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Message from THE COORDINATOR

Dear WGS Community,

As our academic year closes, we look back on a tumultuous year at Wright State and associated changes in the WGS program. In Fall 2018, WGS was officially moved into the Department of Sociology & Anthropology. This administrative change from an independent interdisciplinary academic unit to a sub-unit within a department resulted in visible changes, such as the move from one central advisor to a different advisor for each credential, as well as changes that may be more opaque. For example, the many administrative tasks of running a thriving academic program are now distributed among a Program Committee, a group of scholars, all women, who give their time in service above and beyond what is required by contract to ensure that we can continue to provide a student-centered feminist program.

If you see one of these scholars, listed to the left, I invite you to join me in thanking them for their service. The Program Committee would also like to extend our collective gratitude to Becca Webb, who has stepped in and stepped up as the Administrative Assistant for the Program.

We are also collectively grateful for the impressive feminist activism of our community this year. Your support for labour and education rights, anti-racist initiatives, and campus inclusion free from harassment (to name just a few), as well as your amazing community organizing skills, dedication, and passion were an inspiration to us, our fellow faculty, and our broader campus community. You did us proud. Thank you.

Of course our work remains. We all know this, whether we are looking around our school, state, nation, or world. It is easy to become fatigued by the battle for social justice when it has so many fronts. I offer self-care-community care as one way of building sustainable and intentional engagement with the justice issues we are passionate about. Solidarity it not just powerful. It is necessary.


I look forward to seeing you all next year, refreshed and prepared to pursue our academic and activist goals with renewed enthusiasm. Cynthia Marshall Burns will be stepping up to lead our community as the WGS Program Coordinator in Fall 2019. Please join me in giving her a warm welcome!

In solidarity,

Dr. Barnett

WGS Program Committee
Nicole Carter, Women’s Center
Cynthia Marshall Burns, English
Sririsha Naidu, Economics
Marie Thompson, Communications
Julianne Weinzimmer, Sociology
Emily Yantis, WGS
Kelli Zaytoun, English

2018-2019 Graduates

WGSS B.A
Curtis Tenney
Elise Hack

WGSS Graduate Certificate
Christina Puntasecca
Internships Spring 2019

WGS 4900 is one of the senior capstone options for WGS majors (and is also open to minors in the WGS program). Every spring, the program places about 5 students within various local organizations and businesses that are involved in feminist and/or social justice work. Our community partners, to name just a few, include the Dayton YWCA/Girls Inc., Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio, Women in Business Network (WIBN), Dayton International Peace Museum, and the Artemis Center for Alternatives to Domestic Violence. In preparation for post-graduate life, students in WGS 4900 examine feminist ethical practices, opportunities, and tensions, with special attention to the relationship between theory and practice. With the guidance of their internship supervisor and the course instructor, students develop a project at their site that challenges sexist social structures and/or conventional gender arrangements; the project can include elements of advocacy, service, education and/or social justice activism. Here is one of the projects students are working on this spring:

Elise Hack: Community Ambassador & Health Center Advocate at Planned Parenthood Southwestern Ohio

At PP, I collect supporter cards and stories from people in the health center. People can fill out a story form in person on a written form, or share it online. The Health Center Advocacy Program is there to bridge any gaps between PP’s supporters and its actual clients. Supporter cards are also helpful so that we can get an accurate picture of the demographics we serve. I enter supporter information and stories in PP’s database and I make sure everyone is registered to vote/their voter information is updated (since Ohio is so good about purging voters). As a community ambassador, I can represent PP at outside events, for example, last week I tabled at Sinclair’s production of The Vagina Monologues.

