Candidate for honors must apply to the program's director at the beginning of their seventh semester. Honors concentrators fulfill the regular requirements plus completing a two–semester thesis as their capstone project.

For more information, including current cross-listed courses and sample concentration plans, please consult the GNSS concentration webpage (http://www.brown.edu/research/pembroke-center/gender-and-sexuality-studies/undergraduate-concentration-gender-sexuality-studies) at h


(http://www.brown.edu/research/pembroke-center/gender-and-sexuality-studies/undergraduate-concentration-gender-sexuality-studies) at h

(http://www.brown.edu/research/pembroke-center/gender-and-sexuality-studies/undergraduate-concentration-gender-sexuality-studies) at h


Courses

**GNSS 0090B. Bodies Out of Bounds.**

In this seminar we will examine what happens to bodies - and the world around them - when they refuse to stay within "normal" boundaries. We will focus our readings on literature, essays, and memoir from the past two centuries, and use film and contemporary cultural theory for comparison and context. Readings range from Jeannette Winterson's *Written on the Body* to fiction by Octavia Butler. Enrollment limited to 19 first-year students. FYS WRIT

**GNSS 0090C. Reproductive Health: Science and Politics.**

Reproductive health issues such as contraception, abortion, sexually transmitted infections and gay and lesbian health are some of the most controversial and politically charged issues in the US today. After an introduction to the interpretational of medical literature we will explore scientific, political, religious and cultural aspects of these important public policy issues. Successful national and international programs will be discussed. Although all views are welcome, it is expected that students will be respectful of other's opinions and will incorporate the best available scientific data into their conclusions. Enrollment limited to 19 first year students. Instructor permission required. FYS DPPL WRIT

**GNSS 0100. Introduction to Feminist Theory.**

An historical and cross-cultural introduction to the various strands of feminist theory. The course will cover a range of theoretical frameworks, examine the connections and discomforts between theory and activism, and explore the impact of feminist theories on contemporary thought.

**GNSS 0120. Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies.**

Explores the interdisciplinary fields of Gender and Sexuality Studies, considering the relation between formations of gender and those of sexuality across a range of historical and disciplinary contexts. Considers how both sexuality and gender are shaped in relation to race and ethnicity, economic inequality, and the postcolonial legacy. WRIT

Fall GNSS0120 S01 16910 MWF 1:00-1:50(06) (D. Walker)

**GNSS 0610. Convulsive Beauty: Hysteria and the Arts.**

Hysteria marks the presence of a traumatic memory that arouses wild bodily symptoms, treated psychologically by putting feeling into words. Often considered a particularly female ailment, hysteria has been read by feminist scholars as a deviant, desirous language of the female body. This course considers the boundaries of pain and pleasure, madness and lucidity, and the personal and the political.

**GNSS 1201. Feminist Utopias and Dystopias.**

From the religious overtones and abhorrence of heterosexual sex in the all-female world of Millenium Hall (1762), to the need for a new race of cyborg in Octavia Butler's Lilith's Brood Trilogy (1987-89), to the gender-inflected environmental apocalypse of Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*, feminist writers have used their utopian and dystopian fiction to imagine worlds where the standard system of male/female (or even human' machine) does not work. This course will examine feminist utopias and dystopias across historical periods and within the context of contemporary feminist and queer theory about gender, "race," sexuality, environmental justice, and interspecies communication. Sophomore seminar. SOPH WRIT
GNSS 1500. The Art of Being Cared For - Gender, Race, and The Politics of Humanitarianism

This course will explore the nature and language of humanitarianism and its political and ethical effects. We will interrogate humanitarianism as a set of practices emerging from specific contexts and historical circumstances, rather than as a normative set of laws and rules. We will explore humanitarianism not as a triumphal project that transcends violence but as a mediated space that demands reckoning with the violence, uncertainties, and possibilities inherent in contemporary humanitarianism. We will examine cases throughout the world where humanitarianism simultaneously functions as a remedy for absent justice, a rationale for intervention, and an ally for state-sponsored violence. DPLL WRIT

