
Gender/Cultural Studies Program

Kelly Hager, *Director and Associate Professor of English and Women's Studies*

Carole Biewener, *Professor of Economics and Women's Studies*

Pamela Bromberg, *Professor of English and Director of the Graduate Program in English*

Theresa Perry, *Professor of Education*

Diane Raymond, *Dean of the College and Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies*

Cheryl Welch, *Professor of Political Science and International Relations*

*Renee Bergland, *Associate Professor of English*

Cathryn Mercier, *Associate Dean of the College, Associate Professor of Children's Literature, and Director of the Graduate Program in Children's Literature*

Laura Prieto, *Associate Professor of History and Women's Studies*

Jyoti Puri, *Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies*

Jill Taylor, *Associate Professor of Education and Women's Studies*

Becky Thompson, *Associate Professor of Sociology*

Burlin Barr, *Assistant Professor of English*

Nuran Cinlar, *Assistant Professor of History and Co-Director, Dual-Degree Program in History and Archives Management*

Sheldon George, *Assistant Professor of English*

Valerie Leiter, *Assistant Professor of Sociology*

Sarah Leonard, *Assistant Professor of History*

Dawna Thomas, *Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Africana Studies*

Diane Hammer, *Director of Simmons Institute for Leadership and Change*

Meghan Killian, *Administrative Assistant*

* On leave academic year 2006–2007.

The Master of Arts in Gender/Cultural Studies (CCS)

The Master's in Gender/Cultural Studies is an interdisciplinary program across the humanities and social sciences that emphasizes the constructions of gender and race within the U.S. and in transnational contexts. The program is designed to broaden women's studies theory and practice to include multiracial perspectives as well as national and post-colonial struggles.

Admission: Admission requires a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and an outstanding undergraduate record. Applicants must submit an official transcript of their undergraduate record, a statement of purpose, a writing sample, and two letters of recommendation. At least one letter should be from someone well acquainted with the applicant's academic ability and potential. The Graduate Record Examination is not required. Inquiries should be addressed to Graduate Studies Admissions, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA, 02115-5898, call 617.521.2915, or e-mail gsa@simmons.edu.

Degree Requirements: All students take three required courses in interdisciplinary studies and cultural theory, design their own programs from advanced courses offered throughout the College, and finish with a capstone project that furthers their individual academic and professional interests. Students may enroll on either a full- or part-time basis. The degree requirements should be completed within five years. The master's degree requires the satisfactory completion of 32 semester hours. No more than eight semester hours of transfer credit for graduate study elsewhere may be allowed toward the master's degree.

Other Programs

Laurie Crumpacker Scholars

This accelerated program for Simmons students offers the opportunity to acquire a Master of Arts in Gender/Cultural Studies within one year after completing the undergraduate BA degree. Simmons students with a strong undergraduate record may apply to the program in the second semester of their junior year by following the admissions procedure outlined above. Students admitted to the program begin graduate level work in the GCS program in the senior year of their undergraduate degree at Simmons. Students may transfer up to eight credits of 300-level undergraduate coursework from the GCS list of elective courses toward the degree. As students would be accepted into the GCS program prior to enrolling in these courses, they would be expected to complete work at the graduate level in these two 300-level elective courses. Students are able to enroll in 400-level GCS courses only after they have completed their BA degrees and have fully entered the GCS program. If such students would like to write a master's thesis, they may submit a proposal during the last semester of their senior year, following the guidelines that apply to all GCS students.

Graduate Consortium of Women's Studies (GCWS)

In keeping with the collaborative tradition of women's studies, the GCWS offers interdisciplinary, team-taught seminars to students matriculated in graduate programs at the eight member schools. GCWS faculty explicitly integrates gender analyses with issues of class, race, culture, ethnicity, and sexualities; and the practical and public-policy implications of feminist theory and scholarship are considered. Courses are designed not only to examine existing feminist scholarship, but to open paths to the creation of new knowledge. Graduate courses also provide crucial intellectual support

for students pursuing feminist work within the framework of traditional disciplines.

The Consortium membership includes Boston College, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Simmons College, Tufts University, and the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

There is no fee for GCWS courses. Students are granted credit for participation by their home institutions. For more information about the Consortium, talk to the director of the GCS program.

The Dual Degree with the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program

This full-time two-year program is specifically designed for those preparing for a career in education and intending to assume leadership positions in schools. Students in this program enroll in both the Master of Arts in Gender/Cultural Studies program and the 32-semester-hour MAT program. Students in the dual-degree program take five GCS courses and complete a capstone project that comprises a teaching unit, thereby bringing together both GCS and pedagogical interests. Dual-degree students present their pedagogical work at the spring colloquium with other graduating GCS students.

In the first year of the program, students spend some time in the MAT division (usually during the two Simmons summer sessions) but dedicate most of their study to the GCS portion (usually two courses a semester). In the second year, students' time will be devoted to fulfilling the MAT requirements, including a teaching practicum. Simmons students work alongside experienced practitioners to earn a Massachusetts initial teaching license. Depending upon a student's undergraduate background, dual-degree GCS/MAT students will be certified in social studies, English, or history.