Recommended Reading

Sing, Unburied, Sing
By: Jesmyn Ward
2017 (Fiction)

Sing, Unburied, Sing eloquently tells the tale of a Black family’s experience with racism and mass incarceration at the infamous Parchman Farm. Parchman Farm began operating in 1901 as the only state prison in Mississippi. The plantation-style prison housed mostly Black men at that time, who were tasked with building their own prison—from clearing the brush and forest to prepare the fertile soil for farming, to laying the foundation for the facilities. Ward seamlessly weaves fiction and fact to illustrate the bloody harvest Parchman Farm reaped of Black men’s bodies. - Dara Mathis, Bitch Magazine

The God of Small Things
By: Arundhati Roy
2008 (Fiction)

Indian history and politics shape the plot and meaning of The God of Small Things in a variety of ways. Some of Roy’s commentary is on the surface, with jokes and snippets of wisdom about political realities in India. However, the novel also examines the historical roots of these realities and develops profound insights into the ways in which human desperation and desire emerge from the confines of a firmly entrenched caste society. In addition to her commentary on Indian history and politics, Roy evaluates the Indian post-colonial complex, or the cultural attitudes of many Indians toward their former British rulers. - Wikipedia
1. What are your plans after graduation?

I’m going to grad school. I plan on reapplying next year to my dream school, Washington University in St Louis, for their dual degree program Masters of Public Health and Masters of Social Work. Right now, I’m going to work on my MPH at another school (hopefully I’ll be accepted to WUSTL next year).

2. What is your favorite WGS course you’ve taken? Why?

Feminist Theory and Theories of Sexuality. I learned so much and they were small classes so everyone in the courses really bonded.

3. What are your primary interests in the WGS field of study?

My primary interests are focused in gender and sexuality education, but holistic social justice is my foundation.

4. What has the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program meant to you?

WGS has meant studying my interests, being around like minded people whose politics are very important to them, who understand that this field isn’t ‘just an easy class’ and that what we study affects every aspect of our lives.

5. Is there a particular feminist activist, writer, or theorist that has inspired you or greatly impacted your thoughts?

Audre Lorde. From the beginning in WGS 2000, her quote “Some problems we share as women, some we do not. You [white women] fear your children will grow up to join the patriarchy and testify against you; we [black women] fear our children will be dragged from a car and shot down in the street, and you will turn your backs on the reasons they are dying” resonated with me. Her work is so influential in feminist thought and she urges us to always be critical of power structures and of ourselves. Whenever I need to take a step back and check myself, I turn to the work of this wonderful black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.

For the rest of my studies/interests, I really enjoy(ed) Clinical Microbiology and Constitutional Law.

I’m also a Volunteer HIV Test Counselor for Equitas Health and am a Community Ambassador and Health Center Advocate for Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio.
1. What are your plans after graduation?

After I graduate from Wright State, I’ll have a double BA in WGS and Sociology. And, as much as I wish that were it, I will confess here that I’ve spoken with the family and we’ve decided together that I am available to travel for graduate school. With two children, godchildren, family all here in Ohio, my life here in Ohio, I’ve felt doomed to apply to two or three schools and hope one of them take me. This is very new revelation, and I’m still very emotional about it. But I plan on applying to schools like Ohio State of course, but also University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of Kentucky, Georgia State... I’m not limiting myself to an area. I’m going for it. I’m chasing my PhD.

2. What is your favorite WGS course you’ve taken? Why?

WGS 2000... what an eye opener. For someone who does not yet know anything about feminism, a good introduction class can completely initiate you. But for the more in-depth classes I’d have to say WGS 3210, Sociology of Gender, was the most informative class for the place I’m putting myself with research. Dr. Weinzimmer was basically showing me the basis of all this knowledge I was going to spend the next several years unpacking as a Sociologist.

3. What are your primary interests in the WGS field of study?

What interests me so much about the department as a field of study are all the important issues that we can address with just a couple of variables that meet here or there. It blew my mind in my first semester, just how much of the world crosses in this narrow area. You see women’s stories, gender inequality, racism, masculinity and what patriarchy really is, sex orientation and gender expression and all the various discriminations that accompany them. I can study personal things like growing up in poverty, coming out LGBTQ, and finding my womanhood. This was immediately home.

4. What has the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program meant to you?

I am a person concerned with activism and change. I’m a transwoman, and there are times when the ignorance of others is simply a void that needs to be filled. That’s how I see it on a good day. That I’m this teacher and the class needs to learn more, or they fail the test, and I fail as their informant. This department has given me the room, knowledge base, and in ways the extra courage I need to do this thing. I can tell that the people in this department want to learn, and that the faculty want us to succeed. Dr. Barnett and Brittany Erwin are such thorough advisors. That’s the most valuable part, that I’m most appreciative of. It’s meant that people believed in me and showed me that like all women I have this ability to shine.

