WOMS - Women's Studies

Courses numbered 500 to 799 = undergraduate/graduate. (Individual courses may be limited to undergraduate students only.) Courses numbered 800 to 999 = graduate.

**WOMS 508. Women and the Environment** (3). On completion of this course, students should be able to appreciate and understand: environmental challenges at a local, regional and global scale; gender and environment; the role of women in the environment; case studies of women's leadership and contribution to environmental custodianship; critical analysis and military-industrial discourse in relation to gender; relationships between environment and interactions with different types of global, illicit trade. Course includes diversity content.

**WOMS 510. Hollywood Melodrama: The Woman's Film** (3). Melodrama, as a "woman's genre," is important to the development of feminist film criticism, which interrogates the contradictory meanings of motherhood and family within this culture. Through readings and films, this course provides a stylistic, literary and cultural/historical background for this 19th-century form with a specific focus on the woman's film and the family melodrama which highlight women's position within the home. Uses textual analysis and some psychoanalytic criticism to explore and critique the fantasies and desires expressed in the visual excesses of film melodrama. Course includes diversity content.

**WOMS 511. Women in Early America, 1600-1830** (3). General education humanities and fine arts advanced further study course. Cross-listed as HIST 511. Focuses on women and gender in U.S. history between 1600 and 1830 by examining the lives, experiences, and interactions with social, political and economic systems of women. Students read articles, books and primary documents that examine women's experiences from the first colonial contact with Native Americans to the dawn of the first women's movement in the 19th century. Focuses specifically on colonization, regionalism, the roles of race and ethnicity in the construction of gender, women in religious life, the impact of the American Revolution, Republican Motherhood, and women's contributions to the public sphere and market economy. In the end, students should walk away with an understanding of women in early U.S. history and of the major historical debates concerning women's and gender history.

**WOMS 513. Issues and Perspectives on African Women and Globalism** (3). General education humanities and fine arts advanced issues and perspectives course. Cross-listed as WOMS 383, ETHS 381AC. For those whose primary notions of Africa derive from little or unconfirmed information. Uses research, writing and other expressions by African women to present women dealing with their postcolonial and globalized national contexts. When possible, a teleconference with an author is arranged for a more global learning experience. Learning through local African communities, dramatic/artistic expressions and group projects is encouraged. Aims to help students develop critical and independent thinking about Africa, African women and their global engagement. Course includes diversity content.

**WOMS 514. Women in the Middle East** (3). Cross-listed with WOMS 380AC. Examines Arab women of the Middle East. Focuses on women in the region historically designated as the fertile plains—Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories. Covers the impact of Western colonialism and global geopolitics on women's lives; women's activism in relation to nationalism and women's rights; Western racial stereotypes of Arab women and men and their role in foreign intervention in the 20th and 21st centuries. Provides case study in the relationship of nationalism and women's rights as framed by Arab women's studies. Course includes diversity content.

**WOMS 516. Sociology of Gender** (3). General education humanities and fine arts advanced further study course. Cross-listed as SOC 516. Focuses on historic and current gender issues within a national and global context. Students explore both the individual and structural-level factors that influence the experience of “doing gender” within a variety of social institutions including potential avenues for change and collective action. Course includes diversity content.

**WOMS 523. Feminist Film Criticism** (3). Applies critical methods of analysis from the field of feminist film studies (such as psychoanalysis, ideology critique, close textual analysis, narrative and genre criticism) to the representation of women in film. Emphasizes historical development of feminist film theory and criticism as it relates to classical Hollywood narrative, film genres and avant-garde film. Course includes diversity content. Prerequisite: 3 hours of upper-level humanities or 3 hours of upper-level women's studies.

**WOMS 530. The American Woman in History** (3). General education humanities and fine arts advanced further study course. Cross-listed as HIST 530. Examines the history, status and changing role of women in American society. Course includes diversity content.

**WOMS 532. Women in Ethnic America** (3). Cross-listed as HIST 532. An in-depth, thematic understanding of the historical experiences of women of color across space and time in U.S. history. Employing a female-centered framework of analysis, course probes the intersections of race, class, gender and sexuality in women's lives. Course includes diversity content.

**WOMS 534. Psychology of Women** (3). General education humanities and fine arts advanced issues and perspectives course. Cross-listed as PSY 534. Psychological assumptions, research and theories of the roles, behavior and potential of women in contemporary society. Course includes diversity content. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

**WOMS 536. Writing By Women** (3). Cross-listed as ENGL 536 and WOMS 381C. Explores various themes in critical approaches to literature composed by women writers, especially those whose works have been underrepresented in the literary canon. Genres and time periods covered, critical theories explored, and specific authors studied vary in different semesters. Course includes diversity content.

**WOMS 541. Women, Children and Poverty** (3). General education humanities and fine arts advanced issues and perspectives course. Cross-listed as SCWK 541. Addresses the problem of poverty among women in the U.S. today, and examines existing and proposed public policies designed to alleviate the problem. Explores theoretical models of poverty policy analysis and the role of values in their formulation and implementation. Discusses issues of age, race and family; special attention is given to poverty among Kansas families. Course includes diversity content. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours of social science.

