

Volume 2 | Issue 1  
October 2023



## College of Arts & Sciences

# Gender and Women's Studies

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Fall is here and there are a lot of exciting events and opportunities to report in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Kentucky! Especially take note of three events coming up **this month** (pages 6-9) and two funding opportunities for GWS students that are **due November 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>** (page 10).

### Considering a Major in GWS?

Gender and Women's Studies is UK's department for the study of gender, race, class, and sexuality in the United States and globally. We teach students how to critically analyze and engage with social inequalities based on gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, class, and ableism so our students can contribute to building and sustaining an informed, just community and world. Our courses train students in intellectual reasoning to arrive at productive solutions to contemporary social issues. GWS at UK is one of the most flexible majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Our major is perfect for students who want to double major or spend a semester abroad. GWS also offers a minor for students who want to explore these topics and how they relate to their major. Find out more:

<https://gws.as.uky.edu/major-gws>

### Certificate in Sexuality Studies

The Sexuality Studies Certificate encourages the study of sexuality across time and cultures from a variety of perspectives, including the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and health. Offering courses from different departments and colleges across the university, this certificate is truly interdisciplinary and encourages critical and creative thinking about sexuality. Find out more: <https://gws.as.uky.edu/gws-certificate>

## Spring 2024 Courses

### GWS 200-001: SEX & POWER

INSTRUCTOR: TBD

MEETING TIMES: MWF 12:00-12:50pm

This course introduces Gender and Women's Studies from a social science perspective using cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches. Analyzes relations of power marked by gender and how these relate to other social distinctions and processes. Interactive learning format. ***This course meets USP and/or UK Core requirement (Intellectual Inquiry, Social Science) and counts toward requirements for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

### GWS 200-201: SEX & POWER

INSTRUCTOR: FRANCES HENDERSON

MEETING TIMES: MWF 10:00-10:50am (ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS)

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary fields of both Gender Studies and Women's Studies which explore the ways that sex and gender manifest themselves in social, cultural, and political arenas. It draws upon scholarship in women's studies, feminist studies, masculinities studies, and queer studies which themselves draw upon a variety of intellectual perspectives, including historical, psychological, rhetorical, sociological, literary, and biological. Students will use gender-based theory to look at the ways in which gender identification and representation influences individuals and societies. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions and debates in Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) scholarship, both historical and contemporary. ***This course meets USP and/or UK Core requirement (Intellectual Inquiry, Social Science) and counts toward requirements for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

### GWS 201: GENDER & POPULAR CULTURE SECTIONS:

001: MWF 11:00-11:50am

002: MWF 10:00-10:50am

003: TR 11:00-12:15 & TBD (Hybrid), Part of Term: Jan 9-Feb 29

201: ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS, FRANCES HENDERSON

202: ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS, Part of Term: Jan 8-March 1

This course examines the role of popular culture in the construction of gendered identities in contemporary society. We examine a wide range of popular cultural forms – including music, computer games, movies, and television – to illustrate how femininity and masculinity are produced, represented, and consumed. This course serves as an introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) from a humanities perspective. We will explore the ways identities are constructed through various types of media and popular culture. Representations of gender are central to our study but are always already influenced by other social categories, such as race, sexuality, and class. As a class, in addition to scholarly work, we will investigate how different kinds of texts, such as music videos, movies, television, advertisements, social media, and fictional work, shape our understanding and experience regarding what it means to be a "man" or a "woman." Throughout this exploration, we will also consider how representation affects us as individuals and as communities in ways to reproduce and perpetuate the social hierarchy of gender, race, sexuality, and class. In GWS 201, we will explore a variety of texts through different lenses that recognize the social systems that privilege some and disadvantage others based on claimed and perceived identities. This course will give you an opportunity to develop your communication and research skills, but most of all, it will challenge you as a critical thinker. ***This course meets USP and/or UK Core requirement (Intellectual Inquiry, Humanities) and counts toward requirements for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