5. Is there a particular feminist activist, writer, or theorist that has inspired you or greatly impacted your thought?

I think bell hooks has really taught me a lot, the most maybe, of all the writers I’ve been exposed to. Some people just know the things that you need to know, and it’s hard to not resonate with bell hooks because every word she puts down helps develop the picture a little better. She’s the beacon of what I need to know to understand transgender oppression. Because of her I’ve been able to see clearly that as a transgender woman ultimately, I have to fight the same fight that all these other intersecting groups are battling, which is White Supremacy of course. Othering. She’s like a poet of the horrors of this world. She can make it all seem available somehow.

Only thing I would add is that I’m part of another amazing thing on campus I’m very proud of. I’m one of the editors and writers for a student zine at WSU called Happenings, that will take submissions and present a student driven and operated zine through the Women’s Center beginning this summer. We cannot wait to share the insights, talents, and visions of the student body with everyone. Contact us at WSUhappenings@gmail.com!
Dr. Awad Halabi  
**WGS 4200/6200**  
This class will examine the construction of gender in the Islamic religious tradition. We explore how Muslim scholars, rulers, society at larger and women in particular have understood and defined gender through various sources, such as the Islamic sacred text (*Qur’an*), Islamic law (*Shariah*), and religious literature (*hadith* – traditions of the Prophet Muhammad) in various historical contexts (from the rise of Islam in the 7th century to the modern era) and across the global Muslim community. What we discover is that the topic of gender has been the subject of much debate and contestation. There is no one uniform way to understand it, as interpretations by scholars, Western observers—particularly European colonial rulers—and, more recently, feminist thinkers, have differed, as has the practice of gender relations varied throughout Muslim societies. The topics we examine include the *Qur’an*, the *Shariah*, European colonial observers of Muslim women, veiling, laws applying to women in modern Muslim countries, (e.g., marriage, polygamy, divorce, inheritance, etc.), FGM, and others. No previous knowledge of Islam is required to enroll in this class.

Dr. Jessica Penwell Barnett  
**WGS 4000** - *(Counts as an alternative to WGS 4700/4900 major capstone)*

Participants in this course will investigate and apply evidence-based teaching techniques. Sexuality education skills will be developed through leadership of small group breakout sessions for WGS 1000 Introduction to Sexual Health & Diversity. Peer educators will be responsible for leading discussion (e.g. sexual boundaries) and skills development (e.g. condom use) among their small group.

*Practicum students must be available to attend WGS 1000 as scheduled (MWF 11:15a-12:10p) for the term of their enrollment.*

Learning opportunities will include discussion of values and leadership techniques, as well as mentorship in peer education and professional treatment of ‘sensitive topics’. Achievement of course learning outcomes will be measured through performance as a peer educator and development of an evidence-based sex education module.
Dr. Lynette Jones  
**WGS 4000/6000 (02)**

In "Black Women Writers & Film," students will read, discuss, and analyze books and films from a variety of genres. Texts will include "The Gilded Six-Bits" by Zora Neale Hurston, *Angela Davis: An Autobiography* by Angela Davis, *Daughters of the Dust* by Julie Dash, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, and *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. Films will include *The Gilded Six Bits, Free Angela and All Political Prisoners, The Hate U Give, and Middle of Nowhere*. Students will also read literary criticism, film criticism, and texts from a variety of critical and theoretical perspectives in relation to gender, race, and/or class. There will also be additional reading and film assignments. There will be short and longer writing assignments, and there will be essay exams. There will also be class participation assignments. Note: Students enrolled in WGS 6000 (02) will have additional requirements.

