

SUMMER AND FALL 2024 UNDERGRADUATE COURSE NARRATIVES

**Department of Women's, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies**

For questions about permits, course registration, and degree requirements please make an appointment to see your academic advisor by visiting <https://cloud.usf.edu/eScheduler/student>.

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WST 2250: Female Experience in America

Summer B: Offered online (CRN 51415) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

Our understanding of the past is transformed when considered through women's experiences. This course reexamines U.S. History through the lived experiences of women from the late 1800s to the present, providing alternate conceptions of what and whom constitutes "the U.S.," and thus "U.S. history." While we will identify common experiences between different groups of women, we will also notice the differences and divisions among them. We will highlight how women's identities cannot be separated along lines of gender, race, and class, but intersect to form unique and distinctive experiences.

We further investigate how a variety of women have created and responded to shifting and contested cultural, political, and social discourses and events. Positioning ourselves as both students and scholars, we link the historical journey of American women to current social and political conditions surrounding contemporary experiences, like voter identification mandates, immigration debates, and the impact of 9/11.

This course meets the FKL requirements for human historical context and humanities.

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WST 2600: Human Sexual Behavior

Summer B: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:30—4:45 PM (CRN 51403) with Jennifer Ellerman-Queen, M.A..

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 91917) with Jennifer Ellerman-Queen, M.A.

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 91954) with Jessany Maldonado, Ph.D.

Let's talk about sex!

Mainstream America is awash in mixed and often conflicting messages about sex. On one hand we are bombarded by sexually explicit imagery, yet there is a conspiracy of silence when it comes to having frank, honest discussions about sex. In this class we will begin to delve into and pull apart notions about sex and gender from historical, social, cultural, political, and biological perspectives in an effort to create a holistic and interdisciplinary paradigm that more accurately encompasses human experience.

We will touch on topics such as: sexual response, double standards, gender vs. sex, gender roles, masculinity, heteronormativity, gender non-conforming, birth control, sexually transmitted infections, sexy safer sex, sexual expression and variation, and sexual violence/coercion. In addition to spirited discussions, there will be in-class activities, and videos that will allow students the opportunity to engage in problem-solving that embraces sex-positive and equitable answers to questions current issues faced across mainstream American culture.

Think of it as the sex education class that you only wish you would have taken in high school... only a lot more fun and thought-provoking! Upon completion, students will have the tools and knowledge necessary to make informed choices about their sexual health and address real-world issues in a way that is grounded in human and civil rights in relation to sexuality.

This course is part of the University of South Florida's General Education Curriculum. It is certified for Creative Thinking. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This will involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review via Canvas. This class also meets the FKL requirement for Social and Behavioral Science.

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WST 3015: Intro to Women's Studies

Summer B: Offered online (CRN 51405 and 51422) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

Summer B: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM—1:30 PM (CRN 51418) with Amanda LeBlanc, Ph.D.

Fall: Offered online (CRN 94158 and 91966) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30—10:45 AM (CRN 91961) with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 91962) with Jessany Maldonado, Ph.D.

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 91938) with Lindsey Carman Williams, Ph.D.

In this course we develop critical frameworks for thinking about sex, gender, and sexuality. What do these words mean? Are these things “natural” or might they vary by person and time and place? Do our go-to ideas about sex, gender, and sexuality fit all experiences? What other ways of thinking about sex, gender, and sexuality exist – in our culture and in other cultures? Do sex, gender, and sexual orientation matter or are we all “just human?” What roles have feminist movements and gender justice movements played in advancing these questions? And what do we make of the backlash that says “feminists are man-haters” or that “real men don’t cry?” In what ways do gender norms control us all? We also think about the ways that sex, gender, and sexual orientation are constructed and institutionalized – in our friendships and love lives, in our families and kin networks, in our schools and workplaces, in pop culture and politics, and in our culture more generally.

Among the issues we might explore are ongoing debates concerning public and private, the value of feminism and gender justice movements, equality and difference, and the intersection of gender with other axes of identity like class, religion, and race. This course is foundational if you’re going into education, medicine, law, social welfare, journalism, parenthood, or any other career that involves... Wait for it...! Wait for it...! Working with humans! Why? Because all humans have some relationship to sex, gender, and sexuality as individuals and as part of larger social structures..

