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from country to country and era to era. Examines the use of the fantastic for the purpose of satire, philosophical inquiry, and social commentary, with particular emphasis on its critiques of nationalism, modernity, and totalitarianism. Authors include Nikolai Gogol’, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Mikhail Bulgakov, Karel Capek, Stanislaw Lem, and Franz Kafka.

Sociology 10b. Racism. Fall 2009. ROY PARTRIDGE.

Examines issues of racism in the United States, with attention to the social psychology of racism, its history, its relationship to social structure, and its ethical and moral implications. (Same as Africana Studies 10.)

Note: This course counts toward the major and minor in gender and women’s studies.

[Sociology 14b. America in the 1970s.]

Sociology 22b. In the Facebook Age. Spring 2010. DHIRAJ MURTHY.

Explores new media forms through discourses of culture, race, space, and power. From the development of the first electronic messaging systems in the 1960s to the advent of interactive social networking Web sites such as Facebook, Bebo and hi5, the role of computer-mediated communication in shaping economies, polities, and societies is discussed. Uses a wide range of sources—recent social science research, Web sites, Facebook, YouTube videos—to examine the roles of new media both in the United States and abroad.

Theater 10c. Understanding Theater and Dance: Doing, Viewing, and Reviewing. Fall 2009. JUNE VAIL.

The goal is appreciation and understanding of contemporary performance. Investigates critical perspectives on dance, drama, and other performance events. Develops viewing and writing skills: description, analysis, interpretation, evaluation. Attending live performances, on and off campus, watching films and videos, and participating in studio workshops with performers and writers provide a basis for four essays and other modes of critical response—written, oral, or visual. (Same as Dance 10.)

Gay and Lesbian Studies

Aviva Briefel, Program Director
Glynis Wears-Siegel, Program Coordinator

Contributing Faculty: Susan Bell, Aviva Briefel, David A. Collings, Peter Coviello*, Keona K. Ervin, Sarah O’Brien Conly, Guy Mark Foster, Celeste Goodridge, David Hecht, Aaron Kitch, Matthew Klingele, Elizabeth Pritchard, Marilyn Reizbaum, Nancy Riley, Jill S. Smith†, Krista Van Vleet†, William Watterson**

Gay and Lesbian Studies is an interdisciplinary program coordinating courses that incorporate research on sexuality, particularly on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Drawing on a variety of approaches in several disciplines, such as queer theory and the history of sexuality, the program examines constructions of sexuality in institutions of knowledge, in aesthetic representation, and in modes of social practice, examining the question of sexual identity and performance across cultures and historical periods.

Requirements for the Minor in Gay and Lesbian Studies

The minor consists of five courses: Gay and Lesbian Studies 201 and four other courses from the offerings listed below, some of which will change with every academic year. Among the latter four courses, at least one must come from the social sciences and at least one from
the arts and humanities division, and no more than two courses may come from any single department. Only one independent study may be counted toward the minor. Courses in which D grades are received will not count toward the minor.

First-Year Seminars
For a full description of first-year seminars, see pages 149–60.

[16c. Sex and the Church. (Same as Gender and Women's Studies 17 and Religion 16.)]


( Same as Film Studies 29, Gender and Women’s Studies 29, and German 29.)

Intermediate and Advanced Courses


An introduction to the materials, major themes, and defining methodologies of gay and lesbian studies. Considers in detail both the most visible contemporary dilemmas involving homosexuality (queer presence in pop culture, civil rights legislation, gay-bashing, AIDS, identity politics) as well as the great variety of interpretive approaches these dilemmas have, in recent years, summoned into being. Such approaches borrow from the scholarly practices of literary and artistic exegesis, history, political science, feminist theory, and psychoanalysis—to name only a few. An abiding concern over the semester is to discover how a discipline so variously influenced conceives of and maintains its own intellectual borders. Course materials include scholarly essays, journalism, films, novels, and a number of lectures by visiting faculty.

[210b - ESD. IP. Global Sexualities, Local Desires. (Same as Anthropology 210 and Gender and Women's Studies 210.)]

229c - ESD. Science, Sex, and Politics. Fall 2009. David Hecht.

Seminar. Examines the intersection of science, sex, and politics in twentieth-century United States history. Issues of sex and sexuality have been contested terrain over the past hundred years, as varying conceptions of gender, morality, and “proper” sexual behavior have become politically and socially controversial. Explores the way that science has impacted these debates—often as a tool by which activists of varying political and intellectual persuasions have attempted to use notions of scientific objectivity and authority to advance their agendas. Explores debates over issues such as birth control, sex education, same-sex marriage, and abortion. (Same as Gender and Women's Studies 230 and History 229.)


