WGSS Statement Summer 2020:
WGSS stands in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives and in opposition to all forms of racist violence, especially violence enacted by the state and including carceral uses of feminism. See full statement and links here.

Mission

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary department for students who wish to explore gender and its relation to other axes of power: race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. We use these concepts to analyze human experience in its bodily, political, economic and cultural dimensions. Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies covers a complex variety of theoretical and empirical scholarship both within traditional disciplines and in interdisciplinary frames in the humanities, in the social sciences and in the natural sciences as well as combinations of the three. The Department is committed to critical perspectives and bodies of knowledge that contribute to possibilities for transformation and change.

Early in their sophomore year, students interested in the major should consult the Department to plan their major. Students also have the option of electing a combined major and a minor. Areas of faculty research specialization include feminist and queer politics and ethics in U.S. public life; contemporary and historical social movements; gender and global political economy; sexuality and the state; sociology of the body, sex and gender; critical science studies of gender and sexuality; transnational feminisms; Asia-Pacific cultural studies; comparative literature and critical theory.

Complementing the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, the Barnard Center for Research on Women maintains an extensive and expanding resource collection on women's issues. Many of these resources, including BCRW's own online journal, The Scholar & Feminist Online, are available on BCRW's multi-media website. BCRW also sponsors a variety of events that are invaluable to students interested in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies participates in a Consortium with Africana Studies and American Studies that supports the development of intellectual and curricular projects across the three fields and offers a concentration and minor in studies of race and ethnicity, with an attention to global and diasporic frameworks. We are particularly interested in relations between and among, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity and nation. The Consortium is working to create models for research and teaching that contribute to new ways of understanding processes of social differentiation and that help to create new possibilities for social relations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Major, students will be able to attain the following outcomes:

- Identify and denaturalize core assumptions that are attached to present-day systems of gender, race and sexuality;
- Understand the variability and complexity of social identities in multiple historical, social and cultural contexts;
- Demonstrate through oral and written presentations their understanding of gender, sexuality and race as mutually constituted and relatively autonomous categories of social difference;
- Develop an awareness of a broad range of historical and transnational contexts for studying gender in relation to other social relations of power;
- Develop a familiarity with major theoretical perspectives and concepts of feminist thought and practice;
- Distinguish between different kinds of feminist claims and critically assess their effects in the world;
- Understand and apply key social theory concepts and perspectives as these have been used in critical scholarly and activist engagements with contemporary issues and problems;
- Integrate gender, race and sexuality theoretical frameworks along with a critical awareness of the politics of knowledge production in the conception and writing of an original research paper.

Chair: Rebecca Jordan Young (Professor)

Professors: Elizabeth Bernstein, Janet Jakobsen, Rebecca Jordan-Young, Neferti Tadiar

Associate Professors: Manijeh Moridian

Assistant Professors: Marisa Solomon

Requirements for the Major

The WGSS major requires a minimum of 11 core courses distributed as follows:

1) Introductory course: Select one course from any of three emphases (gender, ethnicity and race, or sexuality)

| WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies | 3 |
| or SOCI UN3302 Sociology of Gender | |
| WMST BC2150 Practicing Intersectionality: The interdisciplinary study of race, gender, and ethnicity | 3 |
| or CSER UN1040 Critical Approaches to the Study of Ethnicity and Race | |
| WMST BC3125 Pleasures and Power: An Introduction to Sexuality Studies | 4 |
| or SOCI V3318 The Sociology of Sexuality | |
| 2-5) Four core foundation courses: | |
| WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches | 3 |
| WMST UN3311 FEMINIST THEORY | 4 |
| WMST BC3514 HIST APPROACHES FEMINIST QUES | 4.00 |
| WMST UN3915 Gender and Power in Transnational Perspective (Or other approved course in transnational gender/feminist studies, e.g. HIST BC4999 Transnational Feminism.) | 4 |
6-10) Electives: Select five electives, at least two of these must be at an advanced level and require a research paper assignment; one of the advanced electives may be the Advanced Writing-Intensive Research Seminar (Honors Thesis). 1

11) Sr. Seminar:
WMST UN3525 SEN SEM:KNWLDG PRACTCE POWER 4

Notes:

- Electives – WGSS majors are required to take 5 electives; at least two of these electives must be advanced seminars (4 credits) and require a research paper assignment. One of the advanced electives may be the Advanced Writing-Intensive Research Seminar (Senior Seminar II: Honors Thesis).

