

Faculty

Eliza Ablovatski
Assistant Professor of History

Paolo Asso
Assistant Professor of Classics

Joseph A. Campana Jr.
Visiting Assistant Professor of English

James P. Carson
Associate Professor of English

Sylvie Coulibaly
Visiting Instructor of History

Kathryn L. Edwards
Professor of Biology

Laurie A. Finke
Professor of Women's and Gender Studies (on leave)

Paul Gebhardt
Assistant Professor of German

Ingrid Geerken
Assistant Professor of English

Sarah J. Heidt
Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Sara Clarke Kaplan
Visiting Instructor of American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies

Nurten Kilic-Schubel
Visiting Assistant Professor of History

Marla H. Kohlman
Associate Professor of Sociology

Kathy J. Krynski
Himmelright Associate Professor of Economics

Peter L. Larson
Visiting Assistant Professor of History

Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky
Associate Professor of English

Theodore O. Mason
Associate Professor of English

Jesse E. Matz
Associate Professor of English

Sarah Murnen
Associate Provost; Professor of Psychology

L. Kaifa Roland
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology (on leave, second semester)

Judy R. Smith
Professor of English

Linda M. Smolak
Samuel B. Cummings Jr. Professor of Psychology

David N. Suggs
Professor of Anthropology

Mary Suydam
Acting Director, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

The Women's and Gender Studies Concentration offers students an opportunity to engage in two important and interrelated areas of study. Students in the concentration will examine those aspects of experience that have traditionally been underrepresented (if not invisible) in academic studies—for example, the lives and works of women, the experiences of gays and lesbians. Students will also examine gender as a cultural phenomenon: as a system of ideas defining “masculinity” and “femininity,” delineating differences between “the sexes” as well as “normal” expressions of sexuality. In the process, students will encounter some fundamental methodologies of women's and gender studies, and work toward an increasingly rich understanding of gender as a social construction, one that intersects with class, race, age, ethnicity,

nationality, sexual orientation, and sexual identity. In addition, students will explore the methods and concepts of women's and gender studies in a variety of academic disciplines, integrating, for instance, sociology, psychology, literature, the biological sciences, and art history.

From the debates between Wollstonecraft and Rousseau to the homo-social worlds of Walker's *The Color Purple* and Melville's *Moby Dick*, from Barbara McClintock's work in genetics to the gendered symbolism of Mozart's *Magic Flute*, students will come to understand how questions of gender are deeply embedded in the liberal-arts tradition.

The Women's and Gender Studies Concentration encourages and enables students to take responsibility for their own learning. Toward this end, courses in the concentration will invite students to participate in a range of collaborative work. This culminates in the senior seminar, where students determine the content and intellectual direction of the course as a whole. Ultimately, students are encouraged to acquire a sophisticated insight into the consequences of the social construction of gender for both women and men, an insight that empowers them to engage and question the pervasive role of gender in their own lives and communities.

First-Year and New Students

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (WMNS 111) is a wide-ranging interdisciplinary course designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender. Through a focus on a series of cultural artifacts, ranging from poems and films to legal cases and psychiatric disorders, students will examine the historical development of gendered public and private spheres, the relation of biological sex to sociological gender, and the difference between sex roles and sexual stereotypes. They will attempt to understand how racism, heterosexism, and homophobia intersect with the cultural constructions of masculinity and femininity, and consider ways to promote more egalitarian gender relations.

Look for the ♦ symbol, which designates the courses appropriate for first-year students or upperclass students new to the curriculum of the Women's and Gender Studies Concentration.

Curriculum and Requirements

Three units are required for the program. Of these, 1 unit will consist of either Feminist Theory, WMNS 330, or Feminist Methodologies, WMNS 331—these are offered in alternating years—and a capstone senior seminar. The remaining 2 units will consist of four courses drawn from the women's and gender studies program or departmental courses approved by the program's advisory board. (See the end of this section for the list of approved courses.) No more than 1 unit in a single department may count toward the requirements for the program, and at least two divisions of the College must be represented among the 2 elective units. The women's and gender studies Senior Seminar (WMNS 481) examines a topic central to feminist thought. It includes current feminist texts

and incorporates multidisciplinary analyses of race, class, and sexuality, in addition to gender. The course culminates in a public presentation by seminar members.

