

Dear Advisors,

As you begin meeting with your advisees to plan for Spring 2021, ask them to consider these Gender Studies courses as well as the Gender Studies Minor. Note that we've reduced the GEN 101 cap to 20, but we'll offer it every semester, since the demand is high. None of the courses have prerequisites.

## GENDER STUDIES COURSES SPRING 2021

### INTRODUCTION TO GENDER STUDIES

PROF. J ABBOTT, MWF 10:10AM



### 100 YEARS OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE: WOMEN AS VOTERS, CANDIDATES, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS IN U.S. POLITICS

PROF. GELBMAN, MWF 10:10AM



### CHILDREN OF WAR

PROF. THOMAS, T/TH 9:45AM



### HEROES AND HEROINES IN THE AMERICAN MUSICAL

PROF. BÁDUE, T/TH 2:40PM



### BODIES ON STAGE: PERFORMANCE OF GENDER AND CULTURE IN AMERICAN THEATER

PROF. WINTERS VOGEL, MWF 9:05AM



### SOUTHERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

PROF. BENEDICKS, MWF 9:05AM



### MEDIEVEAL AND RENAISSANCE LITERATURE

PROF. PAVLINICH, MWF 1:10PM



See the Registrar's Website for Course Descriptions

### Gender Studies Courses Descriptions, Spring 2021

#### **GEN 101: Introduction to Gender Studies**, Prof. J. Abbott, MWF 10:10am (F2F; No prerequisites)

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of gender studies by exploring questions about the meaning of gender in society. The course will familiarize students with the central issues, questions and debates in Gender Studies scholarship by analyzing themes of gendered performance and power in law, culture, education, work, health, social policy and the family. Key themes may include but are not limited to the relationship between sex and gender, the legal and social workings of the private / public distinction, the way that disciplinary practices code certain behaviors as masculine or feminine, the intersection of gender with race and ethnicity, the gendered structure of power, the tension between difference and equality, the production and circulation of gender expectations in the media, and the contested role of the law in achieving equality. By course end, students will understand central themes and debates in the field of gender studies, demonstrate a facility with basic terms and concepts of the field, apply methods of analyzing gender to society and to their own life experiences and communicate effectively about these issues in writing and speech.

**GEN 103: Bodies Onstage: Performance of Gender and Culture in American Theater, Prof.**

Winters Vogel, MWF 9:05am (Hybrid; No prerequisites)

This course will explore historical and contemporary American theater expressions of gender and cultural identity. We will use performances, scripts, and scholarly writings to analyze the representation of gender in Indigenous, Hispanic, Black, White, and Asian American theater, taking into consideration the historical and political context for the creation and production of these works. We will also examine the tension between entertainment and socio-political engagement for performers, playwrights, and audiences. Sample theorists and playwrights: bell hooks, Jill Dolan, Milcha Sanchez-Scott, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Young Jean Lee, Nilo Cruz, and Qui Nguyen.

**GEN 200: Children of War, Prof. Thomas, T/TH 9:45am (Hybrid; No prerequisites *but sophomore, juniors, seniors only*)**

This course examines the role of children in international affairs through the many dynamics of war and conflict during the twentieth century. It will consider how the demographics of war-torn societies, and the gendered nature of war have disproportionately victimized women and children. Specifically, students will discuss how war produces children through rape, lust, and love, the effects of war on children and the participation of children in war. The course will also consider the responsibilities of the international community broadly, and the United States specifically, to protect and support children of war including those fathered by American soldiers. In addition, students will learn about various types of child exploitation and child saving that make both mothers and their children vulnerable during conflict including international adoption, child-sponsorship, and immigration and refugee policies. Students will examine a number of case studies regarding child soldiers, children born of war, transnational adoption, and child migrants.

**GEN 210: 100 Years of Woman Suffrage: Women as Voters, Candidates, and Elected Officials in US Politics, Prof. Gelbman, MWF 10:10am (F2F; No prerequisites)**

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which forbids states from denying citizens the right to vote on account of sex, was ratified just over a century ago in 1920. This course examines women's role in American election politics in the hundred years since: Are there distinctive patterns or trends in women's voting behavior? Do women run for office for different reasons than men, and do they campaign differently? Once elected, how do women perform as representatives? How do gender and other demographic characteristics (e.g. race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, etc.) interact to shape women's experience as voters, candidates, and representatives in American politics? What has changed since 1920 and what hasn't? We'll look at the work political scientists and other researchers have done so far to answer these questions, consider individual women's experiences as American voters, candidates, and elected officials, and weigh in on ongoing debates about whether and how to enhance women's participation in electoral politics in the United States and beyond.

**GEN 224: Heroes and Heroines in the American Musical, Prof. Bádue, T/TH 2:40pm (Hybrid; No prerequisites)**

In this course we will embark on a journey to explore the concept of heroism in musical culture. Focusing exclusively on the American musical theater repertoire, we will meet individuals who changed the way music has been composed, performed, and perceived. We will focus on the heroic archetype and gender studies to examine characters from selected musicals who broke through artistic and gender boundaries. The course also considers musical theater performers and songwriters who have used their public prominence to promote social change and defy limits of gender. Examples include songs, characters, performers, and creators of shows from the 1950s to the present, including recent hits like *Hamilton* (2015) and *Six* (2017).

**GEN 301: Southern Gothic Literature, Prof. Benedicks, MWF 9:00am (Hybrid; No prerequisites)**

This class is about the ghosts that haunt the literature of the American South. After the Civil War, when the ideal of the pastoral plantation crumbled, Southern writers sought to contend with the brutal historic realities that had always lurked behind the white-pillared façade: poverty, violence, slavery, racism, patriarchy. Southern Gothic literature—which emerged in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and continues strong today—is marked by dark humor, transgressive desires, grotesque violence, folk spiritualism, hereditary sins, emotional and environmental isolation,

supernatural forces, and punishing madness. In this class, we will listen to the stories that the ghosts of the American South have told, and still tell today. We'll read the work of authors such as William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Carson McCullers, Tennessee Williams, Richard Wright, Dorothy Allison, Zora Neal Hurston, Toni Morrison, Kristen Arnett, Karen Russell, Gillian Flynn, and Jesmyn Ward.

**GEN 304: Medieval and Renaissance Literature**, Prof. Pavlinich, MWF 1:10pm (Hybrid; No prerequisites)

How do we distinguish the hero from the villain? From the rise of Beowulf to the fall of Satan, this course will cross—and even disrupt—temporalities. We will analyze the shifts and rifts that differentiate Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English literatures. These texts reveal genders and sexualities are socially constructed, and the “traditional English literary canon” is informed by marginalized people; therefore, this class is cross-listed with Gender Studies and the PPE diversity roster.