### GWS 300-001: TOPICS IN GWS: GENDERED DESIRE IN ROM-COMS

INSTRUCTOR: JEORG SAUER

MEETING TIMES: MWF 12:00-12:50PM

Romcoms as a genre use both romance and comedy as film elements to portray relationship tropes. Over the course of the semester, we will examine and analyze the history of the popular genre, how films



portray relationships in different decades, and more specifically what romcoms have to say about gender and desire. This course will situate the critical reception of romcoms as associated with "chick flicks" or a "date movie" and why they are considered unrealistic constructs of love. Some of the questions we will consider during the class are: What can the viewer understand about women's/men's desire?; How do these films construct relationship boundaries?; What conditions are acceptable as the foundation of a relationship?; Are the desires of the women/men met?; How do the answers change when the race and/or sexuality of the main characters are changed? During the semester, students will be expected to view films outside of class (provided through Canvas), review them, analyze sequences while using an appropriate film vocabulary, and write some compositions/scenarios. This course meets in-person but accommodations for Zoom will be provided to all students who need them.

### **GWS 300-002 (same as PSY 375-001): TOPICS IN GWS: PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER**

**INSTRUCTOR: JENN HUNT**

**MEETING TIMES: TR 11:00-12:15**

This course examines psychological research and theory related to gender, with a focus on the ways in which gender impacts people's daily lives. We will begin by discussing femininity, masculinity, and other gender identities, the problems of assuming a gender/sex binary, and how gender intersects with other social identities. Then, we will investigate the origins of gender by considering social, cognitive, and biological influences on gender development. Next, we will learn about gender stereotypes and how they compare with actual similarities and differences across gender groups. In the second half of the class, we will use this knowledge to assess how gender affects several important life domains including work, violence, relationships, sexuality, and body image. Throughout the course, we will examine how gender can be studied using feminist empirical research methods and emphasize the importance of race, ethnicity, culture, and social class in understanding gender. ***This course counts toward both the Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) and Psychology (PSY) majors. The prerequisite for the course is GWS 200 or GWS 201 (GWS prefix) or PSY 100 (PSY prefix).***

### **GWS 300-003: TOPICS IN GWS: GENDER AND DISABILITY**

**INSTRUCTOR: ANASTASIA TODD**

**MEETING TIMES: MWF 11:00-11:50**

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the study of dis/ability from a feminist perspective. In both academic and popular discourse, disability has most often been regarded as a pathology to be cured or a tragedy to be pitied. This course challenges those framings of disability through probing the cultural, political, and social meanings that we attribute to human variation and proposes that disability is an effect of power relations. Informed by the notion that disability is socially constructed, materially experienced, profoundly political, raced, gendered, and classed, this course explores how ableism has deemed certain bodyminds "less than," "unruly," "mad," and/or "disposable." The goal of this course is to reimagine disability, and to that end it foregrounds the cultural and political work that disabled people, themselves, have engaged in over the course of the 21st century.

### **GWS 301-001 (same as AAS 400-006):**

**CROSSROADS IN GWS: MONEY MOVES: RACE, GENDER, & CONSUMERISM**

**INSTRUCTOR: ARIA HALLIDAY**

**MEETING TIMES: TR 12:30-1:45**

This course will expand student knowledge of black feminist theory, cultural studies, and visual culture methods. As investigators and collaborators, students will explore genealogies of feminism(s) via canonical and contemporary work on visual culture. Students will be exposed to feminist ideals in communities in the U.S. since the advent of black feminist discourse through feminist art, music, films, and epistemologies. The course culminates with student presentations of their individual digital projects, in which they analyze their own feminist standpoint within contemporary cultural production and feminist theoretical concepts. ***This course meets USP and/or UK Core requirement (Community, Culture, and U.S. Citizenship) and counts toward requirements for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

**GWS 301-002: CROSSROADS IN GWS: EDUCATION, ACTIVISM & BACKLASH****INSTRUCTOR: KAREN TICE****MEETING TIMES: TR 2:00-3:15**

In this course, we will examine how students, teachers, and communities have responded to, resisted, and remade various intersectional disparities on campus? Using a variety of student movements and campus dissent across time and space as case studies, we will explore how they have challenged gendered and racial injustices on campus and responded to the following crises: gendered and racial violence, war; university investments and budgets; policing and repression; student debt and privatization; reproductive justice; and LGBTQ rights. We will also consider conservative student movements such as Turning Point USA and right-wing attacks on gender studies, critical race theory, and LGBTQ students. We will analyze forms of student resistance including teach-ins, occupations, Die-ins, strikes, online activism, hunger strikes, street protests, and book bans, as well as administrative responses to student mobilizations. ***This course meets USP and/or UK Core requirement (Community, Culture, and U.S. Citizenship) and counts toward requirements for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

