

Fall 2021 GSWS Courses

GSWS Seminar

GSWS 2240-Special Topics: Reproduction
25009 Rachel Kranson Th 2:30-5 pm 402E CL
Cross-listed with Bioethics

This seminar will offer students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the critical and interdisciplinary study of reproduction and reproductive justice. Through seminar discussions, presentations, and research projects, we will discover the varied approaches that scholars, theorists, and activists have brought to this topic, both in the past and the present day. We will pay particular attention to how the study of reproduction intersects with the study of sexuality, gender, race, religion, disability, and health. In the process, we will explore the ways that reproductive politics and policy have been racialized, and how the shift from a 'reproductive rights' to 'reproductive justice' framework worked to centralize the experiences of people of color in activist movements and scholarly discussion. Other topics we will explore include trans* reproduction; the ways in which the discourse of eugenics shaped reproductive politics and policy; and the relationship between state structures, embodiment, and bodily autonomy.

Readings in this seminar will include foundational, theoretical work by scholars who think about reproduction and reproductive justice; approaches to the study of reproduction by scholars of the humanities and social sciences; the work of scholars in fields of law, health, and policy; and the writing of activists who established the reproductive justice frameworks. Additionally, we will have a chance to work with some of the rare documents related to reproduction that are held by the University of Pittsburgh Archives Service center.

Graduate 'Cross-Listed' Courses that count toward GSWS Certificates

ANTH 2782 – Special Topics in Cultural Anthropology: Gender and Work
31016 Gabriella Lukacs We 6-8:30 pm 3300 Posvar

This course inquires why we find it difficult to abandon deep-seated beliefs that men and women are not equally suited to pursue certain professions. We wonder whether women belong in the army, the cockpits of airplanes and space shuttles, or whether men make good nurses and babysitters. In this course, we will read scholarly texts and watch documentary films to analyze the relationship between gender and work in various social contexts. We will examine how our beliefs about gender-appropriate occupational identities are culturally conditioned and how employers perpetuate gender biases in their hiring practices as they prioritize growth and profit over ideals of gender equity. We will read about flight attendants who were able to negotiate less sexist weight standards only in 1991, women in factories who

are hired for their nimble fingers, sex workers, hostesses, hosts, and exotic dancers who are expected to perform gender at work, and the role of gender in galvanizing the development of nationally based digital economies.

This course aims to help students better understand how the realm of work operates as a site where gender differences and hierarchies are reinforced. We will ask how neoliberal globalization intersects with local gender divisions of labor in diverse social contexts. We will examine, for instance, how strategies of transnational corporations to bypass labor militancy have facilitated the feminization of a transnational labor force. At the same time, many scholars argue that advances in digital technologies weakened an organizational model of capital accumulation dependent on the concentration of production in offices and factories. We will consider how this shift occurred and what were its repercussions. We will also ask whether paid labor in the home serves as a source of empowerment or whether it integrates workers into new systems of inequality. Equally important, we will discuss whether gendered practices of work can disrupt sexist social formations.

ANTH 2782 – Special Topics in Cultural Anthropology: Anthropology of Crises and Futures
30719 Darlene Dubuisson Th 1-3:30 pm 3600 Posvar

In this course, we review theories and approaches in the study of crisis and the future. We read texts in anthropology, cultural studies, feminist studies, and SF (science/speculative fiction), which examine the relationship between crises—as products of colonialism, global capitalism, racism, and patriarchy—and imagining/enacting better futures. Specifically, we put ethnographies of crisis and disaster in conversation with SF within Afrofuturism and Afro-pessimism frameworks. We examine how crises may reveal the unsustainability of current situations (e.g., structural racism, climate change, gender disparity) and prompt social reordering.

In anthropology, the future emerged “as a developing field ... in the 2000s when the ‘war on terror’ and global financial crisis and its aftershocks left many people around the world unable to anticipate the following day” (Bryant and Knight 2019, 9). Following Appadurai’s (2013) call for an anthropology of the future, we explore the “multiple ways of navigating the course of the quotidian” to “gain an ethnographic hold of the relationship between the future and action, including the act of imaging the future” (Bryant and Knight 2019,16). Thinking with Kelley’s (2002) Black radical imagination, we discuss how Black writers, artists, and feminist activists have imagined futures amid crises. We analyze works in Afrofuturism and Afro-pessimism which imagine divergent Black and collective futures. While the former envisions the future from an expansive Afrodiasporic perspective, the latter speculates a present-future informed by the structural and embodied realities of colonialism and racism. This course’s central goal is to challenge students to integrate various approaches to produce innovative questions about current and impending issues. Students taking the course for GSWS certificate will have an opportunity to write their term paper on a topic relating to sex or gender crises and futures, drawing on Black feminist and queer perspectives.

COMMRC 3316 – Seminar on the Rhetoric of Social Movements: Populism
31132 Paul Johnson Tu 6-8:30 pm 329 CL

Social movements have been perennial subjects of rhetorical inquiry. What are social movements? How and why do movements form, grow, and dissipate? Can approaches to rhetorical inquiry traditionally reserved for the analysis of lone speakers and single texts shed useful light on the process through which movements attempt to persuade various audiences? This seminar considers the manner in which early social movement scholars in the field of rhetoric grappled with these and other controversial questions. After developing working knowledge of the rhetorical tradition of social movement scholarship, students will engage other theoretical viewpoints from fields such as sociology and political science to illuminate aspects of movement activity that may be less apparent from within the rhetorical horizon. Consideration of specific case studies will anchor such explorations, and the pedagogical approach guiding such study will privilege direct engagement with movement actors. The goals of the course are to provide students with a grasp on the tradition of social movement inquiry in the field of rhetoric, familiarize them with fruitful interdisciplinary perspectives on movement study, and stimulate reflexive awareness of their own status as agents in the field of social action.

ENGLIT 2238 - Tell/in/ Theory: Blackness in the Diaspora
31499 Louis Maraj We 2-4:50 pm 512 CL

Destabilizing boundaries between creative and analytical, performative Black thought demonstrates means by which Black(ened) peoples challenge ways intellectual acts might be conceived. Notions of diaspora, similarly, blur static markers of identity to question claims of place-based belonging. In this course, participants will engage texts from across the Black diaspora that theorize through telling. We will, as they, explore and meld rhetorical possibilities of autoethnography, memoir, poetry, academic criticism, and more, blurring conceptions of received genre in generative knowledge making.

ENGLIT 2262 – The Art and Philosophy of Toni Morrison
31761 Michael Sawyer Th 6-8:50 pm 512 CL

Toni Morrison has passed but her voice will remain with us for eternity. The ambition of this course is to read with care and precision Morrison's iconic prose for their insight, power, resonance, and perhaps most of all their beauty. There is material here that is shocking, triggering, angering, funny, hopelessly sad, and confusing but also thick with philosophical import. We will study these novels as literature that has much to say about philosophical

questions like freedom, self-making, death, race, gender, and the beautiful and the sublime. The course will examine the core texts of Morrison's artistic production beginning with *The Bluest Eye* and then engaging *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved* as the intellectual center of the universe of her later work. The late novels will be selected and studied based upon their relationship to the core arguments identified in *Song* and *Beloved*: death, gender, love, freedom, and beauty. The course will take a multidisciplinary approach, which will accommodate a variety of methodologies for students to express their understanding of the material.

This course counts toward the GSWS graduate certificate.

De
bo
be
an
pe
Bl
de
m
Bl
pe
w
ac
co
No
di
sin
st
id
qu
of
be
co
pa
en
fr
Bl
th
th
W
ex

rh
po
au
m
ac
cr
m
co
re
ge
kn
m