Explores how gender and sexuality function within African American communities in the United States using historical and contemporary case studies. Examines connections between constructions of Black femininity and masculinity, racial identity formation and social inequality against the backdrop of slavery and emancipation, segregation, the Great Depression and World War II, the black freedom struggle, and what many have called the post-civil rights era. Materials include interdisciplinary scholarly texts and articles, films, novels, and music. (Same as Africana Studies 243, Gender and Women’s Studies 242, and History 243.)
243c. **Victorian Genders.** Every other year. Spring 2010. **Aviva Briefel.**

Investigates the literary and cultural construction of gender in Victorian England. Of central concern are fantasies of “ideal” femininity and masculinity, representations of unconventional gender roles and sexualities, and the dynamic relationship between literary genres and gender ideologies of the period. Authors may include Charlotte Brontë, Freud, Gissing, Hardy, Rider Haggard, Christina Rossetti, Ruskin, Schreiner, Tennyson, and Wilde. (Same as English 243 and Gender and Women’s Studies 239.)

Prerequisite: One first-year seminar or 100-level course in English or gender and women’s studies.

[244c. **Victorian Crime.** (Same as English 244 and Gender and Women’s Studies 244.)]

245c. **Modernism/Modernity.** Every other year. Fall 2010. **Marilyn Reizbaum.**

Examines the cruxes of the “modern,” and the term’s shift into a conceptual category rather than a temporal designation. Although not confined to a particular national or generic rubric, takes British works as a focus. Organized by movements or critical formations of the modern, i.e., modernisms, psychoanalysis, postmodernism, cultural critique. Readings of critical literature in conjunction with primary texts. Authors/directors/works may include T. S. Eliot, Joyce’s *Dubliners*, Lawrence’s *Sons and Lovers*, Sontag’s *On Photography*, W. G. Sebald’s *The Natural History of Destruction*, Ian McEwen’s *Enduring Love*, Stevie Smith, Kureishi’s *My Son the Fanatic*, and Coetzee’s *Disgrace*. (Same as English 245 and Gender and Women’s Studies 247.)

Prerequisite: One first-year seminar or 100-level course in English or gender and women’s studies.

252c. **American Intimacies: Sex and Love in Nineteenth-Century Literature.** Spring 2010. **Peter Covello.**

Homosexuality and its conceptual twin, heterosexuality, are surprisingly late coinages. So what was sex like before such concepts organized the sphere of intimate life in America? Was it a set of bodily practices? An aspect of a person’s identity? Was sexuality something an individual could be said to possess? What forms of contact, invest attachment, or imagination could even be counted as sex, and why? Authors may include Whitman, Thoreau, Jewett, Melville, Hawthorne, James, Douglas, Dickinson, and Joseph Smith. (Same as English 252 and Gender and Women’s Studies 252.)

Prerequisite: One first-year seminar or 100-level course in English.

*Note:* This course fulfills the literature of the Americas requirement for English majors.

253b. **Constructions of the Body.** Spring 2010. **Susan Bell.**

Explores the body as a reflection and construction of language, a source of metaphor, and a political and social “space.” Considers historical and cross-cultural studies about men’s and women’s bodies, sexuality, gender, and power. Throughout, draws from and compares theories of the body in sociology, women’s studies, and gay and lesbian studies. (Same as Gender and Women’s Studies 253 and Sociology 253.)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101 or Anthropology 101.

255c. **Contemporary Literature and Culture in English: Cold War Literature and Culture.** Spring 2010. **Celeste Goodridge.**

Explores different topics across genres in contemporary, post-1945 literature and culture in English. Focuses on how the literature and culture of this period both reflects and subverts the
dominant ideologies of the period. Authors may include Capote, Salinger, Plath, Highsmith, Baldwin, Richard Yates, McCarthy, Albee, and Williams. Research projects required. (Same as English 255.)

Prerequisite: One first-year seminar or 100-level course in English.

Note: This course fulfills the literature of the Americas requirement for English majors.

[257c. Classic Twentieth-Century LGBT Cultural Texts. (Same as English 257 and Gender and Women’s Studies 257.)]

[266c - ESD. The City as American History. (Same as History 226.)]


[310c. Gay and Lesbian Cinema. (Same as Film Studies 310 and Gender and Women’s Studies 310.)]

312b. Resistance and Accommodation: Comparative Perspectives on Gender. Fall 2009. NANCY RILEY.