**GWS 302-001 (Same as AAS 400-005):****GENDER ACROSS THE WORLD: GENDER AND POLITICS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA****INSTRUCTOR: FRANCES HENDERSON****MEETING TIMES: MWF 1:00-1:50**

Interdisciplinary, comparative and transnational examination of issues of gender focused on themes in Southern Africa. Thematic focus explicating gender which also illuminates questions of history and political economy in Southern African countries including Zimbabwe and South Africa among others. Introduces students to research and a variety of analytical questions in the field, as well as the interaction between locales/people and structural processes. ***This course meets USP and/or UK Core requirement (Global Dynamics) and counts toward requirements for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

**GWS 302-002: GENDER ACROSS THE WORLD: MASCULINITIES****INSTRUCTOR: CHARLIE ZHANG****MEETING TIMES: TR 3:00-4:45**

This course is designed to provide a thorough and wide-ranging introduction to the field of masculinities studies. We will engage the fundamental concepts underpinning critical inquiry of masculinities, address various theoretical issues through disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, and analyze variant forms of masculinities from historical, philosophical, socioeconomic, transnational, cultural, and sociological perspectives. Students will examine the articulations and contestations of diverse masculinities as manifested through gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, kinship, politics, popular culture, economics, national identity, post/colonialism, and violence. Readings reflect multiple methods of scholarly analysis to understand, define, and trouble masculinities, and compel students to consider what is at stake in making sense of masculinities. You will also have opportunities to apply this knowledge to a variety of sociocultural sites in the transnational context. ***This course meets USP and/or UK Core requirement (Global Dynamics) and counts toward requirements for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

**GWS 309-201 (SAME AS CPH 309): HEALTH, HISTORY, AND HUMAN DIVERSITY****INSTRUCTOR: TBD****MEETING TIMES: ONLINE, ASYNCHRONOUS**

Health care reform is often in the news, and everyone has an opinion on why the system is broken, how to fix it, who should have access to good medical care, under what circumstances, and what constitutes "good care." This online, multi-format course will consider what it has meant to be a good patient or a good doctor at various points in U.S. history, who was included or excluded in each group, how medicine became professionalized, and how people have organized around health issues. Students will engage with primary sources, watch related films, interact with the professor during virtual "office hours," and participate in online moderated discussions. ***This course meets USP and/or UK Core requirement (Intellectual Inquiry, Humanities and/or Community, Culture, and Citizenship in the U.S.) and counts toward requirements for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

**GWS 410-001: INTRO TO QUEER THEORY****INSTRUCTOR: ELIZABETH WILLIAMS****MEETING TIMES: TR 11:00-12:15**

This course will introduce students to Queer Theory, a relatively new subfield that has the potential to radically change how we think about gender, sexuality, sex, race, class-- basically everything! Queer Theory resists categories and binaries, arguing that they are unsuitable for understanding the complicated nature of culture, identities, and systems of oppression. Instead, Queer Theory offers scholars a number of tools which allow us to deconstruct a binaristic vision of the world, to reveal what is hidden in the interstices, and to use solidarities across non-"normativities" to fight for justice. Students in this course will: (1) Understand major themes in queer theory, as well as major criticisms of the field, (2) Be able to articulate how categories like race, nation, ethnicity, class, religion, geography, etc. impact and alter experiences of queerness, (3) Gain an understanding of how the concepts of "queerness" and normativity themselves developed alongside ideologies of difference, like racism and classism, and global structures of power, notably imperialism and slavery, (4) Learn how to read academic texts strategically, looking for argument, evidence, and approach, (5) Hone skills in academic writing, with a focus on argumentation, organization, and analysis. ***This course counts toward requirements for undergraduate GWS majors and minors and the sexuality studies certificate.***

**GWS 595-001 (Same as ST 690 & MCL 525):****ISSUES IN GWS: GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN ASIA****INSTRUCTOR: CHARLIE ZHANG & LIANG LUO****MEETING TIMES: F 2:00-4:30**