- WMST BC 3903 Senior Seminar I: Knowledge, Practice, Power – offered in the fall; restricted to WGSS Seniors

Requirements for the Combined Major

The Combined Major Requirements Eight Courses, distributed as follows:

1) One introductory course (choose one out of three theoretical emphases): gender, race & ethnicity, or sexuality:

WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies 3
or SOCI UN3302Q Sociology of Gender

WMST BC2150 Practicing Intersectionality: The interdisciplinary study of race, gender, and ethnicity 3
or CSER UN1040 Critical Approaches to the Study of Ethnicity and Race

WMST BC3125 Pleasures and Power: An Introduction to Sexuality Studies 3
or SOCI V3318 The Sociology of Sexuality

2-5) WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches 3
WMST UN3311 FEMINIST THEORY 4
WMST BC3514 HIST APPROACHES FEMINIST QUES 4
WMST UN3915 Gender and Power in Transnational Perspective (OR One other approved course in transnational gender/feminist studies (e.g. HIST BC4999 Transnational Feminism)) 4

4-5) Two WGSS electives (from the same list that applies to WGSS majors)

2. Fall 2020

WMST BC1050 WOMEN AND HEALTH. 3.00 points.
Combines critical feminist and anti-racist analyses of medicine with current research in epidemiology and biomedicine to understand health and health disparities as co-produced by social systems and biology. (Prerequisite for Spring A course “Racism is a Pre-Existing Condition”)

Fall 2020: WMST BC1050
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 1050 001/00277 T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA Rebecca Young 3.00 101/100

WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches. 3.00 points.
Combines critical feminist and anti-racist analyses of medicine with current research in epidemiology and biomedicine to understand health and health disparities as co-produced by social systems and biology. (Prerequisite for Spring A course “Racism is a Pre-Existing Condition”)

Fall 2020: WMST BC2140
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 2140 000/00768 T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm Room TBA Alexander Pittman 3.00 17
WMST 2140 001/00767 T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm Room TBA Alexander Pittman 3.00 6/40

WMST UN3311 FEMINIST THEORY. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: LIMITED TO 20 BY INSTRUC PERM; ATTEND FIRST CLASS Understanding gender as produced by the relations of domination of colonialism, the transatlantic slave trade, and indigenous genocide

Fall 2020: WMST UN3311
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
WMST 3311 001/00293 W 4:10pm - 6:00pm Room TBA Marisa Solomon 4.00 20/18
WMST UN3312 Theorizing Activism. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Critical Approaches or Feminist Theory or permission of instructor.
Considering local, national, and international activist case studies through social movement theories, we work together to understand what activism looks like, the people who engage in it, how activist messages are constructed, and how visions of transformation are developed.

WMST UN3514 Historical Approaches to Feminist Questions. 4 points.
This class is an introduction to the debates on women that played a dominant role in both the philosophical and literary traditions of the European/Atlantic world from the classical period through the seventeenth-century. Beginning with the works of ancient political theory that actively debated women's political, social, and ethical position in society (chiefly Aristotle, Plato, and Plutarch), the course will address the pan-European books of "Good Women" that served as exemplary case studies, the *querelle des femmes* (or debate on women) that dominated political and humanist discourse of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the crucial importance of the political analogies between the household and the state and the marital and social contracts in the premodern world (and, indeed, in our own). We will study works from ancient Greece and Rome and medieval and early modern Italy, Spain, France, England, Ethiopia and Mexico, and topics ranging from domestic violence and political resistance theory to transvestitism and lesbianism.

WMST BC3518 STUDIES IN U.S. IMPERIALISM. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 20 students. Historical, comparative study of the cultural effects and social experiences of U.S. imperialism, with attention to race, gender and sexuality in practices of domination and struggle

Fall 2020: WMST BC3518

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<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Section/Call Number</th>
<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 3518</td>
<td>001/00298</td>
<td>M W 11:00am - 2:25pm Room TBA</td>
<td>Neferti Tadiar</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>21/18</td>
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WMST UN3813 COLLOQUIUM ON FEMINIST INQUIRY. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: WMST V1001 and the instructor's permission. A practical and multi-disciplinary exploration of research methods and interpretive strategies used in feminist scholarship, focusing on larger questions about how we know what we know, and who and what knowledge is for

Fall 2020: WMST UN3813

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<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 3813</td>
<td>001/00302</td>
<td>M W 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA</td>
<td>Rebecca Young</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>10/25</td>
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WMST UN3525 SEN SEM:KNWLDG PRACTCE POWER. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to senior majors.
Student-designed capstone research projects offer practical lessons about how knowledge is produced, the relationship between knowledge and power, and the application of interdisciplinary feminist methodologies

Fall 2020: WMST UN3525

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 3525</td>
<td>001/00301</td>
<td>T Th 9:00am - 11:15am Room TBA</td>
<td>Manijeh Moradian</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>11/15</td>
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SPRING 2021

WMST BC2140 Critical Approaches. 3.00 points.
Combines critical feminist and anti-racist analyses of medicine with current research in epidemiology and biomedicine to understand health and health disparities as co-produced by social systems and biology. (Prerequisite for Spring A course "Racism is a Pre-Existing Condition")

Fall 2020: WMST BC2140

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST 2140</td>
<td>000/00768</td>
<td>T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm Room TBA</td>
<td>Alexander Pittman</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
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</table>

WMST BC2150 Practicing Intersectionality: The interdisciplinary study of race, gender, and ethnicity. 3 points.
This introductory course for the Interdisciplinary Concentration or Minor in Race and Ethnicity (ICORE/MORE) is open to all students. We focus on the critical study of social difference as an interdisciplinary practice, using texts with diverse modes of argumentation and evidence to analyze social differences as fundamentally entangled and co-produced. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of this course, Professor Jordan-Young will frequently be joined by other faculty from the Consortium for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies (CCIS), who bring distinct disciplinary and subject matter expertise. Some keywords for this course include hybridity, diaspora, borderlands, migration, and intersectionality.

