

# Gender Studies

**Chair: Patricia Bolaños**

The study of gender is an important element in the humanities, fine arts, social sciences and natural sciences. Gender Studies allows students and faculty to link the examination of gender and sexuality across academic disciplines and examine the gender roles in lives of both men and women as well as the social construction of both masculinity and femininity. The program incorporates a variety of methodologies, theoretical approaches and an interdisciplinary framework to explore the social and biological construction of gender and sexuality. Students who complete the Gender Studies major or minor will have worked with materials and methodologies from several academic disciplines in order to gain an understanding of how gender functions across cultures and in their own lives as it intersects with race, class, age, ethnicity, and sexuality.

## **Major (40 Credits)**

A total of at least 40 credits, including:

1. GEND101, Introduction to Gender Studies (required);
2. GEND 380, Approaches to Gender Theory (required);
3. GEND 381, Sex and Gender in Global Perspectives (required);
4. GEND 385, Senior Capstone in Gender Studies (required);
5. Experiential Learning Component (0-4 credits);
6. 5-6 additional 4 credit elective courses (20-24 credits).

Elective courses must be selected from approved GEND cross-listed courses. At least two of these elective courses should be from Humanities/Fine Arts and at least two courses from Social Sciences/Natural Sciences. Of these 20-24 elective credits, at least four courses (16 credits), should be at the 300-level. No more than three courses can count toward another major can be applied to the GEND major.

## **Minor (24 Credits)**

A total of at least 24 credits, including:

1. GEND 101, Introduction to Gender Studies (required);
2. GEND 380, Approaches to Gender Theory (required);
3. 4 additional elective courses.

At least 12 credits of the remaining 16 elective credits must be at the 300 level. No more than 8 credits should be taken from the same department.

Courses currently approved for the Gender and Women's Studies minor include the following:

ART 101 Arts, Aesthetics and Culture  
COMM 305 Women's Voices  
COMM 351 Gender and Communication  
COMM 381 Rhetoric of Women  
COMM 385A Love, Sex, Commitment & Communication  
COMM 385D Language, Gender & Culture  
COMM 386/ENGL 386 Epistemology of Romance & Marriage  
ECON 325 Political Economy of Race and Gender  
ENGL 130 Reading Fiction: Growing Up in Literature  
ENGL 211B Masterworks of World Literature  
ENGL 355 Studies in Individual Authors  
ENGL 361 British Novel to 1900  
ENGL 381 Literature by Women  
ENGL 382 Race and Ethnicity in US Literatures  
    Women Writers of the Third World  
    Women and Power in Medieval Literature

ENGL 385E South African Literature (Taught Abroad)  
 ENVR 225 Good, Gender and the Environment  
 ESSS 320 Gender and Sport  
 HIST 333 Gender and Society in Western Europe  
 HIST 361 American Women to 1920  
 HIST 362 American Women since 1920  
 HIPS 349 Spanish Women Authors  
 HISP 355B Tradition and Dissidence in Politics and Gender  
     Deceit & Desire in Contemporary Spanish Literature  
 HONR 350/MCLT 365 Reading Biblical Women  
 MCLT 223 Literary Traditions: Gender, Narrative Structure, and the Fairy Tale  
 MCLT 316 Radical Fantasies: Contemporary Japanese Women Writers  
 NUTR 300 Cultural and Social Aspects of Food  
 PCST 351 Women, Men and Peace  
 PHIL 153 Philosophy and Gender  
 PHIL 325 Feminist Ethics  
 POLS 314 Feminist Political Theory  
 POLS 339 Gender and Public Policy  
 POLS 352 Global Gender Issues  
 PSYC 308 Psychology of Gender  
 PSYC 345 Human Sexuality  
 SOCI 229 Intimate Relationships  
 SOCI 319 Sex and Gender  
 SOCI 329 Family and Gender  
 THEO 307 Bible, Church, and Gender  
 THEO 309 Sex & Renunciation in Early Christianity  
     Reading Biblical Women  
 THEO 329 Women's Theological Perspectives  
 THEO 339 Spirituality of Marriage and Family  
 THEO 349 Family, Church and Society

Please consult the program's website (<http://www.csbsju.edu/genderstudies/>) for up-to-date course and program information.

## Courses (GEND)

### **101 Introduction to Gender Studies. (4) GE (Staff)**

Introduces students to a broad range of concepts and issues in the discipline of Gender Studies. It also serves as a practical and theoretical foundation for further courses in the Gender Studies. It uses gender as an analytical method and explores how race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation influence the construction of gender identity. Although containing these common elements, this course's main focus will vary according to the particular instructor's design. Please refer to each semester's course title and description for more specific information. Enrollment is limited to first-year and second-year students or by permission of instructor.