This course draws heavily on the notions that the personal is political and that the political is personal, connecting theory and academic thinking with “real life” and requiring that students become adept at doing the same.

This course meets the FKL requirement for social and behavioral science. This course is part of the University of South Florida's General Education Curriculum. It is certified for Human & Cultural Diversity. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This will involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review via Canvas.

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WST 3311: Issues in Feminism

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2—3:15 PM (CRN 96030) with Lindsey Carman Williams, Ph.D.

This course explores the question: "What are some pressing contemporary issues in feminism?" We will explore this question through a variety of interconnected topics. These topics may include, but are not limited to: exploring the "female" experience and what it means to live a feminist life; intersectionality; coalitional issues in contemporary feminism such as neoliberal feminism and popular feminism; beauty politics; fat feminism/studies; disability; care work/self-care; sexuality; reproductive freedom; the social institution of marriage; motherhood; criminalization and abolition; and academic attacks on feminism. Creativity will be explored and examined in assigned texts and encouraged in course discussions and assignments. The interconnections between these topics will be examined through the individual, interpersonal, and institutional levels of society.

This course is open to all students regardless of major. It is a required course for the WGS major.

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WST 3324: Women, Environment, and Gender

Summer C: Offered online (CRN 51417) with Zoe Fine, Ph.D.

Fall: Offered online (CRN 93203) with Zoe Fine, Ph.D.

We are our environments. We concurrently create, consume, and are consumed by the images and messages about difference that bombard us every day. In Women, Environment, and Gender, students excavate and analyze their individual and collective experiences of sex, gender, race, socioeconomic status, sexuality, dis/able-bodiedness, age, and nationality in and through the lenses of the very environments we create and perpetuate. Students accomplish this all while having this multisensory, multimedia 100% online class count as an Exit Requirement Major Works, an FKL Natural Science (NS) Life Science core, and/or an Environmental Policy Concentration course!

In WST 3324, students will learn course content ranging from feminist and critical race theories to environmental and socioeconomic oriented scholarship, and from historically situated narratives to literature centered on difference, and apply it to their life experiences. Through these reflective and reflexive applications, students will illustrate in their course assignments how theory and practice inextricably coalesce in Women's and Gender Studies. This 100% online learning experience will give students the rare opportunity to discover strategies of resistance and subversion while gaining tools that will empower us to positively change our environments, to create a brighter 21st century for all. Join us on this journey of a lifetime!

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ISS 3420: Disability Studies

Summer B: Offered online (CRN 51421) with Viki Peer, Ph.D.

In this course we will examine disability as an aspect of human and cultural diversity by exploring perspectives on minds and bodies that do not fit neatly within normative expectations. This course was developed by faculty representing three different USF departments: Women's and Gender Studies, Sociology, and Communications Sciences and Disorders. Thus, it is interdisciplinary and will explore a variety of disability experiences (e.g. those related to physical, developmental, sensory, and psychiatric impairments and chronic illnesses). This course will use disability justice as a theoretical framework as we examine disability's intersections with other aspects of identity such as race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and nation. This course will approach disability as a socially constructed and politically mediated category of difference as we learn how disabled people respond to marginalization through forms of activism, action, and collective care.

This course satisfies the Enhanced General Education Requirement: Human and Cultural Diversity.

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WST 3380: Sexuality Studies

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 91956) with Jessany Maldonado, Ph.D.

Specifically, this course introduces the interdisciplinary study of sexuality — the social creation and cultural representation of sexual identity, sexual behavior, sexual norms, and other iterations of sexual expression — by examining relevant beliefs, practices, debates, and political struggles. Lectures, readings, and class discussions consider how people of different backgrounds across various historical periods and societies have assumed and expressed sexuality. Topics may include: the scientific study of sexual differences; sexuality; romantic love and marriage; parenthood; reproduction; birth control and new reproductive technologies; interpersonal violence; health, body image, and popular culture; and feminist movements.

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WST 3602: Intro to LGBTQ Cultures

Summer C: Offered online (CRN 54326) with Jessany Maldonado, Ph.D.