WMST BC3132 Gendered Controversies: Women's Bodies and Global Conflicts. 4 points.
BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Social Analysis (SOC I).
Investigates the significance of contemporary and historical issues of social, political, and cultural conflicts centered on women's bodies. How do such conflicts constitute women, and what do they tell us about societies, cultures, and politics? - D. Ko

WMST BC3530 Feminist Media Theory. 4 points.
The integration of contemporary media and social practices of all types is intensifying. This seminar examines media theory and various media platforms including Language, Photography, Film, Television, Radio, Digital Video, and Computing as treated by feminists, critical race and queer theorists, and other scholars and artists working from the margins.

WMST W4301 Early Jewish Women Immigrant Writers: 1900-1939. 4 points.
BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Literature (LIT).
Enrollment limited to 15.
Prerequisites: students must attend first day of class and admission will be decided then.
Covers significant pre-Holocaust texts (including Yiddish fiction in translation) by U.S. Ashkenazi women and analyzes the tensions between upholding Jewish identity and the necessity and/or inevitability of integration and assimilation. It also examines women's quests to realize their full potential in Jewish and non-Jewish communities on both sides of the Atlantic.
WMST BC4303 Gender, Globalization, and Empire. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 20 students.
Study of the role of gender in economic structures and social processes comprising globalization and in political practices of contemporary U.S. empire. This seminar focuses on the ways in which transformations in global political and economic structures over the last few decades including recent political developments in the U.S. have been shaped by gender, race, sexuality, religion and social movements.

WMST G4000 Genealogies of Feminism: The Subject(s) of Rights. 4 points.
N/A

WMST V3526 Senior Seminar II. 4 points.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to senior majors.
Individual research in Women’s Studies conducted in consultation with the instructor. The result of each research project is submitted in the form of the senior essay and presented to the seminar.

Summer 2021
WMST BC3138 Affect and Activism. 4 points.
Course Description
From love to anger to disappointment to hope, political activism mobilizes emotions towards certain ends but also generates new affective states and feelings along the way. This advanced seminar will familiarize students with feminist, anti-racist and queer scholarship on affect, feelings and emotion as intrinsic to politics and as crucial for understanding how political thought and action unfold in contingent and often unexpected ways. Mixing theoretical and cultural texts with case studies, we will look at how affect permeates structures of power and domination, embodiment and identity, and collective activist projects concerned with gender and sexual liberation. Students will have an opportunity to read theories of affect as well as to “read” activist movements for affect by working with archival documents (such as zines, manifestos, and movement ephemera) and other primary sources (such as memoir, photography and documentary film).

WMST BC3512 Art/Work: Sex, Aesthetics, and Capitalism. 4 points.
Prerequisites: none
How can performances, theatrical texts, and other art/media objects illuminate the operations of gender, sexuality, and race in global capitalism? Drawing from a range of artistic media and critical traditions, we explore how aesthetic thought can help us analyze the sexual, racial, and national character of contemporary labor and life.

WMST GU4317 Advanced Topics: Bodily Disruptions. 4 points.
At once material and symbolic, our bodies exist at the intersections of multiple competing discourses, including the juridical, the technoscientific, and the biopolitical. In this course, we will draw upon a variety of critical interdisciplinary literatures—including feminist and queer studies, science and technology studies, and disability studies—to consider some of the ways in which our bodies are both constituted by such discourses, and themselves serve as the substratum for social and political life. Our point of departure will be the precariousness of embodied existence, in which precariousness is understood as both an existential condition and as the socially uneven culmination of neoliberal political and economic trends. Within the context of current pandemic crises relating to both public health and to political economy, we will also consider appeals to the beneficence of science, technology, medicine, and the rational governance of disease. What can critical histories of plagues, epidemics, and quarantines teach us about emergent forms of biopolitics? We will conclude by considering the interventions of contemporary disability and social justice activists, and the alternative possibilities that they have posited for self-care and mutual aid.

Cross-Listed Courses
Africana Studies (Barnard)
Anthropology
Art History (Barnard)
Classics
Classics (Barnard)
Comparative Literature (Barnard)
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race
Dance (Barnard)
East Asian Languages and Cultures
Economics (Barnard)
Economics
English (Barnard)
French (Barnard)
History
History (Barnard)
Music
Psychology (Barnard)
Religion (Barnard)
Sociology (Barnard)
Spanish and Latin American Cultures (Barnard)
Theatre (Barnard)