### **180 Gender and Culture (2) GE & EL (P. Bolanos only), IC (Staff)**

An interdisciplinary survey of the role of gender in a cross-cultural context while studying abroad. It introduces students to the discipline of Gender Studies and serves as a experiential foundation for further courses. It focuses on the ways in which race, socio-economic class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and culture influence the social construction of gender across diverse cultural backgrounds. Taught in English. Open to all students. Service-learning is a requirement of this course. This course satisfies the service component requirement for the Gender Studies major.

### **270/370 Readings in Gender Studies. (0-1)**

Readings and discussions in specific Gender Studies readings. Topics and texts may be tied to on-campus lectures/presentations given by invited speakers. Approval of the director and/or faculty moderator required. Gender Studies majors or minors count up to four of credits from this course with permission from the Chair. S-U grading only.

### **271 Individualized Learning Project. (1-4)**

Supervised reading and/or research at the lower-division level. Permission of program director required.

### **290 Special Topics. (4)**

A sustained interdisciplinary analysis of selected topics in Gender Studies at the intermediate level. Topics will vary each year.

**A. Men's Studies Research GE (Staff)**

In addition to men's studies content and research methodology, students participate in three ongoing research projects in the SJU men's center: a small group social norms study of masculinity, a social norms spirituality project, and an international men's stories project. Additional projects may be developed. Class time arranged with those enrolled. May be repeated.

**B. Chinese Women's Literature GE (S. Geng only)**

This course aims to engage students with literature about Chinese women and gender, class and cultural issues that are intertwined with this intriguing topic. We will read ancient and contemporary Chinese women's writings, including poems, short novels and autobiographies. Notable female authors that we will discuss include Ban Zhao and Qingzhao Li from ancient China and Bingxin and Huiyin Lin from modern China. We will also discuss who these female writers were and the reasons they took up the pen, a practice often discouraged by the traditional patriarchal society. Furthermore, we will read portrayals of women's lives that were confined to the inner quarters of the household and the expectations imposed upon them by the society and customs of their times. Readings include tomb inscriptions for honorable ladies, biographies of deceased concubines, essays on the proper conduct of women, chapters of novels focusing on the domestic life and diaries of foreign missionaries.

**C. Latin American Feminisms**

Since the 1970's, new and innovative forms of feminism have begun to take shape in Latin America. These feminisms have been influenced by events and tendencies as diverse as the debates over the Cuban Family Code (mid-1970's); the experience of Latin American women in exile in Mexico, the United States, and Europe (1970's and 80's); the international feminist movement; the Nicaraguan revolution and guerrilla movements in Central America; and the rise of strong women's movements in response to scarcity and repression throughout Latin America. Given widespread poverty and the intensity of class and racial oppression in the region, middle-class Latin American feminists have, from the very start, been forced to confront head on the many conditions and factors that divide them from their "sisters".

Whether or not Latin American feminists have been successful in meeting the many challenges they face continue to be the subject of fierce debate. The same can be said of their relationship to the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions, to world feminist movements, and to leftist movements in their own countries. In their own right, and as vital examples of "Global South" feminisms, the theory and practice of Latin American feminisms raises important questions for feminisms throughout the world.

The purpose of this course is to study, and engage in, some of these debates. We will begin by looking at the colonial period and nineteenth centuries, which according to current historiographical wisdom made up a "pre-feminist" era. We will then study the "first wave" of feminist mobilization in the 1900-1940 period, and move on to the emergence of "revolutionary feminisms" in Cuba and Central America during the 1970's and 80's. Our third focus will be recent women's mobilizations in the struggles against authoritarianism and for democratization. Finally, we will turn to questions of how feminist politics play out in scholarly research and production.

**D. Men's Studies**

This course will offer an exploration of current topics in the field of men's studies. What is masculinity? How is it formed? Who does it benefit? What are its hazards? Readings from a variety of disciplines will challenge students to analyze the way masculinity functions across cultures and in their own cultural context.

### **360 Topics in Gender and Women's Studies. (4)**

A sustained interdisciplinary analysis of selected topics in Gender and Women's Studies at the upper division level. Topics will vary each year.

**Men's Sexuality & Spirituality GE (Staff)**

**A. Colonial Violence: Mother-Daughter Relationship**

This course considers how the figure of the mother in colonial contexts is depicted and imagined from the perspective of the daughter. After a brief introduction of women's autobiographical writings and psychoanalytic theories of motherhood by Irigaray, Kristeva and Klein, we explore a number of questions: do the daughter's views differ depending on whether she belongs to the race of the colonizer or the colonized? Do any discrepancies exist in the daughter's mind between the representation of the mother and the idea of nation? How do heterosexual and/or interracial relationships complicate her relationship with the mother? How does sexual victimization of the daughter affect all of these? Readings include works by Kyoko Hayashi, Takako Takahashi, Taeko Kono, Hiromi Ito, Marguerite Duras, a Filipina ex-comfort woman Maria Rosa Henson, bell hooks, Toni Morrison, and Doris Lessing.

