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Fall 2013 Courses



CGS 2B – Intro to CGS: Gender, Race and Rights

Dayo Gore, Department of Ethnic Studies

This course is an introduction to the ways institutions depend on and help to construct dominant presumptions about gender, race and sexuality. We will do so by exploring how the institutionalization of citizenship and rights make use of and help to define dominant conceptions of difference and inequality as well as structures of power within the U.S. The course will also address the ways social movements from African American civil rights to women's equality and transgendered rights have deployed rights discourse and institutions to contest these constructions and demand access and redress from the state. We will draw on a range of interdisciplinary methods and insights from history, feminist theory, critical race theory, queer theory and the law to critically investigate these tensions as they have taken shape over time and across a range of political landscapes.

CGS 100 – Conceptualizing Gender: Theories and Methods

Sara Clarke Kaplan, Department of Ethnic Studies

If, as feminist scholars have argued for decades, gender is not a 'natural' category, but a social construct, then how, precisely, is it constructed? This course offers a survey of how different scholars, writers, artists, and activists have sought to answer that question. Drawing upon historical and contemporary readings, film, and new media viewings, and current political and cultural events, we will explore both the key theoretical frameworks and various methodological approaches used in critical gender studies. We will challenge ourselves to complicate our understandings of seemingly natural concepts such as 'male/female,' 'man/woman,' and 'homosexual/heterosexual' as we experience them in our own daily lives and perceive them in the world around us. Our work will be carried out with a primary goal in mind: developing our own interdisciplinary critical apparatus through which we can better understand not only the conditions under which 'gender' is lived, but the terms through which the very concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality are produced, negotiated, and transformed.

CGS 102 – Selected Topics in CGS: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Class

Kirstie A. Dorr, Department of Ethnic Studies

(Pending cross-list with ETHN 183) This course offers a survey of various theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of race, gender, sexuality and class. Moving beyond the notion that these social categories merely represent "layers of oppression," we will ask: how are race, gender, sexuality and class co-constitutive in the making of social relations and identities in the US and beyond? In other words, how do these social categories depend on each other for their very meaning and coherence, so that it is impossible to neatly separate them? To engage these questions, we will turn to the terms themselves, attending to particular historical and geographic contexts of their construction: How have ideas about gender, race, sexuality and class been defined by the western law and science, through historical archives, and in the realm of popular culture? We will examine a set of case studies that will allow us to connect the construction and codification of social difference to the enactment of violent social projects: colonialism and war; nationalism and

eugenics campaigns; globalization, immigration and structural adjustment. By the end of this course, students will have collectively honed a critical vocabulary and analytical framework for understanding the interplay of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and class in a variety of socio-political contexts.

CGS 102 – Selected Topics in CGS: Girls' Studies

Jillian Hernandez, Department of Ethnic Studies & Critical Gender Studies Program

This course is a critical and creative introduction to the emerging, interdisciplinary field of girls' studies. We will engage with scholarship that examines how girls' lives are affected by educational and penal institutions, social class, gender, race, and sexual norms. In class we will draw connections between academic work on girls, social justice, artistic production, and the representation of girls in popular culture.

CGS 102 – Selected Topics in CGS: Re/Production of Difference through Gender, Sexuality, Race & Class

M.G. Renu Cappelli, Critical Gender Studies Program

Representation has been a dominant strategy and goal in political and social struggles. This course explores the values and limits of representation in legal discourses, in activist practices and claims to civic space, in social and new media, as well as in art and performance. We will ply the tensions and contradictions amongst strategies of inclusion, the imperative to appear, and the limits of representation, particularly for those lives whose mass exclusion has defined the public sphere. One of the tenets of this course is that action can appear otherwise, and students will complete exploratory essays as well as self-devised, participatory actions.

CGS 112 – Sexuality and Nation

Roshanak Kheshti, Department of Ethnic Studies

(Cross-listed with ETHN 127) This course examines the historical, discursive, political and cultural emergence of the notion of sexuality alongside other modern inventions like race and nation. We will trace sexuality's co-construction with race through colonialism and modernity, examining transformations the concept has undergone in its transnational circulation. Some questions we will take up: How has colonialism contributed to contemporary notions of sexuality, race, bodies, desire, pleasure, and identity? What is the relationship between power, the nation, and sexuality in various sites? How are sexual identities constructed outside of the so-called "West?" We will interrogate the commonly held idea that normative sexualities have been historically and globally stable and instead historicize the emergence of normativity (sexual, gendered, racial, etc.) examining how it has been put to service in the maintenance of a particular set of power dynamics. We will conclude the class by interrogating what has happened to the nation, gender and sexuality under global capitalism.

CGS 190 – Honors Seminar

Patrick Anderson, Critical Gender Studies Program Director

This course will cover Interdisciplinary readings in feminist theory and research methodology to prepare students for writing an honors thesis. Open to Critical Gender Studies majors who have been admitted to Critical Gender Studies Honors Program. Prerequisites: admission to Critical Gender Studies Honors Program and department approval required.

Departmental Courses Applicable/Petitionable to CGS Major and Minor

#Course is eligible for major/minor credit, but must be petitioned. Please see CGS advisor for assistance with the petition.

Some departmental courses may require prerequisites. If you have not met the prerequisites you may contact the department directly to ask for preauthorization.

Arts & Humanities

HIUS 156 – American Women, American Womanhood
HILA 164 – Women’s Work and Family Life in Latin America
#LTCS 100 – Intro to Visual Culture Studies
#LTWL 172 – Special Topics: Women in Arab Literature

Social Sciences

ANSC 125 – Gender, Sexuality, & Society
#ETHN 137 – Special Topics: Latina issues & Cultural Production
ETHN 165 – Sex & Gender in African-American Communities
PSYC 134 – Eating Disorders
SOC 118 – Sociology of Gender
SOC 129 – The Family

For additional information, please contact the Critical Gender Studies Program Office in the Social Sciences Building, Room 201A at (858) 534-9982 or e-mail cgs@ucsd.edu.

You can also visit our website at <http://cgs.ucsd.edu>.