This course takes interdisciplinary approaches across humanities and social sciences to address the intensified contestation about Asia in light of the shifting geopolitical dynamics in the Asia-Pacific area and globally. We draw upon a variety of theoretical tools, including but not limited to, feminism, queer theory, postcoloniality and decoloniality, literary criticism, visual studies, memory studies, oceanic and island turn, and new materialism, among others, to interrogate the evolving concepts and practices of "Global," "Asia(s)," "Asian/ness," "Asia-Pacific," and "Transpacific." We ask: How is "Asia" constituted as a material, geopolitical, cultural, and imaginative entity/actant, spatially, temporally, and affectively? What are its varied and contested representations, manifestations, doings, and undoings, and why? How do peoples, communities, the environment, and human and nonhuman subjects that are implicated in the extended event of making Asia(s) negotiate, challenge, and reshape this process? As a collective un/learning project, the goal of this course is to unshackle Asia(s) from its established cognitive parameter of "area studies" rooted in the Cold War logic for potentials of otherwise and alternatives at the times of the emerging New Cold War.

**GWS 599-001: DOING FEMINIST RESEARCH II: CAPSTONE****INSTRUCTOR: ANASTASIA TODD****MEETING TIMES: MW 3:00-4:15**

In this course, students will synthesize what they have learned about the theories and methods of gender and women's studies as an interdisciplinary field. Students will write a senior thesis and edit the theses of other students in the course. To prepare for this, students will first reflect on how one writes as an interdisciplinary scholar on gender, as well as how one constructs a compelling argument. Students will also read and discuss material about how scholars in GWS do research. This course is a Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) course in certain departments and is a requirement for the GWS major. ***This course is required for the Undergraduate GWS major.***

**ADDITIONAL COURSES FOR GWS CREDIT****PSY 563-002: DIVERSITY AMONG CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN FAMILIES****INSTRUCTOR: RACHEL FARR****MEETING TIMES: TR 12:30-1:45**

The notion of the "traditional American family" has transformed as families in the United States (U.S.) have become increasingly more diverse. This discussion-based course for senior psychology majors (others may enroll with instructor's permission) is intended as an overview and analysis of a contemporary family systems in the U.S., such as single-parent families, multiracial families, adoptive and foster family systems, families who have children via assisted reproductive technologies (ART), and those with members who hold minoritized sexual, gender, and racial/ethnic identities. Taught

from developmental psychological, family science, feminist, and intersectional perspectives, students will gain understanding in family systems theory and in research methods for studying children and families. Course material will be considered within the context of social issues, questions, and public controversies. The course will address factors that contribute to positive family functioning and healthy outcomes for children and parents. Implications for future research, clinical practice, public policy, and law surrounding parenting and families (e.g., custody and placement decisions) will be covered. ***This course counts as an elective for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

#### **RUS 370-001: FOLKLORE OF RUSSIA AND UKRAINE**

**INSTRUCTOR: JEANMARIE ROUHIER-WILLOUGHBY**

**MEETING TIMES: TR 11:00-12:15**

This course studies the folk ways of the East Slavic world, from food to ritual, from housing to traditional literature. We will discuss how this material reflects the cultural norms with respect to social hierarchies, gender roles and family, and social identity. We will also trace the development of folk beliefs in the contemporary world by reading studies of Russian life today. ***This course counts as an elective for the undergraduate GWS major and minor.***

**For a complete list of courses offered for GWS credit please visit our website: <http://gws.as.uky.edu>**

## **Internships & Research Opportunities**

Did you know that GWS maintains a catalog of internships, conferences, workshops, and other research opportunities? Check it out here:

[https://gws.as.uky.edu/sites/default/files/GWS Internship Catalogue.pdf](https://gws.as.uky.edu/sites/default/files/GWS%20Internship%20Catalogue.pdf)

AND

- ❖ Students can apply for **funding** to cover the costs of attending such workshops, trainings, and conferences OR to subsidize an otherwise unpaid internship (see the Tomasky Fund Application in the pages that follow)
- ❖ Students can receive **course credit** for internships by enrolling in GWS 399!

Be sure to email the Director of Undergraduate Studies ([melissa.stein@uky.edu](mailto:melissa.stein@uky.edu)) with any questions!

## **Upcoming Events**

*The following events are sponsored by GWS or may be of interest to GWS students.*

**[NOTE: The annual Take Root Reproductive Justice Conference will be held in Louisville this month, and per the announcement from the KY Health Justice Network below, there are funds available for students to attend for free!]**

### **Take Root**

Have you registered for the Take Root Conference yet? [Do it here!](#) Courtesy of funding from Midwest Access Coalition and the National Network of Abortion Funds, we have **FULL** conference scholarships available to grassroots activists, students, and those without organizational affiliation. For more information, email [takeroot@khjn.org](mailto:takeroot@khjn.org).