**B. Gender and the Professions GE (L. Lindgren only)**

The course will explore the issues of gender in work and professional roles. The path of choosing and progressing through a career as influenced by gender will give students an opportunity to understand their own gendered experience of learning and making decisions about their future work life. Gendered-patterns of communication in the workplace including the challenges of class, workplace violence and the influence of media portrayals will be included. Special attention will be paid to traditional and non-traditional career choices, as well as examining and challenging the status quo.

**B. 20<sup>th</sup> Century French/Francophone Literature**

This course examines ways in which women writers from various French-speaking countries depict motherhood and relationships between mothers and daughters. We will focus on the social and historical setting of each work of literature and

consider how each author addresses the gender norms and customs of her own culture. Some of the authors studied in this course include Simone de Beauvoir, Annie Ernaux, Marguerite Duras, Mariama Bâ, and Calixthe Beyala.

**D. Gender and American Popular Religion TU (M. Thomhave Blauvelt only)**

This course examines both the remarkable variety of spiritual expression and the consistent preoccupation with gender in American popular religions. Our subjects will vary from evangelical Protestants to Italian American and post-Vatican Council Catholics to Mormons to Muslims to New Age devotees to 12 step organizations such as AA which serve religious functions, beginning in 1800 but focusing on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> c.

In American popular religion, concepts of divine and human families have been interconnected, gender roles and imagery of masculinity and femininity have been central to faith concepts and been expressed in a great variety of ways, and faith traditions have alternatively and sometimes simultaneously challenged and reinforced gender norms, class lines, and concepts of race. Our course focuses equally on men and women and masculinity and femininity.

We will understand this gender in American popular religion through spirituality that expresses itself in emotional conversion experiences, communal music, commercial art and film and understandings of food; and we will move beyond the pew to processions in the streets, prayer and practices within homes, political parties, protests against drink and outdoor religious revivals. Above all, we will enter into the lives of individuals as they experience spirituality, so we will understand the immediacy, complexity and power of religion and gender. One of the central themes of this course is that historically there has not been any single way to either believe religion or to experience gender, even within single denominations, but that both faith and gender have been historically contingent experiences incorporating tremendous variety and challenging us to be open to new ideas.

Possible texts include the autobiography of Rosa Cavalleri, an Italian Catholic immigrant, which illustrates devotion to the Madonna; a biography of Joseph Smith, founder of the Latter Day Saints; a study of a late 20<sup>th</sup> c. Protestant Fundamentalist congregation; and an exploration of African-American evangelical services.

Discussion is a central component of this course. There are no in-class exams; instead, students will write three papers, each covering a third of the course.

**371 Individualized Learning Project. (1-4)**

Supervised reading and/or research at the upper-division level. Permission of Chair required. Not open to first-year students.

**380 Approaches to Gender Theory. (4) GE (Staff), HM**

Builds on and further develops the understanding of Gender Studies introduced in GEND 101 by critically examining theoretical approaches to Gender Studies and analyzing key issues and disputes within the field. This course develops a framework that allows students to identify and examine the relations among the diverse theoretical approaches used in Gender Studies. This course may include aspects of feminist, gender, GLBTQ, and men's studies theories. Prerequisite: GEND 101 for GEND majors/minor. Offered only in the fall.

**381 Sex and Gender in Global Perspectives. (4) GE (Manju Parikh only)**

Examines issues of sex and gender from cross-cultural perspectives. Themes vary but may include: international sex trade, global women's movements, gender and economic development, GLBT human rights movements, health and environmental issues, or cross-cultural conceptions of masculinity. Course will vary according to the particular instructor's design. Prerequisite: GEND 101 for GEND Majors/Minors.

**385 Senior Capstone in Gender Studies. (4) GE, CAP**

A seminar in which students develop and complete an independent research project. The project should provide in-depth analysis of gender dynamics in areas such as contemporary social issues, history, the arts, theory or the biological-physical world and should integrate a variety of resources and learning from across the disciplines that comprise Gender Studies. This project will include not only a written component, but an oral presentation of research to faculty and students. Prerequisites: GEND 101 and 380 or permission of instructor. Offered only in the spring.

**397 Internship. (1-4) EL**

Practical on- or off-campus experience in gender-related work with a strong academic component. Individually arranged by the student with the approval of the college's director of internships, a faculty moderator, and the GEND Chair. Prerequisites: GEND 101 and at least two other GEND courses. See Chair for further information.