First-Semester Courses

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

♦ WMNS 111 (1/2 unit)
Kaplan

This course is designed to help the student develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender, including such extremely important contemporary issues as sex discrimination and harassment, women's health, and developmental issues. In addition, the course will introduce students to the interdisciplinary fields of women's and gender studies, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in recent scholarship are arising. Emphasis will be placed on women's significant contributions to knowledge and culture, but we will also survey other areas of gender studies, including men's studies, family studies, and the study of sexuality. Central to the course will be an examination of personal narratives—memoirs, autobiographies, oral histories, ethnographies, photographs—and their relation to larger social issues. Enrollment limited.

Feminist Methodologies

WMNS 331 (1/2 unit)
Mumen

This course is designed not necessarily to teach students what feminist methodologies are (as if this were an already settled issue) but rather for us to explore together the question of feminist methodology. Are there any specifically feminist methodologies and, if so, what are they? This exploration will be practical (exploring research methods) as well as open-ended and exploratory (exploring methodological issues). The following three questions will structure the class: (1) Does feminist research begin with different questions from

traditional disciplinary research? (2) Does feminist research draw upon significantly different kinds of evidence from traditional disciplinary research? (3) How is that evidence gathered? What is the context within which feminist research is done? How does that context differ from discipline-based research?

Individual Study

WMNS 493 (1/2 unit)
Staff

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

Second-Semester Courses

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

♦ WMNS 111 (1/2 unit)
Smolak

See first-semester course description

Lesbian and Gay Cultures

♦ WMNS 121
Kaplan

This course will examine topics in the lesbian and gay cultures from theoretical, historical, literary, artistic, multicultural, and political perspectives. The class will focus primarily on American lesbian and gay history and culture, drawing upon legal, psychological, biological, cultural, ethical, and philosophical frameworks to explore the contemporary experience of gays and lesbians. No prerequisite. Enrollment limited.

Senior Seminar

WMNS 481 (1/2 unit)
Suydam

The seminar will be organized around a theme to be determined by students registered for the course in consultation with the instructor during the semester prior to the beginning of the course. Previous topics include "Women's Humor," "Gender and Politics," "Motherhood," "Race and Gender," "Transgressing Gender," and "The Girl." Prerequisite: WMNS 330 or 331 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

Individual Study

WMNS 494 (1/2 unit)
Staff

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

HIST 236 Gender, Race, and Class
in Modern Germany
HIST 373 Women of the Atlantic
World
PSYC 346 Psychology of Women
SOCY 225 Marriage and the Family

Approved Courses

The following courses have been approved for the Women's and Gender Studies Concentration and will be offered in 2005-06:

First Semester

ANTH 245 Cuban Culture: Race, Gender, Power
ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture
BIOL 104 Women's Health
CLAS 114 Classical Mythology
ENGL 103.07 Women on the Edge
ENGL 210 Proper Ladies and Women Writers
ENGL 270 American Fiction
ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature
ENGL 316 The Psychoanalytic Imagination
ENGL 382 The Jazz Age
ENGL 388 Twentieth-Century African American Women's Fiction
ENGL 419 Hard-boiled Crime Fiction and Film Noir
GERM 391.02 Gender and Politics in German Cinema after 1990
HIST 186 Medieval Women
HIST 232 Modern European Women's History
PSYC 443 Psychology of Eating Disorders
RELN 325 Women and Islam
SOCY 241 Sociology of Gender
SOCY 422 Topics in Social Stratification

Second Semester

ECON 378 Economics of Women and Work
ENGL 104.06 Monstrosity and Otherness
ENGL 281 Fictions in Black
ENGL 318 Cinema and Sexuality
ENGL 320 Shakespeare: Strange Fish and Bearded Women
ENGL 433 Jane Austen
ENGL 461 Virginia Woolf

Courses offered in 2006-07

The following courses will be offered in 2006-07:

WMNS 330 Feminist Theory
WMNS 221 Gender and Film