



SUSAN B. ANTHONY INSTITUTE
FOR GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

Fall 2009

COURSE LISTINGS

FALL COURSES BY DAY AND TIME

MONDAY

2:00 PM – 4:40 PM

3:25 PM – 4:40 PM

4:50 PM – 7:30 PM

WST 236/REL 220

WST 100

WST 206F/HLS 206

Jewish Women's Writings

Politics of Cultural Morality

Feminism, Gender and Health

TUESDAY

2:00 PM – 4:40 PM

WST 373/473

HIS 373W/473

Sex & Gender in the American City

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

6:15 PM – 7:30 PM

WST 203F/PSC 246

WST 213/DAN 220

WST 218/ANT 244

WST 115/ANT 102

Women in Politics

Sacred Dance and Yoga

Marriage, Family & Community

Intro to Medical Anthropology

TUESDAY, THURSDAY

9:40 AM – 10:55 AM

9:40 AM – 10:55 AM

11:05 AM – 12:20 PM

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

3:25 PM – 4:40 PM

6:30 PM – 7:45 PM

WST 217/ANT 218

WST 267/ENG267

WST 232/GER 232

WST 103/ LIN 103

WST 389/ENG 380

PSY 267/CSP 267

WST 214/AH 210

WST 177/DAN 180

Birth & Death

Changing Genres of Erotica

Wizards, Magic and Fantasy

Language and Sexuality

Problems of Western Civilization

Psychology of Gender

Women as Image & Text

Creative Middle Eastern Dance

University of Rochester
Susan B Anthony Institute for
Gender and Women's Studies

Course Descriptions

WST 100 Politics of Cultural Morality

2 Credit Course. This course will discuss traditional conceptions of binary genders and related gender roles that have evolved into more fluid understandings of femininity and masculinity. Prescriptions dictating the gender role behaviors equated with normative masculinity and femininity have become increasingly malleable as a result of social, cultural, and ideological changes catalyzed by the feminist and gay rights movements. Despite these seemingly radical shifts in cultural perceptions of gender roles and polymorphous sexualities, men and women are still largely held to different moral and ethical standards. Explore a variety of texts ranging from tabloid magazines, and mainstream "hard news" journalistic sources to entertainment based television programs, cinema, biography, and reality television.

D. Holtzman

WST 103/LIN 103 Language and Sexuality

This course will investigate various aspects of language as used by members of sexual minority groups, focusing on language of and about gay men and lesbians, including "reclaimed epithets" (e.g., 'dyke' and 'queer'), gender vs. sexuality vs. sex, and the role of language in creating/maintaining sexual categories and identities.

J. Runner

WST 115/ANT 102 Intro to Medical Anthropology

This course will examine a broad range of topics in the study of medical and health care systems from an anthropological and cross cultural perspective. An introductory section will integrate the many approaches to illness and disease that constitute "medical anthropology," and the body of the course will consider several major areas of anthropological work on these subjects: ethnomedicine, or "folk medicine"; childbearing and family planning; the roles of patients and healers; transcultural psychiatry; and relations between gender and illness. The course will use studies from a wide range of traditional cultures throughout the world, with frequent reference to the application of this research to modern "Western" medicine. *L. Metcalf*

WST 177/DAN 180 Creative Middle Eastern Dance

2 Credit Course. Unveil the grace and beauty residing in the creative nature of Middle Eastern Dance. Improve strength, flexibility and self awareness of the body. Class work will include meditative movement, dance technique, improvisation and rhythm identification through music and drumming. Specific dance forms such as Egyptian & Turkish Oriental, Tunisian, American Tribal and Folkloric/Bedouin styles of North Africa will be taught. Discourse and research topics will explore issues of gender, body image, historical perspectives and Orientalism. *K. Scott*

WST 203F/PSC 246 Women in Politics

This course will explore women's evolving roles in American politics. Topics include: a brief historical review of women's rights; women's roles in social movements; and women in electoral politics and as elected officials. Students will examine the quality of women's political leadership, comparing and contrasting it to the traditional gender-based models. Course readings will be supplemented by video presentations and guest lectures. *N. Bredes*

WST 206F/HLS 206 Feminism, Gender & Health

Feminism, Gender, and Health considers how theories of gender, social organization, and biological sex shape the questions asked and explanations and interventions offered in the areas of health, disease, and well-being. We examine the effects of gender, social class, and race in mediating health effects, with particular emphasis on women's health. Some issues examined will include the life cycle and transitions, collective and individual trauma, access to health services, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and longevity. *J. Lightweis-Goff*

WST 213/DAN 220 Sacred Dance & Yoga

2 Credit Course. This class will explore what sacred dance is and how the sacred can be revealed from within, through the study and practice of the following topics: a dance history overview, goddess worship and the feminine spirit, the women iconoclasts of American modern dance, spirituality and the body temple and various yoga practice techniques. Students will also learn traditional dance sequences from Namibia, India, Israel, Greece and the Middle East, creative community circle dancing and dances of Universal Peace. Class requirements included journaling, reading assignments from the text book and handouts, viewing video and attendance at dance events.