**WOMS 542. Women in Other Cultures** (3). Cross-listed as ANTH 542 and ANTH 397R. Deals with the place of women in primitive and other non-Western societies, in various aspects of culture: political, economic, social, religious, domestic, intellectual, psychological and aesthetic. Compares and contrasts societies in order
to see how different kinds of roles for women are related to different kinds of societies. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 570. Directed Readings (1-3).
For students who wish to pursue special reading or research projects not covered in coursework. Prerequisite: instructor's consent. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 571. Contemporary Issues and Perspectives: LGBTQ (3).
General education humanities and fine arts advanced issues and perspectives course. Cross-listed as SCWK 571. Explores contemporary issues within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities. Explores personal attitudes regarding the social context for LGBTQ persons as well as other issues which have emerged as matters of concern and celebration with LGBTQ individuals and communities. Empowerment principles are employed and used to highlight a positive and affirming framework of the LGBTQ community. Students acquire basic skills in understanding issues of diversity and contemporary conditions of life and culture. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 579. Asian Women in Modern History (3).
Cross-listed as HIST 579 and ETHS 579. Examines women's historical and contemporary experiences in Asian America and eight major countries in modern Asia. Covers topics on Asian women's activism in relation to nationalism and women's rights. Investigates Asian women's roles and statuses in the family and society and their educational attainment and contributions to the export-oriented industrialization of the Asia-Pacific region. Examines the intra-regional migration of female guest workers among various countries in Asia. Traces the ways in which the changes in immigration laws during the 20th century affect patterns of Asian women's migration to the United States. Introduces writing that integrates Asian women's lives and Asian American experiences into the discourses on ethnicity, national origin, class, gender and sexual orientation in the United States and the Asia-Pacific region. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 580. Special Topics (1-3).
Focuses on advanced topics of interest to women's studies. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 580J. Domestic Violence (3).
Cross-listed as SCWK 590, CJ 522 and CJ 381V. Deals with the roots of domestic violence embedded in family roles, legal systems, religious beliefs, and the psychology of women, children and men. Also covers the consequences and prevention of family abuse. Includes discussion of literature and films. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 580T. Women and Aging (3).
Cross-listed as AGE 515. Introduces students to issues in aging that are unique to women, to women's diverse developmental patterns, and to research methods appropriate for studying aging women and their life experiences. Topics include physical change, role transitions and adaptation from a life span perspective. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 580X. Sex, Work and Culture (3).
Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 580Z. Dangerous Women in Film (3).
The cinematic body of the woman has long been the central focus for theories of spectatorship and psychoanalytic film theory as well as feminist media and cultural studies. As such it provides rich material for an interdisciplinary conversation not only about socio-cultural and psychological constructions of gender, sexualities, and power; but also on the disparate (oftentimes simultaneously depicted) images of woman as both positively empowering and negatively demeaning. By focusing on the role of empowered female iconography expressed visually and thematically, this course explores various filmic representations of “dangerous” women, and examines how and why these representations are politically, socially, and theoretically significant. We apply various critical methods of analysis (psychoanalysis, ideology critique, close textual analysis, narrative) to approach women’s representation, in particular, the Femme Fatale (dark lady, evil seductress) and the Fighting F-toy (action chick, latex killer) to examine the influential role of the male/spectator gaze on the creation of the empowered female icon. Because this course is for both new and experienced film students, the curriculum includes both introductory and advanced content.

WOMS 585. The Femme Fatale In Film Noir (3).
From the 1970s to the present, feminism has exerted a profound influence on theories of cinema. By focusing on film noir as a genre expressed visually and thematically, this course explores various filmic representations of women, and how and why these representations are politically, socially and theoretically significant. We apply various critical methods of analysis (psychoanalysis, ideology critique, close textual analysis, narrative, style/genre) to approach women's representation, in particular, the femme fatale (dark lady, evil seductress) within the classic film noir era which occurred between 1944 and 1958. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 587. Theories of Feminism (3).
Because feminism is not a single ideological stance or perspective, course examines a variety of ideas underlying feminist cultural critiques and visions for social change. Discusses the contribution of women's studies to various academic disciplines. Course includes diversity content. Prerequisites: WOMS 287, 387, or 6 hours of women's studies courses, or instructor's consent.

WOMS 588. Gender, Race and the West/East Divide (3).
General education humanities and fine arts advanced issues and perspectives course. Examines critically the role of gender and race in the making of a supposed essential divide between the West and the East. Students are introduced to Edward Said's concept of Orientalism and the field of critique that targets how Europe and the U.S. craft an identity the West via its other, called variously, the Orient, Islam, the Muslim world, and the Arab world. Questions explored include: What is Orientalism? What is the relationship between colonialism/imperialism and the representation of the Orient or the East? How, for whom, and for what purposes do gender and race matter in this construct of a divide between West and East? These questions are examined across genres and media — i.e., in travel accounts, film, literature, policy making and news reportage. Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 701. Selected Topics in Women's Studies (3).
Repeatable for credit up to 6 hours. Course includes diversity content. Prerequisite: departmental consent.

WOMS 701A. Map Intersections of Gender (3).
Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 701B. Women and the Environment (3).
Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 701E. Feminism and Girl Culture (3).
Course includes diversity content.

WOMS 870. Directed Readings (1-3).
For graduate students to pursue research in areas not normally covered in coursework. Course includes diversity content. Repeatable for credit with departmental consent. Prerequisite: instructor's consent.

WOMS 880. Seminar in Women's Studies (3).
Intensive study of selected women's studies topics. Seminar discussion, reports and research project. Previous topics include Advanced Theories of Feminism, and Contemporary Women's Fiction. Course includes diversity content.
includes diversity content. Repeatable for credit with departmental consent. Prerequisite: instructor's consent.