomes students who are new to feminist thought/activism as well as those seeking to deepen their engagement with feminism. Pass/fail only.

**WGS 122. LGBTQ Center Change Agents Leadership Project. (1.5 h)**  
Open to participants in the LGBTQ Center's Change Agent program. Participants will explore principles of identity development (individual and community), queer and feminist theories of leadership and change, understanding gender and sexuality as frameworks for community organizing and social change, and development and implementation of a final change related project. Pass/fail only. P-Prerequisite override required.

**WGS 125. Prepare. (1.5 h)**  
Provides students with an overview of the social, emotional, and legal issues related to sexual violence, and teaches them to design and implement educational programs on this topic. Pass/fail only.

**WGS 150. Perspectives in Gender and Sexuality. (3 h)**  
Introduces feminism as a lens of analysis; gender, sexuality, and other social categories as social constructs; sexism, heterosexism, and other social systems as systems of oppression; and intersectionality as a lens of analysis. Topics of the course will vary based on the instructor. (D)

**WGS 200. The WGS Field Guide to Museums. (1.5 h)**  
Provides opportunities to develop expertise in interpretation of collections through a gender lens while considering the role of public education and creative thinking in community settings.

**WGS 221. Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. (3 h)**  
Introduces many of the key topics, debates, and theoretical paradigms in the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Addresses questions such as: What are gender and sexuality and how do gender and sexual norms influence the lives of people in society? What is the relationship between gender and sexuality and other social categories such as race and class? What is power and how is power distributed differently according to gender, race, class, and sexuality? The course strives to train students in analytical thinking and presses them to think critically about gender and sexuality in the past, present, and future. (CD, POR)

**WGS 222. Introduction to Sexuality Studies. (3 h)**  
Provides an interdisciplinary grounding in the foundations of queer culture and studies, with a critical interrogation of sex, gender, sexuality, pleasure, and embodiment in popular culture, literature, health, science, and politics. (CD, POR)

**WGS 223. Introduction to Feminist Theory. (3 h)**  
This introductory course examines key issues, questions, and concepts in feminist thought and women's movements, which reflect a wide range of perspectives and methodologies from abolitionism to transnationalism. (D)

**WGS 224. Readings in Queer Theology. (1.5 h)**  
This seminar-style reading course surveys classic and new works in queer theology. Queer theology transgresses dominant constructions of gender identity and sexuality; and as such, it can be seen as an expression of the Christian gospel that subverts human understandings of life, community, and the divine. The course explores biblical and Christian theological perspectives on sexuality, social constructions of sexuality, and issues such as power, marriage equality, and sexual ethics.

**WGS 230. Studies in Gender and Literature. (3 h)**  
Addresses ways in which gender and literacy practices intersect in various cultures and historical periods. Attention will be paid to the role of literature in formulating, subverting, or resisting gender norms. May be repeated for credit if topic differs.

**WGS 234. Sexual Revolution! Gender and Sexuality in the United States, 1950-1980. (3 h)**  
Examines how conflicts around gender and sexuality played out from the 1950s to the 1970s in both the popular and high culture of the time: in bestselling novels and poems as well as canonical literature, and in television as well as in experimental film. We will consider the 1950s twice: once through the art produced at that time, and then through art produced about the 1950s after mainstream gender norms had shifted.

**WGS 250. #Black Girl Magic. (3 h)**  
Explores the politics and practices that Black femmes, girls, and women engage in to make themselves "magically" real. (CD, POR)

**WGS 251. Race and Ethnic Diversity in America. (3 h)**  
Different race and ethnic experiences are examined through an institutional approach that examines religion, work, schooling, marriage patterns, and culture from cross-cultural perspective. Grand theoretical schemes like the "melting pot" are critiqued for their relevance in an age of new cultural expectations among the many American ethnic groups. Also listed as AES 251. (CD, POR)

**WGS 271. Making Sense of the News Through a Feminist Le. (1-3 h)**  
Inquiry into news literacy from a feminist perspective, with the intention to identify gender bias and consider questions of empowerment, exclusion, consumerism, and how to navigate the digital landscape to distinguish verified, reliable news from propaganda.

**WGS 300. Gender and Sexuality in Literary Adaptations. (1.5-3 h)**  
Focuses on understanding the relationship between written literature (novel, play, short story, poem) and its adaptation to another genre or medium (film, painting, video game, song, etc.) through the lens of gender and sexuality. Only offered for 1.5 or 3 hours.

**WGS 303. When Black Women Clap Back. (3 h)**  
Exploration of how Diasporic Black women talk back to institutional practices that marginalize them, and how Black women engage in the necessary labor to make a more democratic society. (CD)

**WGS 307. The Queer Fantastic. (3 h)**  
We consider fantastic writing from the 1930s to the present that critiques the hegemonic values of gender and sexuality by offering other social and societal structures, and consider the otherworldly as a critical refraction of the world that produced the writer.

