



SPRING 2025 GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

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

WST 6001: Feminist Research Methods

Spring 2025:

Wednesdays, 5:00-7:45 (CRN 12989) with Michelle Hughes Miller, Ph.D.

What is feminist research? What distinguishes it from other forms of research, in terms of both the process of envisioning and conducting research and in terms of the outcomes of the research? How can the use of feminist research, both qualitative and quantitative, improve our understandings of gender, sexuality, race, class and other forms of social identity? How does our own positionality affect our research? How can we ensure our research is ethical? This semester we will engage these questions as we do feminist research! The primary goal of this class is for you to learn the tools you need to become a feminist researcher.

To reach our goals we will revisit the critiques of traditional “science” and the origins of claims about the “feminist project.” We will contrast various feminist epistemologies, or ways of conceiving of knowledge, that guide us as we think about analyzing the social world. We will describe data: its limitations, its potentialities, and its contested meanings. We will explore multiple methodologies, and critique each. Then, we will gather our own data! We will enter our social and cultural worlds as feminist researchers. We will apply our critical lens to our own areas of scholarship and design and implement our own research projects. Then we will take our newly gathered knowledge and discuss ways of understanding and analyzing that which we have learned. Finally, we will struggle with feminist scholars’ imperatives: ensuring our research is well-designed, relevant and applicable to the groups at the center of the research.

Join me, this semester, as we take on the tasks of learning about and engaging in feminist research!

Permit required: Contact Michelle Hughes Miller, Ph.D., hughesmiller@usf.edu.

WST 6936: Revolutionary Medicine

Spring 2025:

Tuesdays, 5:00-7:45 (CRN 12987) with Dana Ahern, Ph.D.

The course focuses on transgender studies particularly through a lens of racialized and medicalized embodiment. This class puts into conversation work in critical race and ethnic studies, trans studies, and feminist science studies to examine the production of medicine through the intersection of the legislative and the medical. Emphasizing an ethnic studies framework of STS especially, it explores racialized constructions of health/wellness, as well as the legacies of social justice work by groups like the Black Panthers and ACT-UP to redefine health, demand medical care, and make medical research possible. Beginning with seminal pieces in transgender studies, we move into analyses of the formation and development of the field, particularly through Black studies. We will discuss recent works in trans medicine and consider transnational contexts to trans lives and medical transition, as well as other works in dialogue with these questions in the field science, medicine, and technology studies.

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WST 6936 Queer Feminist Science Studies

Spring 2025:

Thursdays, 3:30-6:16 (CRN 19818) with David Rubin, Ph.D.

What if biology, chemistry, zoology, physiology, virology, quantum physics and other areas of scientific research are queerer than both conventional scientists and feminists have typically assumed? What if there is no intrinsic orthodoxy to biological matter, what if it can be “as perverse and wayward as any social, textual, cultural, affective, economic, historical, or philosophical arrangement” (Wilson 2014, 27)? Pursuing these questions, this seminar introduces students to Queer Feminist Science Studies (QFSS)—an exciting interdisciplinary field that queers—or denaturalizes and makes strange—dominant ideas in both the sciences and in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. We will begin by reading foundational feminist works that critically analyze how scientific research has been historically shaped by and has reproduced sexism, racism, ableism, and other Western cultural biases. We will then take a brief survey of queer studies, focusing on how queer theory challenges accepted scientific and popular ideas about the nature of sexuality and bodies. Finally, we will practice “queer feminist science studies” by analyzing a variety of texts that reimagine and repurpose science to queer, feminist, anti-ableist, anti-racist, and/or decolonial ends—including not only traditional lab work in the academy, but also indigenous knowledge systems, kitchen science, queer and trans pop-up gyms, Covid-19 pandemic mask blocks, mutual aid, and solidarity projects, disability and health justice movements, and DIY science—queer projects indeed! Along the way, the course will provide multiple opportunities to rethink science through critical feminist, anti-racist, LGBTIQ, postcolonial, and disability critical perspectives.

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