In societies across the world, many face discrimination and oppression because of gender stratification and because of inequalities that arise from both local norms and expectations and from societal-level and even global-level forces. In response to the inequities they face, people have found ways to live in, accommodate, challenge, and change those inequalities. Examines gender inequalities and the ways that those in different communities and societies have reacted to them. Each student conducts a major research project on an issue of gender. (Same as Gender and Women’s Studies 312 and Sociology 312.)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101 or Anthropology 101 and one of: Anthropology 203, 230, or 237 (same as Gender and Women’s Studies 237 and Latin American Studies 237), Sociology 204 (same as Gender and Women’s Studies 204), 211, 253 (same as Gender and Women’s Studies 253), 265 (same as Asian Studies 264 and Gender and Women’s Studies 265), or 267 (same as Gender and Women’s Studies 267).

[316c. Shakespeare’s Sonnets. (Same as English 316.)]

318c. Oscar Wilde. Fall 2009. AVIVA BRIEFEL.

An in-depth study of Wilde’s fiction, poetry, drama, and critical essays within the context of fin-de-siècle British culture. Topics include decadence, aestheticism, dandyism, queer performance, and the Wilde trials. Also examines Wilde’s position within current literary criticism. (Same as English 318.)

Prerequisite: One 200-level course in English or gay and lesbian studies, or permission of the instructor.

[326b. The Psychology of Stigma. (Same as Gender and Women’s Studies 325 and Psychology 326.)]

338c. Sex and the Word: Freud, Psychoanalysis, American Literature. Spring 2010. PETER COVIELLO.

An examination of one of the great theorists of intimacy and its vexations, and of the provision his works make—or might make—for the study of literature. Aims not to produce successfully “Freudian” readings of given texts, or to assign one or another of Freud’s categories of pathology to fictional characters, but to test what sort of purchase Freud’s varied investigations—of language and desire, of loss and transformation, and especially of the intricate relations of gender and sexuality to one another, and to the very experience of selfhood—might afford us in our encounter with the pleasures and problems of modern fiction. Authors will include Freud and many of his critics, as well as Henry James, Nella
Courses of Instruction

Larsen, Willa Cather, James Baldwin, and others. (Same as English 338.)

Prerequisite: One 200-level course in English or permission of the instructor.

Note: This course fulfills the literature of the Americas requirement for English majors.

[346c. Philosophy of Gender: Sex and Love. (Same as Gender and Women’s Studies 346 and Philosophy 346.])


An examination of gender roles and female sexuality as central controversies of modern German culture. Analyzing nineteenth- and twentieth-century artifacts (works of literature, films, and paintings) from four distinct periods in German history—the fin-de-siècle, the Roaring Twenties, the Nazi era, and divided Germany—compares historical and artistic representations of women, particularly those women who push the boundaries of normative sexual and social behavior. A variety of texts will be used to discuss such diverse social phenomena and contested territory as the women’s movement/feminism, morality crusades, sexology, prostitution, marriage reform, abortion, and lesbianism. Frequent short writings, several critical interpretive essays, and a final project based upon visual images of women spanning the time periods discussed required. (Same as Gender and Women’s Studies 390 and German 390.)

Gender and Women’s Studies

Jennifer Scanlon, Program Director
Anne E. Clifford, Program Administrator

Professor: Jennifer Scanlon
Associate Professor: Kristen R. Ghodsee
Fellow: Keona K. Ervin (History)
Contributing Faculty: Susan Bell, Aviva Briefel, Jorunn Buckley†, Judith Casselberry, David A. Collings, Rachel Ex Connelly, Sara A. Dickey**, Pamela M. Fletcher, Celeste Goodridge, David Hecht, Sree Padma Holt, Ann L. Kibbie, Jane Knox-Voina, Raymond Miller, Elizabeth Pritchard, Marilyn Reizbaum, Nancy Riley, Rachel Sturman, Susan L. Tananbaum, Karen Teoh, Shu-chin Tsui, June A. Vail, Krista Van Vleet†

The gender and women’s studies curriculum is an interdisciplinary program that incorporates recent research done on women and gender. Gender and women’s studies combines the scholarly traditions of each field in new and productive ways to develop a culture of critical thinking about sexuality, gender, race, and class. Courses in gender and women’s studies investigate the experience of women in light of the social construction of gender and its meaning across cultures and historic periods. Gender construction is explored as an institutionalized means of structuring inequality and dominance. The program offers a wide range of courses taught by faculty members from many departments and programs.