**WGS 310. Gender, Power and Violence. (3 h)**  
A research-centered study of various issues related to violence, power, and gender in American society. Emphasizes sociological analysis of competing theoretical explanations of violence with respect to race, class, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. (CD)

**WGS 318. Film Lab in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. (1.5-3 h)**

Viewing, dissecting, and analyzing films. Fosters the skills to create complex cinematic analyses and explore feminist theoretical issues related to spectatorship.

**WGS 322. Feminist, Womanist, Murjerista Theologies: Constructive Perspectives on Christian Thought. (3 h)**

Examines major topics in Christian theology from African American (womanist), Latina/Hispanic (mujerista), and queer perspectives.

**WGS 326. Telling Women's Lives: Writing about Entrepreneurs, Activists, and Thought Leaders. (3 h)**

This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to address fundamental issues of female leadership by examining recent developments in long- and short-form narratives about women (biography, essays, profiles) and employing journalistic tools to interview and write profiles of women entrepreneurs, activists, and thought leaders.

**WGS 327. The Feminist Book Society. (1.5-3 h)**

A reading course designed to introduce students to classic and contemporary feminist texts. Emphasis on close reading, discussions, and writing. May be repeated for credit if texts differ. Only offered for 1.5 or 3 hours.

**WGS 330. Gender and the Politics of Health. (3 h)**

Examines the intersections of gender, medicine, health, and illness, with a focus on the U.S. context. Topics include: reproduction, mental illness, breast cancer, heart disease, and HIV/AIDS, among others. We explore the following questions: How have women and men interacted differently with the field of medicine, as healers, patients, and subjects of medical research? How do social and cultural norms about gender influence the definition of illness categories? What role does medicine play in defining and enforcing the boundaries of what is considered socially acceptable in terms of gender? How does gender as a social role affect health outcomes? (POR)

**WGS 332. Men, Masculinity and Power. (3 h)**

Offers an introduction to the burgeoning interdisciplinary field of masculinity studies. Students will explore the social, historical, and cultural construction of masculinity and male roles (as fathers, sexual and romantic partners, and workers) and how these constructions differ according to race, class, sexuality, etc. In addition, the course will examine how norms about masculinity simultaneously empower men as a group and many individual men, while also disadvantaging many individual men and regulating the behavior of all men. Students will explore possibilities for challenging hegemonic forms of masculinity and for creating new types of masculinity. (POR)

**WGS 333. Sexual Politics in the United States. (3 h)**

Explores the politics of sexuality in the United States. Drawing on feminist scholarship, queer theory, and lesbian, gay, and transgender studies, we will explore different historical and theoretical approaches to thinking about issues of power and sexuality. We will discuss sexual identities and cultures, state regulation of sexuality, sexual commerce, and cultural representations of sexuality, among other topics. Throughout we will examine how other social categories such as race, class, gender, and disability intersect with the politics of sexuality.

**WGS 345. Girls Gone Wild: A Century of Misbehavior. (3 h)**

Analyzes what made girls and women "bad" and "wild" in the twentieth-century United States, and how such judgments changed over time. Engages closely with novels, short stories, movies, comics, podcasts, and an opera with an eye to what behaviors were considered appropriate, and how they interrelated with sexual attraction, with economics, and with love. We examine the relationship between being configured as a sexual object (a recipient of desire) and a sexual subject (a possessor of desire), and come to a critical understanding of how the "proper" and "improper" forms of both were constantly in flux. We ask how race, ethnicity, and queerness interacted with hegemonic concepts of beauty and desire, and whether "masculinity" and "femininity" are necessarily attached to men and women. We read theories of sex and gender, examine concepts of projection and male hegemony, and ask how men as well as women are shaped by rules of appropriate behavior.

**WGS 346. Visual Narratives: Image, Sequence, Story. (3 h)**

Investigates the relationship of image, sequence, and story in typography, comics, woodcut novels, and photographic books, and film, as well as fiction and poetry with unusual visual elements, and then asks how these various elements offer different visual and textual expressions of sexuality. Students will conduct formalist analyses and further investigate visual narrative through creative exercises with the goal of developing an aesthetic sensibility and a technical vocabulary that enable them to discuss visual narrative with precision. Please note that some visual narratives will include graphic scenes of sexuality.

**WGS 347. Joan Didion/Edmund White: Personal/History. (3 h)**

Examines Didion and White, two of the most important American writers of the past fifty years. Both are known for their journalism as well as their fiction, and their interest in U.S. cultural and political history, especially in terms of gender and sexuality, permeates their novels. This course analyzes three works by each author, developing themes from motherhood, sexuality, imperialism, rebellion and AIDS.