Specifically, this course introduces the interdisciplinary study of gender—the social creation and cultural representation of femininity and masculinity and other forms of gender expression — by examining relevant beliefs, practices, debates and political struggles. Lectures, readings, and class discussions consider how people of different ethnicities, classes, and nationalities in various historical periods and different societies have assumed and expressed gendered identities. Topics may include: the scientific study of sexual differences; sexuality; romantic love and marriage; parenthood; reproduction; birth control and new reproductive technologies; interpersonal violence; fitness, health, body image, and popular culture; the sexual division of labor and economic development; and feminist movements.

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WST 4262: Literature by Women of Color in the Diaspora

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM (CRN 96028) with Lindsey Carman Williams, Ph.D.

Listening to and learning from marginalized perspectives, especially those of women of color, is necessary in order to critique systems of oppression such as white supremacy, patriarchy, colonialism, ableism, and heteronormativity. Octavia Butler once wrote, “I just knew there were stories I wanted to tell,” and this course centers around the stories of women of color (WOC) who push for hope in a society that constantly discriminates against their identities. In WST 4262, we will read an array of works written by women of color that not only critiques systems of oppression but also provides hope and resistance. A driving question in this course is: “In what ways do women of color writers explore intersections of race, gender, age, nationality, sexuality, dis/ability, and socioeconomic class as it relates to their identities, as well as how their standpoints navigate through and combat systems of oppression?” Some texts included are Carmen Maria Machado’s *In the Dream House*, Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*, Michelle Zauner’s *Crying in H Mart*, and Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*. Students will read a wide range of genres, including poetry, essays, memoirs, short stories, and novels, to observe how contemporary WOC authors respond to cultural and social issues, such as gender-based/intimate-partner violence, mental health/well-being, generational disconnections (e.g., mother/daughter), immigration, and sexuality. This course satisfies the FKL Writing Intensive, the Exit FKL, and Gordon Rule requirements. If you’re interested in learning more about this course or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lindsey Carman Williams (she/her) (licarman@usf.edu).

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WST 4561: Contemporary Feminist Theory

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 96031) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

This course will explore foundational as well as less well-known but nonetheless impactful contributions to the interdisciplinary field of feminist theory. We will examine in detail how feminist theories help us to rethink body-minds, identities, history, politics, affect, power relations, and knowledge production, as well as the relationships between them. Students will leave the course with a solid critical understanding of key concepts and debates in feminist theory, and will also develop their own research projects using a writing workshop format. Along the way, we will read texts that productively blur the boundaries between disciplines and between feminist theory and a range of adjacent fields, including black studies, postcolonial studies, indigenous studies, queer theory, transgender studies, disability studies, media and cultural studies, and science and technology studies.

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WST 4930: Global Sexual Economies

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 91936) with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

This course examines how gendered bodies and sexual practices are regulated in national and international contexts. We will look into political, social, and economic processes shaping various forms of regulation, such as state control of reproduction, population management, and the movement of sexualized labor. How are reproductive politics intertwined with global economies? Who is doing what work and why? What factors drive people to migrate? What is the role of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and national status in the persistence of human trafficking? And who sustains our households? These are some of the questions we will be discussing in this class. We will explore how embodied identity, gender norms, racial dynamics, and global economies impact systems like production, reproduction, and consumption. The content will show how gender, sexuality, class, race-ethnicity, and identity affect the social and economic value of labor. Through our readings, assignments, and course discussions, students will develop a critical perspective on global economies and will become better equipped to grasp its influence on body regulations based on factors like gender, sexuality, race, class, citizenship, ability, and more.

This course will be taught by one of WGSS newest hires. If you are interested in learning more about Dr. Shchurko's research, visit <https://osu.academia.edu/TatsianaShchurko>.

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WST 4930: Sex Work and Trafficking in the Sex Industry

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM—12:15 PM at USF St. Petersburg (CRN 96033) with Jill McCracken, Ph.D.

In this course, we will explore sex work and human trafficking in the sex industry (referred to as trafficking). You will learn how sex work and trafficking are defined, recognized, and categorized, the complexities involved, and pay particular attention to how discourse can create and shift power.

We will examine theories and discourses used to represent sex work and trafficking and the ways they represent, call attention to, and even create violence. Integrated in theory and knowledge about gender, sexuality, and race, you will apply these theories to studies about sex work and trafficking and explore their real-world applications within sex work and anti-trafficking organizations and policies.