J. McCausland

WST 214/AH 210 Women as Image & Text

Feminist art historians have changed the way we think about images of women, works by women artists, and the very notion of artistic genius. This course will investigate the way in which visual images of women participate with other cultural and social factors in the construction of the idea of woman. It will look at types and conventions in works by male and female artists, as well as in anonymous prints and advertising from different periods, with a concentration on the 19th and 20th centuries. Readings will introduce a variety of approaches.

G. Seiberling

WST 217/ANT 218 Birth & Death I: Vital Events Perliv

Birth and Death explores the ways in which men and women in a variety of cultures conceive of and deal with birth and death at the individual, family and societal levels. Using concepts from anthropology, demography, and other social sciences we will examine issues such as infanticide; excess female mortality; famine; emerging infectious diseases; the "population explosion" and the "demographic transition;" the "baby boom" and the "birth dearth;" "sexuality" and "family planning;" "abortion," "teenage pregnancy" and "single parenthood."

A. Carter

WST 218/ANT 244 Marriage, Family & Community

In a culture that places high value on individualism and self-reliance, what is the role of families and communities? Has September 11 shifted the emphasis to place more value on families and communities? Are they seen as enduring/reassuring 'building blocks' of American society? Do Americans agree on what families and communities are, or should be? How do class, ethnicity and race relations affect communities? How do recent revelations about corporate greed and the decline of the stock market affect families and communities? *A. Emmett*

WST 232/GER 232 Wizards, Magic & Fantasy

This course traces the development of the fantasy literature genre from ETA Hoffmann's *The Golden Pot* to JK Rowling's Harry Potter series. Particular attention is devoted to the tropes and structures of fantasy narratives as they offer the reader an escape from a mundane or threatening world and provide intricate social critiques. Topics addressed include: wizards, witches, talking cats, flights of fantasy, new worlds, and social constructions of work, class, others, families, mothers, fathers, masculinity, femininity etc. Authors include: Hoffmann, Rowling, Shelley, Orwell, Tolkien, Kafka, Atwood etc. *S. Gustafson*

WST 236/REL 220 Jewish Women's Writings

This seminar will trace the American Jewish experience, from the Eastern European immigrant experience to the recent religious revival, through the lens of Jewish women's literature. By reading these narratives by Jewish women, we will explore how they understand both Judaism, America, and themselves at the time of their writing. We will examine how their pasts are reconstructed and how their presents are understood. Spanning the last century, we will cover topics such as immigration, ethnicity, religion, politics, and feminism. We will ask questions: What is Jewish literature? How is the Holocaust represented? What does it mean to be an American? What place does Judaism have in an American identity? We will also examine the ways women have both rejected and embraced traditional Judaism. Texts will include both fiction and memoirs. *N. Rubel*

WST 267/CSP 267 Psychology of Gender

Exploration of the ways males and females differ in interaction, theories of development of sex differences, consequences for social change. *J. Manly*

WST 267/ENG 267 Changing Genres of Erotica

Recently the large-scale dissemination of erotic and pornographic literature and film has begun to affect the majority of the population in the West. There are two main issues in the course: 1) the history of the changing genres of erotica and the social changes taking place because of its wide dissemination; and 2) the proposition that if societies were different little harm and much good would come from the inclusion of erotica in peoples reading and viewing habits: erotic materials, by removing sex from the realm of the forbidden and viewing it as a species of everyday life, can contribute to the education of both sexes and people of all sexual tastes and preferences. *D. Blicch*

WST 373/HIS 373 Sex & Gender in American City

This course will explore the role of gender and sexuality in American cities from the nineteenth century to the present. Through intensive reading and a research paper we will explore how gender and sexuality shaped the urban environment in the arenas of labor, politics, everyday life, and the built environment. We will also examine how the structures and cultures of American cities prescribed normative gender and sex roles on urban residents. *V. Wolcott*

WST 389/ENG 380 Problems of Western Civilization

This seminar stipulates the following issues as underlying problems of Western civilization: pederasty, slavery, censorship, heresy, witch-hunting, androcentrism and misogyny, violence against children, and war. It studies literary treatments of these issues alongside nonliterary treatments. Emphasis is on how literature (and our responses to it) dealing with these problems reaches forms of understanding that are distinct from what is given by critical and historical accounts. The seminar addresses how the different problems overlap and continue in contemporary societies. We will ask how they are rationalized and treated either as normal, as strange aberrations, though rarely as practices that constitute civilization. *D. Blicch*

WST 473/HIS 473 Sex & Gender in American City

See course description for WST 373.