



SPRING 2025 UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

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>.

WST 2600: Human Sexual Behavior

Spring 2025:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30—4:45 PM (CRN 12898) with Amanda LeBlanc, 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.

WST 3015: Introduction to Women's Studies

Spring 2025:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15 (CRN 12899) with Amanda LeBlanc, Ph.D.

Offered online (CRN 12979) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

Offered online (CRN 12982) with Jill McCracken, 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 and in different time periods? What roles have feminist movements and gender justice movements played in advancing these questions? 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 the 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 sexual orientation themselves and in our society. 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 is part of the University of South Florida's General Education Curriculum. 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.

WST 3324: Women, Environment, and Gender

Spring 2025:

Offered online (CRN 12990) 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!

ISS 3420 Disability Studies

Spring 2025:

Offered online (CRN 16602) 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.

WST 3602: Introduction to LGBTQ+ Cultures

Spring 2025:

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00-12:15 (CRN 19822) with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

This course explores the experiences of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ), and other gender expansive identities. What does the acronym "LGBTQ" mean, and how did we arrive at this collection of letters? How does the history of the LGBTQ+ movement shape academic study? What role does theory play in understanding LGBTQ+ lives and experiences? What are the key histories of LGBTQ cultures, and who has told these stories? What has been left out, and why? How do LGBTQ cultures vary across different geographies, and how are these variations connected to the broader structure of LGBTQ history? These are just a few of the intriguing questions we will dive into throughout the course, all while exploring diverse and thought-provoking case studies.

We will analyze how sexual and gender identities are shaped and how power, sexuality, and gender collide within different cultural and historical contexts. We will also uncover how individuals, the state, and creative, legal, and medical worlds all play a role in shaping LGBTQ+ experiences. Plus, we will dig into how diverse genders and sexualities fuel deeper understandings of identity, agency, and desire. Drawing from the exciting worlds of queer and trans studies, this course will explore how race, ethnicity, class, colonialism, nationality, and global politics intersect with gender and sexuality. We will mix things up with interdisciplinary feminist materials—scholarly works, music, film, literature, and more—to explore the rich histories of diverse identities, tackle today's pressing challenges, and imagine bold, just futures!

WST 4002: Feminist Research Methods

Spring 2025:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:15 (CRN 12986) with Tatsiana Shchurko, Ph.D.

This course surveys, designs, and practices qualitative and quantitative methods in feminist research. In this course, we will dive into critical and analytical thinking about feminist approaches to knowledge and research! Since feminism first emerged as a distinct intellectual movement, it has raised crucial questions: How do we know what we know? Who gets to speak and for whom? What should we be studying, and how do we connect the researcher to the researched? What counts as evidence, and how can we amplify voices that have been historically silenced? Drawing from a rich variety of materials that showcase both past and present feminist debates, we will explore how feminist scholars have developed innovative research approaches (methodologies) to tackle the pressing issues of their time and crafted powerful tools (methods) for gathering and analyzing information along the way.

A key part of the course is reflecting on power dynamics, research methods, ethics, and the goals we set for our work. Together, we will explore the intersection of knowledge and power, and how a researcher's own identity influences the knowledge they produce. Importantly, we will focus on how race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, ethnicity, and geopolitical location shape feminist research and scholarship. Students will get hands-on by developing their own projects, engaging with topics that resonate with them both intellectually and emotionally. Throughout the course, we will engage with methods like textual analysis, storytelling, interviews, participant observation, ethnography, digital research, and archival digging, among others. Our aim? To think deeply about the theoretical, ethical, and political impact of these methods. By the end, students will not only be equipped with feminist research tools but will also have a solid grasp of the theoretical and ethical questions that will shape their own research journey.

WST 4940: Internship in WGSS

Restricted to WGSS Majors and minors in WGSS, and Queer and Sexuality Studies

Spring 2025:

Days/hours variable (CRN 12991) with Milton Wendland, Ph.D.

Do you ever wonder, "What will I do with a WGSS degree?!" Do you want some real world experience putting your WGSS knowledge into action? Do you want a rockin' resume when you start applying for jobs or graduate school?

Um. Okay. But what does that mean? It means you'll work on-site, virtually, or a little of both with a local organization or business for the entire semester – earning 3 hours of academic credit that count toward your degree and toward graduation. 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.

Regular check-in chats with Dr. Wendland keep the whole experience focused on your success. WGSS 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. To learn more (even if you're still not quite sure what an internship is!), drop Dr. Wendland an email at miltonw@usf.edu.

WST 4930: Queer Feminist Science Studies

Spring 2025:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:45 (CRN 19817) 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.

WST 4930: Medicine and Power

Spring 2025:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15pm (CRN 12983) with Dana Ahern, Ph.D.

This course emphasizes queer and trans histories and theoretical approaches to discussions of medicine and science as systems of power. We begin with an exploration of histories of medicine and medical technologies, discussing topics of scientific racism and misogyny, and racialized constructions of health and wellness. In addition to these analyses of oppression and power, we will also discuss legacies of resistance and social justice done in response. We will bridge these histories with discussions of the more recent debates of medicine and medical technologies with particular attention to debates surrounding access to and legislating of transgender medicine. Overall, our readings primarily put into conversation 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.