GNSS 1600. Embodying Feminisms/Feminist Embodiments

For much of its history, feminism has revolved around and centered on the gendered body, whether in terms of the body contextualized within time, space, and culture; in terms of the mind and body as oppositional forces; in terms of health, reproduction, or representation; or in terms of the body as part of or outside “nature.” This course will examine feminist relationships to the gendered body in terms of various social and historical locations, as well as in relationship to dis/ability, queerness, reproduction, and the “natural” and built environment. DPLL WRIT

GNSS 1651. Feminist Theory and Critiques of Capitalism

Feminist theory has long been a central site of critique of the excesses and inequalities of capitalist modes of production and social relations, whether calling for reform or theorizing a revolution. In this course, we will examine feminist critiques of capitalism, focusing in particular on questions of labor, housework and reproduction, property, and the experiences of sexuality and pleasure. We will attend first to Marxist (and anti-Marxist) feminist theory before turning to feminist critique of capitalism in the contemporary era marked by biopolitics and neoliberal government. Finally, we will consider (feminist) alternatives to capitalism and examine the possibilities for post-capitalist politics.

GNSS 1700. Iranian Women’s Resistance Strategies: Gender Discrimination and the Law Since 1979

After the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, the new government targeted women’s legal rights in the name of Islam. Family Law, Criminal Law, and even Constitutional Law were designed or amended in ways that imposed gender discriminations on Iranian women’s public and private lives. Iranian women from both secular and religious backgrounds have employed diverse strategies to resist these laws. Students will learn about the rules and regulations imposed on Iranian women and also the creative and innovative ways through which they overcome these discriminatory laws. Enrollment limited to 20. WRIT

GNSS 1710. Sex and the Law: Strange Bedfellows

This class will examine legal debates about sexual activity and sexual speech generated by alternate, incompatible views of the source and function of laws and the role of the legal system in enforcing moral codes. We will look at works that see the law as given by God, later natural law traditions intended to enforce a common morality, and texts that see law as a human construct. Not open to first year students. WRIT

GNSS 1711. Speech and Silence, Trust and Fear: A Feminist Philosophical Inquiry into Sex Equality

This seminar examines problems that arise in marriage from the failures of couples to speak to each other, and when they do, from their failures to speak openly, honestly, and from a position of social equality. We examine from a metaphysical and moral perspective the agency in men and women as it is reflected in what couples say and think. We look at whether marriages fail when women consciously choose or unconsciously fall into oppressive, subordinate postures and examine whether men take advantage of these postures. Class materials will be primarily novels and films, supplemented with philosophical, sociological, and legal essays. Spr GNSS1711 S01 25478 W 3:00-5:30(10) (P. Foa)

GNSS 1720. Technologies of and the Body: Mediated Visions

The relationship between body and machinery, technology and biology is often thought in terms of the mechanical doll, the animated robot and other hybrid figures. Science fiction films for example offer double visions of the gendered body: women are masters/slaves of the technology and still symbolic bodies of biological surviving of the human species. We will explore mediated visions in films and other media of different kinds spanning a bridge between SciFi-films and performance art. We will also study theoretical texts (Donna Haraway et al.) on the problem of the merging of technology and body.

GNSS 1721. Cinema’s Bodies

The course explores the cinematic construction of bodies – female, male, animal, and other. Cinematic bodies do not stand alone as they are framed, cut, exposed, veiled, enlarged, distorted, and gendered. The body is screened and composed into an image of beauty, of death, of sex, of work. Cinematic devices like the close-up, camera angle, light are transform bodies into the body of the film and its specific style. This leads to the question of the spectator’s body as a screen for the fllmic body and to theoretical explorations of the embodied visions cinema entails and stimulates. DPLL

GNSS 1810. Independent Study and Research

Independent reading and research for upper-level students under the direction of a faculty member. Please check Banner for the correct section number and CRN to use when registering for this course.

GNSS 1820. Independent Study and Research

Independent reading and research for upper-level students under the direction of a faculty member. Please check Banner for the correct section number and CRN to use when registering for this course.