**WGS 349. Invert, Pervert, Bull Dagger, Queen: U.S. Queer Fiction in the 20th Century. (3 h)**

Explores the history of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, the transgendered, and other queers through fiction by and about them written over the last century in the United States. We also consider biography, artifacts of popular culture, comics, drama, and film. Topics include the relationship between homosexual desire and queerness in a broad sense; LGBTQ children; biological and psychological understandings of sexual orientation; and how social construction informs sexual identity and desire.

**WGS 358. Mothers and Daughters. (3 h)**

A course that examines literature, psychology, and feminist theories on motherhood and the mother-daughter relationship.

**WGS 362. Feminism and Theatre. (3 h)**

Introduces students to the intersection of theater and feminism and experience its interdisciplinary lineage and academic interventions. Students will learn and apply feminist theory, which looks beyond the conventional theater for a continuum of performance that includes play, ritual, sport, everyday life and social roles, as well as performance art, global and intercultural performance. Engaging with various feminist theoretical approaches from radical and liberal feminism to intersectional and transnational feminism, students will be encouraged to critically examine race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and nationality expressed on and offstage.

**WGS 363. Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Korea. (3 h)**

Examines gender and sexuality in Korean TV, film, K-pop, protests, and everyday performances, focusing on diverse socio-political issues within and beyond the Korean Peninsula. Topics include: the evolution of feminism, #metoo movement, LGBTQ cultures, sex work, aging, plastic surgery industry, postcolonial and post-Korean war conflicts, and transpacific affinities. (CD)

**WGS 364. Women of Color, Feminisms, and the Politics of Resistance in the U.S.. (3 h)**

Examines historical and contemporary issues and current events affecting the lives of African American, Asian American, Latina, and Native American women. Exploring major theoretical and practical viewpoints in women's studies scholarship, the course will reveal the importance of intersectionality between race, gender, sexuality, class, and/or ethnicity in the everyday lives of multicultural women. Through arts-based civic engagement projects and activities, this course will also encourage students to formulate their own language of resistance against multiple forms of oppression. (CD)

**WGS 365. Transnational Asia and Asian American Feminism. (3 h)**

Analyzes historical, socio-political, and cultural events as well as contemporary issues structuring the lives of Asian American women and queer community. Students will learn intersectional and transnational feminist approaches to examine race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, and kinship in Asian American art and activism.

**WGS 377. Special Topics. (1.5-3 h)**

Includes such women's, gender and sexuality studies topics as gender issues in the twenty-first century, critical approaches to women's issues, and the emergence of feminist thought. May be repeated for credit if topic differs.

**WGS 380. Sexuality, Law, and Power. (3 h)**

Explores a wide variety of issues related to sexual identity and orientation by looking at the ways in which the law can constrict social development as well as act as a catalyst for change. Examines how religion and popular morality shape the law and are shaped by it.

**WGS 381. Gender and the Law. (3 h)**

Examines how the law affects women's lives in a number of contexts. Considers a number of different areas, including but not limited to employment, education, family responsibilities, violence against women, and other issues affecting women's bodies, including pornography and prostitution. The class will also review a number of feminist legal theories and issues relating to the intersection of gender with race and class.

**WGS 383. Race, Gender, and the Courts. (3 h)**

Examines the impact of state and federal court cases upon the evolution of race and gender relations in the U.S. from 1789 to the present. Each case is placed within the political, economic and social historical context for the given time periods. Race includes Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latino Americans. This class will analyze government intervention, inaction, and creative interpretation. Same as HST 358.

**WGS 395. Honors in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. (1.5 h)**

Course for students carrying out an honors project under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

**WGS 396. Independent Study. (1-3 h)**

Independent projects in women's, gender, and sexuality studies which either continue study begun in regular courses or develop new areas of interest. Course may be repeated, but a maximum of 3 hours may apply to the minor. By prearrangement. P-Prerequisite override required.

**WGS 397. Public Engagement in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. (1.5-3 h)**

An opportunity for students to engage in work and research that is shared with the broader public, either on campus or in a local community. A maximum of 3 hours may apply to the major or minor. May be repeated for credit. Only offered for 1.5 or 3 hours. P-Prerequisite override required.

**WGS 398. Theory and Practice of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. (3 h)**

Examines the major themes and terminology in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, with focus on its diverse and multicultural expressions through time. Themes to be explored include schools of feminism, interlocking systems of oppression and the connection between theory and practice. (EI)

**WGS 399. Research Seminar in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. (3 h)**

A capstone, research-centered course in which students complete a significant research or creative project of their choosing situated within the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.