Dr. Nancy Gardner  
**WGS 3200/6200**

This is an upper-division survey course that surveys the struggles of women to obtain and protect their political and reproductive rights in the United States. This course focuses primarily on the “first wave of feminism” (begun around 1848 and culminated in the women’s suffrage amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1920), the “second wave of feminism” of the 1960s and ’70s and the current debates on reproductive rights, pornography and sexual harassment (part of the “third wave” of feminism). Because history is often written by the dominant and powerful, U.S. women’s history is unfortunately structured to favor an emphasis on white, middle and elite class women. We will discuss the implications of this fact and make an attempt to be more inclusive.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGS 1000-01</td>
<td>Intro to Sexual Health &amp; Diversity</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>11:15 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Jessica Penwell Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 1000-02</td>
<td>Intro to Sexual Health &amp; Diversity</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>12:20 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Petey Peterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGS 2000-01</td>
<td>HON: Intro to Women &amp; Gender Studies</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Emily Yantis</td>
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<td>WGS 2000-02</td>
<td>Intro to Women &amp; Gender</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Michaela Null</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGS 2000-03</td>
<td>Intro to Women &amp; Gender</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Cynthia Marshall Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 2000-04</td>
<td>Intro to Women &amp; Gender</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Michaela Null</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGS 2000-05</td>
<td>Intro to Women &amp; Gender</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Taylr Ucker-Lauderman</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGS 2000-90</td>
<td>Intro to Women &amp; Gender</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Web Only</td>
<td>Lucy Flowers</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGS 2000-91</td>
<td>Intro to Women &amp; Gender</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Web Only</td>
<td>Gina Giardina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 3000-01</td>
<td>Critical Sexuality Studies</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Emily Yantis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 3200</td>
<td>Sociology of Gender (WGS 3200 or Soc Sci elective)</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Kathleen Gish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 3610</td>
<td>Women Behaving Badly (WGS 3200 or Hum elective)</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>3:35 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Nancy Garner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 3200-02</td>
<td>Feminist &amp; Sexuality Theories (only offered in Fall!)</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Taylr Ucker-Lauderman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HST 3800-01</td>
<td>Research Methods in Liberal Arts</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Emily Yantis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 4000-01</td>
<td>Sex Education Practicum (Alt. to 4900/4700 capstone; Prereq WGS 3000)</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>10:10 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.</td>
<td>Jessica Penwell Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 4050-01</td>
<td>Race, Gender &amp; Health</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Web Only</td>
<td>Mary Rucker</td>
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<tr>
<td>COM 4251-01</td>
<td>Black Women Writers &amp; Film (WGS 4000 or Hum elective)</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Lynette Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 4200-01</td>
<td>Women in Islam (WGS 4200 or Hum elective)</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>4:40 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Awad Halabi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 7000-01</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.</td>
<td>Kelli Zaytoun</td>
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</table>
# FALL 2019
APPROVED ELECTIVES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 3320-01</td>
<td>American Texts: to 21st Century (Hum elective)</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>1:25 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Hope Jennings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 3420-90</td>
<td>Post-Colonial Texts (Hum elective)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Web Only</td>
<td>Alpana Sharma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 2110-01</td>
<td>Human Sexuality (SS minors only)</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Corey Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 2110-02</td>
<td>Human Sexuality (SS minors only)</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>10:10 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.</td>
<td>Patricia Schiml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 2920-01</td>
<td>Hormones &amp; Behaviour (SS minors only)</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>1:25 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Patricia Schiml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 4000-01</td>
<td>Clinical Sexuality Capstone (SS minors only)</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.</td>
<td>Frederick Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 6000-01</td>
<td>Clinical Sexuality Capstone (SS minors only)</td>
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*Days and Times are Subject to Change.*
Third Annual Sex Fair

APRIL 3, 2018, 11:00 AM—2:00 PM, MILLETT ATRIUM

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Week, the WGS program in conjunction with the Office of LGBTQA Affairs & Counseling and Wellness presented the 3rd Annual Sex Fair in the Millett Hall Atrium. The Sex Fair featured games and prizes, as well as information and resources about sexual health and sexuality. Aiming to build a solid foundation for student success by making information and resources about sexual health & sexuality accessible to the Wright State community, over 100 students and various staff and faculty attended and participated in promoting the physical, mental and social well-being of our diverse student body, and our greater Dayton community.

Photos courtesy of Student Legal Services