GNSS 1960C. Gender, Sexuality, and Science

Examines how American and European science has naturalized differences in the human body and gendered the natural world from the seventeenth through the twenty-first centuries. Will consider historical changes in the scientific study of sex, gender, race, and sexuality, as well as the participation of men and women in scientific work. First-year students require an instructor override to register. WRIT

GNSS 1960D. Feminist Theory/Feminist Activism

Some complain that feminist theory is “too academic”, that it has no ties to social justice or activism. On the other hand, there are those in the academy who accus gender/women’s studies of not being sufficiently academic, of not being intellectually rigorous. With those two stereotypes in mind, we will read a variety of feminist theorists, some generally thought of as “academic”, and some generally seen as “activist”. Can academic theory be useful to political and social activists? Can activism inform academic theorizing? Prerequisite: one theory course, one gender and sexuality studies course, or permission of instructor.

GNSS 1960E. Advanced Feminist Theory

Feminism and Poststructuralism are two major theoretical approaches to the understanding of society, politics, and culture. What do they have in common? Where do they part company? We’ll examine their views on agency, the subject, language, and materiality; and their engagements in the “cultural wars.” Readings include Butler, Deleuze, Derrida, Irigaray, Kristeva.

GNSS 1960K. Gender and the Modernist Self

Are women more modern than men? In the early decades of the twentieth century it may have seemed so, for in these years the figure of woman came to stand as emblematic for modernity itself. In this course, we will read the literature of the turn-of-the-century (including Ibsen’s A Doll’s House, Grant Allen’s The Typewriter Girl, Freud’s Dora, Woolf’s A Room of One’s Own and To the Lighthouse) alongside the sociology, psychology, and philosophy from the same period to see how exaggerated portraits of hyper-modern women came to seem descriptive of a new, twentieth-century version of selfhood. Enrollment limited to 20.
various expressions of intimacy and what it means to relate to the other. The course will bring together history, critical theory, and film to think through relationships people form with pets and with objects to flesh out intimacy's connection to the couple form, we will examine friendship, celibacy, therapy and its role in shaping privacy, rights, and individuality. In addition to these topics, we will analyze the ways in which intimacy has been embedded within certain discourses of privacy, rights, and political interests, and assumptions about childhood are encouraged, discouraged, and variously position children as consumers, active agents, citizens, and cultural participants. Enrollment limited to 20.

GNSS 1960T. Commodity Fetishism: Theoretical and Historical Perspectives
This course will provide an introduction to critical theory focusing on Marx's mature analysis of capitalism as a social formation founded on fetishism of commodities. Our examination of this analysis will serve as a point of departure for a wider discussion of the relationship between Marxism and other methodologies and modes of critique, including feminist theory, deconstruction and psychoanalysis. In addition, we will also consider the contemporary relevance and implications of Marx's conception of commodity fetishism from different disciplinary perspectives, including anthropology, aesthetics, postcolonial criticism and the philosophy of law. Enrollment limited to 20.

GNSS 1960U. Reinventing Cinema and Media in Post-Mao China
Focuses on cinematic production and media culture in mainland China since the late 1970s. How was cinema reinvented beyond the conventions of socialist realism? How did cinema transform itself as a result of its interactions with other forms of media, such as television, cassette and video tape, video games and the internet? What does this mediascape tell us about the society of post-Mao China? How do we not only "see," but also "listen to" post-socialist culture? Examines films ranging from 1980s experimental and entertainment films to more recent documentaries, as well as gaming and internet culture-inspired video art. Enrollment limited to 20.

GNSS 1960V. The Communist Experience in Eastern Europe: Genres of Interpretation
Almost twenty-five years after the disintegration of the communist regimes across Eastern Europe, the question of how to remember the communist experience is highly contested. This interdisciplinary course highlights the complexities of the collective memory of communism, which fluctuates between attempts to come to terms with communist crimes and tendencies to idealize state socialism. Focusing on a range of issues—such as nostalgia, consumer culture, sexuality, gender, violence, the legacy of repression, and attempts at transitional justice—we will explore the nature of communist and post-communist realities by discussing scholarly studies and weekly screenings of full-length feature and documentary films. Enrollment limited to 20.