In addition to examining how arguments surrounding sex work and trafficking are constructed and shaped by the contexts in which they are written, you will demonstrate your understanding of these theories by using them in your own arguments about sex work and human trafficking. You will critically analyze an aspect of sex work or trafficking in the sex industry that illustrates the depth and breadth of your knowledge.

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WST 4930: Queer Hope and Pleasure

Fall: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30—1:45 PM (CRN 96043) with Dana Ahern, Ph.D.

In his 2009 text, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*, José Muñoz describes the possibility for queerness through opening oneself up to the “perception of queerness as manifestation in and of ecstatic time.” Ecstasy holds in its experience a moment in which we are removed from/taken out of our present, our here-and-now. It is a moment of longing in which we are both within that ephemerality as well as experiencing the naming of desire and—

a naming of a future. Ecstasy allows us to see the paradoxes in pleasure, giving space to the contradictions, nuances, and differences, and in that, opening up what is meant in thinking with the future and potentiality. This course is grounded in women of color feminisms and explores the development of theories on hope, futurism, and utopia. The reading follows foundational texts in affect, queer, and critical race theories, examining their genealogies critically. We will examine debates within the context of future studies, starting with the notion of queer utopia by José Muñoz and situating it within the larger context of women of color feminisms. We will analyze the development of these theories and explore the limits, possibilities, and new directions of the scholarship.

This course will be taught by one of WGSS newest hires. If you are interested in learning more about Dr. Ahern’s research interests, check out <https://www.hampshire.edu/academics/faculty/dana-ahern>.

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WST 4935: Capstone/Senior Project

Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2—3:15 PM (CRN 91955) with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

This course examines how gendered bodies and sexual practices are regulated in national and international contexts. We will look into political, social, and economic processes shaping various forms of regulation, such as state control of reproduction, population management, and the movement of sexualized labor. How are reproductive politics intertwined with global economies? Who is doing what work and why? What factors drive people to migrate? What is the role of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and national status in the persistence of human trafficking? And who sustains our households? These are some of the questions we will be discussing in this class. We will explore how embodied identity, gender norms, racial dynamics, and global economies impact systems like production, reproduction, and consumption. The content will show how gender, sexuality, class, race-ethnicity, and identity affect the social and economic value of labor. Through our readings, assignments, and course discussions, students will develop a critical perspective on global economies and will become better equipped to grasp its influence on body regulations based on factors like gender, sexuality, race, class, citizenship, ability, and more.

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WST 4940: Women's Studies Internship

Fall: Select meeting dates (CRN 92292) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

What the heck is an internship?!

Do you ever wonder, "What will I do with a WGS degree?!"

Do you want some real world experience putting your WGS knowledge into action?

Do you want a rockin' resume when you start applying for jobs or graduate school?

A WGS Internship is your chance to connect your educational experiences with feminism and social justice in a professional business and non-profit environment beyond the classroom. Um. Okay.

What does that mean?

It means -- You'll work on-site with a local organization for the entire semester -- earning 1-3 hours of academic credit that count toward your degree and toward graduation (oh yeah!), contributing to the success of our communities (um social justice for the win!), and gaining valuable skills for your own career (skills to pay the bills!) -- all within the context of a feminist and social justice framework. Yeah, that's right! REAL WORLD experience with a FEMINIST flavor!

And best of all, the internship is keyed to YOUR specific career interests and skills, with Dr.

Wendland helping you along the way to sort your internship experiences into valuable job skills. And don't worry! A moment of frustration can become a key skill on your resume. If you find out that "Ew, yeah... I don't like working with children after all," then that helps us discuss your job search. Regular check-in chats with Dr. Wendland keep the whole experience focused on your success.

WGS Interns have made connections with important Florida politicians, lobbied the state legislature, assisted with ACA "Obamacare" education, written sex-positive blogs, become trained self-defense instructors, done art therapy with young girls, organized food banks, developed outreach presentations for young voters, assisted Latino/a immigrants, web designed for a sexual assault crisis center, and more. And here's the thing -- THOSE experiences help YOU meet the CONTACTS you need on the job market!

To learn more (even if you're still not quite sure what an internship is!), drop Dr. Wendland an email at miltonw@usf.edu

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