# Take Root Reproductive Justice Conference

October 14-15, 2023 Louisville, Kentucky

## About Us

Take Root is an annual conference providing a space for reproductive justice engagement. The focus is on reproductive justice work in "red" states (or states that have majority conservative legislative power).

Take Root is focused on education and outreach in order to meet people where they are and engage with ally organizations and academic partners. It's important that students and grassroots activists feel empowered to continue the legacy of participating in this tremendous work.

Some themes this year will be around gender justice (and more specifically the links between escalating attacks on abortion and gender-affirming care), practical support, and advocating for youth.

## Keynote

### Trans Voices in Reproductive Justice

Hear from five trans leaders working for reproductive justice in their communities. Panelists will address why gender justice is imperative for reproductive justice, avenues in which trans people are denied reproductive justice, and how their trans identity impacted their own abortion stories. Panelists will also make clear why more inter-movement work is needed to bring us closer to reproductive justice.

## Registration

- Visit [bit.ly/TakeRoot23](https://bit.ly/TakeRoot23) for tickets
- Discounts for group tickets
- Many professors offer extra credit for attending the conference
- Scholarships available for those with barriers to attendance. Email [takeroot@khjn.org](mailto:takeroot@khjn.org)





Come join us for free food,  
crafting, and karaoke!



# CRAFT & KARAOKE PRIDE PARTY

*Tuesday  
October 17th  
6-10PM*

**PATTERSON  
HALL  
ROOM 118/119**





A hulu DOCUMENTARY

# CHANGING THE GAME

Journeying into the lives of three high school athletes at different stages of their athletic seasons, personal lives, and their unique paths as transgender teens. Their stories span across the U.S.; from Sarah, a skier and teen policymaker in New Hampshire, to Andraya, a track star in Connecticut openly transitioning into her authentic self, and to Mack Beggs, who made headlines last year when he became the Texas State Champion in wrestling.

**Oct 30, 2023**

**4:00-6:30PM**

**WT YOUNG LIBRARY UKAA AUDITORIUM**

**Moderated by**

**Christia Spears Brown, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence,  
Professor of Psychology, College of Arts & Sciences**

**UK College of Arts  
and Sciences**  
*Office of Inclusive Excellence*

**UK College of Arts  
and Sciences**  
*Department of Gender  
and Women's Studies*

## Funding Opportunities

The following two GWS funding opportunities are now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 academic year. See the descriptions below for more information and deadlines; full announcements and applications for both opportunities are also attached and you may email the DUS, Mel Stein, at [melissa.stein@uky.edu](mailto:melissa.stein@uky.edu) with any questions.

### *Tomasky Leaders Scholarship Fund:*

Named for donor and alum Susan Tomasky '74, the scholarship encourages students to engage in politics and public debate, to pursue higher office, and to lead an activist life. Scholarship recipients, the Tomasky Leaders, will receive funding for either:

1. **Trainings:** registration and/or travel fees for leadership and activism trainings, seminars, conferences, or other similar programs
2. **Internships:** cost-of-living and other expenses related to internships, especially those that are otherwise unpaid or require significant travel (NOTE: funded interns must enroll in GWS 399, which can count toward their degree requirements)

Note that the application for this versatile funding opportunity is both brief and painless--do consider applying and extend your feminist learning outside the GWS classroom! Please email completed applications (see attached) to [michelle.deltoro@uky.edu](mailto:michelle.deltoro@uky.edu) by **November 1, 2023**.

### *Space, Place, and Southern Grace Fund for Feminist Studies, Sarah Caton Award:*

Made possible by alum Sarah Caton (B.A. GWS '16), this scholarship provides **\$1,000** for a GWS major who will have completed at least 54 credit hours by the spring semester. The scholarship winner will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Sarah for professional mentorship.

The application (see attached) and writing sample should be submitted to [michelle.deltoro@uky.edu](mailto:michelle.deltoro@uky.edu) by **November 7, 2023**.

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Follow our website here for more **GWS News**: <https://gws.as.uky.edu/whatsup>

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