GNSS 1960W. Media and Modern Childhood.
Will explore a range of key themes in children's media and material culture since the nineteenth century. Through readings, screenings, and the close analysis of media objects themselves (including books, toys, film, television, and digital media), the class will investigate a variety of constructions of and attitudes toward children as they are visible in these cultural forms. Will explore several methodological approaches to studying children's media, and will observe how particular values, economic and political interests, and assumptions about childhood are encouraged, discouraged, and variously position children as consumers, active agents, citizens and cultural participants. Enrollment limited to 20.

GNSS 1960X. The Politics of Sexual Consent
Examines the development and afterlives of nationalisms in South Asia to consider the attachments that tie citizens and subjects to the nation and to one another. What are the political, personal, and ideological commitments that allow or prevent individuals from belonging to the nation? Beginning with early 20th century anticolonialism, will trace multiple nationalist movements that lead up to the 1947 Partition of British India, and to the 1971 independence of Bangladesh. Through novels, short stories, and films, will examine the role of gender in anticolonial protest and in early nation-building in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Enrollment limited to 20.

GNSS 1960Y. Post-Colonial Technoscience and the Body
This seminar examines the intersections of race, gender, culture, and sexuality with science and technology in colonial and post-colonial contexts. How is the body a site of contestation for power enacted through medical, scientific, or technological interventions? What are the social and historical dimensions of such encounters between the global North and South? Drawing on colonial-era primary sources and accounts by science studies scholars, post-colonial theorists, historians, and anthropologists, we analyze how the uneven flow of technoscientific experts, practices, objects, and knowledge reconfigures and transforms bodies, selves, and societies. The course's geographic focus is sub-Saharan Africa. Enrollment limited to 20.

GNSS 1960Z. On Love and Intimacy
Love and Intimacy are terms that have a lot of cultural cache. In this course, we will analyze the ways in which intimacy has been embedded within certain discourses of privacy, rights, and individuality. In addition to the couple form, we will examine friendship, celibacy, therapy and relationships people form with pets and with objects to flesh out intimacy's multiplicities to see how these forces impact these affective tides. This course will bring together history, critical theory, and film to think through various expressions of intimacy and what it means to relate to the other. Enrollment limited to 20.

GNSS 1960R. Sensing Time: Affect and the Moving Image
Through screenings and transdisciplinary readings, this film-philosophy seminar explores concepts of time, affect, death and subjectivity. We will examine the cinema's capacity to convey events and experiences of twentieth and twentieth-first century history. Philosopher Gilles Deleuze echoes Shakespeare: "The time is out of joint." What can this mean for cinema, thought and life? What is a 'time-image' and can filmic images of time reveal or heal past wounds, those scars that haunt all time to come? How does an image conceal or expose time? How do such images respond to intimate experiences, and even shape politics, history and cultural memory? Enrollment limited to 20.

Enrollment in all courses require instructor permission.

Enrollment limited to 20.
GNSS 1960X. The Aesthetics of Color: History, Theory, Critique. This course introduces undergraduate students to the central themes and debates in the vibrant history of color from antiquity through the present. While we focus on color in modern and contemporary visual art, design, and media, we begin with the premise that color—like the feminine—has long been subordinated and marginalized as the “Other” within Western culture. We then challenge this assumption using an interdisciplinary approach rooted in feminism, art, visual studies, film theory, fashion, and education. Through descriptive writing, responses to critical texts, and subjective encounters with color in art and culture, students learn the fundamental paradoxes and properties of color.

GNSS 1960Z. Hysteria’s Women: Literature, Psychoanalysis, and Feminist Theory. This course interrogates how psychoanalysis understands the relation between the sexualized body, femininity, knowledge, and desire. We will read texts at the intersection of literature and film, feminist studies, continental philosophy, and postcolonial studies to consider the specific challenges that feminism poses for psychoanalysis, particularly an international feminism that is attentive to class, race, and history. Readings will include texts by Freud, Lacan, Beauvoir, Irigaray, Gallop, Rose, Cornell, Spivak, and Djebar. Films could include: “A Dangerous Method” (Dir. John Kerr), “Her” (Dir. Spike Jonze), and “Fire” (Dir. Deepa Mehta).

