

# Women's Studies Courses – Winter 2015

## **WMST 250 Introduction to Women's Studies: Women, Art, and Culture**

**GenEd: DSHU, DVUP CORE: HA, D**

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies, especially in the humanities and the arts. It examines how gender is performed and represented in a range of cultural texts and artifacts with an explicit focus on digital feminisms, film and new media. It explores the creative agency, aesthetic forms, cultural affiliations, and arts activism of women of diverse backgrounds, in genres and mediums ranging from literature, film, music, and visual art to technology and political expression.

## **WMST 298D Women's Bodies in Contention**

**GenEd: DSHS, DVUP, SCIS CORE: HA, D**

This course explores how the bodies of women in contemporary society have acted as a source of new knowledge and theory in the field of interdisciplinary women's studies. We will examine the discussions and controversies about the social construction and cultural representations of women's bodies, controversies about women's sexuality and women's health, and contentions over reproductive rights, bodily integrity, and gender-based violence. Our focus will be the ways in which these issues have been addressed in feminist thought. Our approach is interdisciplinary, integrating media representations, works of art, policy, and theory.

## **LGBT 398L Special Topics in LGBT Studies; LGBT Stories: Page, Stage, and Screen**

**GenEd: DVUP**

Students will examine a series of texts that tell stories about LGBT people during the twentieth century. Together, these texts invite us to ask questions about LGBT experiences including, What do stories about LGBT people tell us? How do these narratives support and challenge contemporary histories of LGBT people? What can we learn today from LGBT stories from the past? In addition, the texts in this course raise questions about the different media through which artists tell stories. Students will discuss questions related to medium such as, How are stories constructed? How does the medium—novels, poetry, films, plays, critical writings—change how stories are told? The course will culminate with students researching and telling stories of their own choosing designed for the page, stage, or screen.

## **WMST 498M Advanced Special Topics; Women and the Civil Rights Movement**

This course examines the twentieth century U.S. civil rights movement from the vantage point of women, considering both women's involvement in the legal campaigns and political protests and the impact of civil rights struggles on women's condition, status, and identity. Surveying events, organizations, and personalities from the 1890s through the 1970s, we will consider issues which have preoccupied social movement theorists and political activists alike: developing and sustaining social commitment, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of formal organization, raising money, maximizing political influence, and securing long-range objectives. We will also examine competing definitions of leadership; class, race, and gender dynamics within the movement; and the cultural dynamics of political organizing and social change. This course is taught entirely online. Please make sure your email address is listed correctly in Testudo. You may contact the instructor with questions at [barkleyb@umd.edu](mailto:barkleyb@umd.edu).