GNSS 1961A. The Matter of Abstraction: Feminism and the Arts. How does feminist art help us think through the matter of abstraction? How does feminism’s emphasis on the social constructiveness of needs, desires, bodies, and subjectivities affect - and resist - the terms of not only formal abstraction but also economic and political abstraction? This course will consider the influence of feminist theories and practices in the arts, especially their impact upon debates about abstraction versus representation, formalism versus realism. We begin with feminist art in the 1960’s, and proceed to the recent resurgence of abstraction in contemporary art alongside analyses of an ever more abstracted world of capital.

GNSS 1961B. Queer Discipleship. “Queer theory” names both a set of reading practices and a series of reflections on the dangers, and the possibilities, of being taught. This course will pair fictions of discipleship with recent queer accounts of why we read and what we read for. As we encounter a range of leaders and followers, fans and teen idols, bad teachers and impressionable students, we will attend to the place of queer discipleship in the discipline of queer theory. Students will gain familiarity with this discipline’s history and methods, as well as a critical vocabulary for the analysis of modern cultural forms.

GNSS 1961C. Radical Italian Feminisms and the Contemporary Politics of Refusal. This course will assess 1970’s and 80’s radical Italian feminism as a blueprint for a new kind of networked and bodily-oriented form of political resistance. Often overlooked in favor of the French and American feminist traditions, the Italian militant tradition, a development within the workers’ movement, has recently come to be recognized as a repository of innovative tactical and theoretical responses to various forms and imprints of contemporary domination. It has clear resonances within revolutionary contestation and the politics of refusal today. Thus, the course seeks to assess the implications of radical Italian feminist movements for contemporary resistance. DPLL

GNSS 1961D. Politics of Resistance. States claim to benefit the people they represent. But the relationship between the state and the people is not always a happy one, nor devoid of conflict and violence. In this course, we will examine the conditions of state power and forms of resistance to it. We will explore these questions through a wide range of literature from Sophocles’ Antigone to Martin Luther King’s Letter from Birmingham Jail. Different examples of resistance around the world will be considered including anticolonial resistance, hunger strikes, conscientious objection, the civil rights movement in the US, and on women’s agency in shaping these movements. DPLL

GNSS 1961E. Feminist Freedoms. Because feminism understands itself to be fundamentally concerned with increasing liberty, specifically of women, this course will focus on the theme of freedom. We will consider 1) what it means to be a free political actor, 2) whether freedom is the highest political good, 3), whether, and how, freedom is compatible with other values, and 4) how different forms of government and political structures contribute to, or detract from, attempts to increase freedom. We will read contemporary works from a range of genres that ask what it means to exist on the ‘margins’ of politics, where freedom seems most tenuous. DPLL

GNSS 1961F. Local Color: Multi-Ethnic American Literature, 1880-1920. American literary regionalism ushered in new stylistic forms focused on characters, dialect, customs, topography, and other features particular to specific regions. This “local color writing” emerged, in part, as a response to the rapid growth and changing face of an industrializing nation. This course positions itself at the center of this tense moment in America’s history, reading works that pursue both diverse regional and ethnic interests. In particular, we will primarily read women authors and critics to focus on how gender and sexuality intersect with race as it relates to the question nation (re)building. DPLL

GNSS 1961G. Framing Gender in Middle Eastern Cinema. This course examines how gender is framed in Middle Eastern cinema. Through weekly readings in film theory and culture, in-class discussion, and written and oral assignments, students will learn not only how to analyze cinema but also about gender in the modern and contemporary Middle East more generally. Most weeks students will also attend the screening of a film dealing in some way with gender in the Middle East. We will watch films from or about: Iran, Afghanistan, Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, Israel, Iraq, Lebanon, and Canada. DPLL

GNSS 1961H. Literary Imaginations of the Law: Human Rights and Literature. Did you know that Robinson Crusoe was critical for the drafting of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”? Or that autobiography has been a literary genre crucial for the articulation and propagation of both human and civil rights? Through a study of the relationship between human rights and literature, this course will explore forms of writing that enable the legal protocols, proceedings, and predicaments that make up human rights discourse. We will pair key human rights documents with literary and cinematic works that inspire and question the universal ideals of the law. DPLL

GNSS 1961I. Global America: Gender, Empire, and Internationalism Since 1890. This course explores the cultural history of America’s relationship to the world across the twentieth century with particular attention to ideas about gender and sexuality. We will locate U.S. culture and politics within an international dynamic, exposing the interrelatedness of domestic and foreign affairs. While exploring specific geopolitical events like the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, and the Cold War, this course emphasizes the political importance of culture and ideology rather than offering a formal overview of U.S. foreign policy. This course analyzes the processes through which Americans come to think and feel particular ways about the world.

GNSS 1961J. Make a Body Riot: Laughter, Resistance, and African American Literature. How does what makes us laugh position us, either as audience or collaborator? What do comedy and performance have to show us about identity formation in relation to race, class, and gender? How might laughter—as release, as physical expression, as indicator of one’s interior life, or as protest—help us understand aesthetic, thematic, rhetorical, and political aspects of African American literature? This course centers on the development of African American literature throughout the twentieth century—including the role of Black literature in society; the intersections of race, class, and gender; slavery’s afterlives; the historical novel; and the role of humor in community formation. WRIT
Independent research under the direction of a faculty member, leading to
a thesis. Required of honors candidates. Open to seniors only. Instructor
permission required.

Independent research under the direction of a faculty member, leading to
a thesis. Required of honors candidates. Open to seniors only. Instructor
permission required.

GNSS 1990. Senior Seminar.
A research seminar focusing on the research and writing of the
participants. Required of senior concentrators; open to other advanced
students by permission. WRIT

GNSS 2000. Method, Evidence, Critique: Gender and Sexuality
Studies across the Disciplines.
Gender and Sexuality Studies is by its very nature transdisciplinary. Can
we speak of a single methodology that ties GNSS together? How might
scholars work on gender and/or sexuality while respecting disciplinary
boundaries and training? We will start with the premise that studies
in gender and sexuality are tied together by critique that questions
foundational assumptions and takes account of its own position within a
given field of knowledge. By studying canonical theoretical texts alongside
disciplinary studies characterized by a feminist and/or queer focus, we
will investigate how critique operates and how standards of evidence are
marshaled in particular disciplines.

Fall  
GNSS2000 S01 16939 T 3:00-5:30 (D. Davis)

GNSS 2010D. The Power and Mystery of Expertise.

GNSS 2010E. Pembroke Research Seminar: The Question of
Consent.
No description available. Instructor's permission required.

GNSS 2010G. Pembroke Research Seminar in Feminist Theory:
Socialism and Post-Socialism.
An advanced feminist research seminar in feminist theory and gender
studies. Presentations made by Brown faculty, Pembroke Center fellows,
visiting scholars, and students. Offered in conjunction with the Pembroke
Seminar. Enrollment limited to 8.

GNSS 2010L. What Are Human Rights? Imperial Origins, Curatorial
Practices, and Non-Imperial Ground.
The discourse of human rights and curatorial practices are technologies
dating to the invention of the “New World.” This seminar will develop a
wide historical perspective and pose ontological and political questions
that deviate from a tradition that studies human rights as a distinct
discourse with its own history whose origins are European and located
in either the revolutions of the eighteenth century; the end of World
War II and the foundation of the United Nations; or the 1970s, with the
proliferation of non-governmental organizations and from the tradition that
limits the study of curatorial practices to designated indoor spaces.

GNSS 2020D. The Power and Mystery of Expertise.

GNSS 2020E. Pembroke Research Seminar: The Question of
Consent.
No description available. Instructor's permission required.

GNSS 2020G. Pembroke Research Seminar in Feminist Theory:
Socialism and Post-Socialism.
An advanced feminist research seminar in feminist theory and gender
studies. Presentations made by Brown faculty, Pembroke Center fellows,
visiting scholars, and students. Offered in conjunction with the Pembroke
Seminar. Enrollment limited to 8.

GNSS 2720. Graduate Independent Study.
Section numbers vary by instructor. Instructor's permission required.

GNSS XLIST. Courses of Interest to Concentrators in Gender and
Sexuality Studies.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.