For further information concerning the MAT portion of the dual-degree program, consult the

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program director, Maryellen Cunnion. Written inquiries should be addressed to the Department of Education, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA, 02115-5898, or telephone inquiries to 617.521.2566, or e-mail maryellen.cunnion@simmons.edu.

COURSES

Candidates for the Gender/Cultural Studies degree must satisfactorily complete 24 semester hours as follows:

GCS 403 Seminar in Gender/Cultural Studies (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Explores the interdisciplinary nature of gender/cultural studies and introduces the student to graduate-level research and writing. Draws upon feminist, poststructuralist, and cultural studies frameworks to examine issues of power, body, gender, sexuality, and race. Includes oral reports and research papers. Hager.

GCS 430 Cultural Theory (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs. Prereq.: GCS 403 or consent of the instructor.

An intensive reading seminar, intended to provide an introduction to the theoretical debates regarding the study of culture that have taken place in the last 20 years. Explores theories of nations, publics, and identities. Considers a number of theorists including Bourdieu, Haberman, Foucault, Hall, and Butler. Leonard. (Also listed as GEDUC 430)

And one of the following:

GCS/ENGL 406 Feminism and Literature (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Surveys feminist approaches to literary analysis and production, examining poetry and fiction that engages with sex, gender, and sexuality, while also studying feminist literary criticism, literary history, feminist theory, gender theory, and queer theory in literary context. Bergland.

GCS 410 Issues in International Studies (F-1,2; S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

In the fall of 2006 and 2007, the topic will be queer transnationalism. Taking issue with the notion of the globalization of gay identities, this course explores and analyzes transnational circulations of queer sexualities. Drawing upon queer theory and transnational feminist approaches, the course seeks to shift the predominantly domestic focus of the former and foreground issues of sexuality within the latter. Puri.

In the spring of 2008, the seminar Gender, Culture, and Human Rights considers the implications for debates over gender and culture as concern with human rights has moved from the margins to the center of international affairs. Welch.

GCS/ENG 412 Special Topics: Theoretical Approaches to Cultural Narratives (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies a recent work in critical or cultural theory in depth and applies it to the analysis of multicultural and popular cultural narratives (to novels and stories by writers working within and outside Anglo-American tradition, to television and film series). Examples of theoretical approaches include aesthetic theory, post-colonialism, and new historicism. Hager.

GCS 415 Feminism and Economic Difference (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Focuses on critical appraisals of economics as a gendered discourse, as well as recent poststructuralist, materialist feminist, and postmodern Marxist work that diversifies the economic space by theorizing gender, class, sexuality and race along with economic difference. Biewener.

Elective courses, 12–16 semester hours:

GCS/ENG 405 Contemporary Critical Theory (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Introduces graduate students to the concepts and practices of contemporary literary and cultural criticism. Surveys poststructuralist, psychoanalytic, Marxist, new-historicist, postcolonial, feminist, and gender theory, bringing these perspectives to

bear on key literary and historical texts. Bromberg.

GCS/ENGL 406 Feminism and Literature (S-2)

See description above.

GCS 410 Issues in International Studies (F-1,2; S-2)

See description above.

GCS/ENG 412 Special Topics: Theoretical Approaches to Cultural Narratives (S-1)

See description above.

GCS 415 Feminism and Economic Difference (S-2)

See description above.

GCS 450 Independent Study (F-1,2; S-1,2)

2–4 sem, hrs. Prereq.: Consent of the program director.

Offers an opportunity to complete research, internship, or fieldwork projects related to the GCS program. Requires consent of a supervising faculty member; approval of the program director; and a brief proposal outlining the focus, purpose, and projected outcome, to be submitted to the program director during the semester prior to registration. May not be taken more than twice. Staff.

AST 513 The Black Struggle for Schooling in America (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines African Americans' struggle for the right to an education in the United States, focusing on the content and context (historical and sociopolitical) of specific struggles. Selected topics include: the pursuit of literacy by enslaved Africans; the ex-slave's campaign for universal education in the South; African American literary societies; African American education in the Jim Crow South; Black education in the post-civil rights era; and African Americans' struggle for the right to maintain their language. Perry.

AST 535 Race, Sex, and Class: Contemporary Film Images of Women of Color (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines popular film as a powerful medium buttressing subliminal ideologies in the continuing subjugation of women of color. Critically analyzes "Hollyweird"-produced films and historical and sociological data to develop perspective on how and why stereotypes of women of color endure in films specifically and media in general. Staff.

AST/SOC/WST 540 Intimate Family Violence: A Multicultural Perspective (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines the scope and variety of violence in the family from an interdisciplinary perspective that includes: (a) a theoretical framework of economics, law, public policy, psychology, and sociology; (b) a cross-cultural understanding of family violence against girls and women; and (c) an exploration of the sociopolitical, legal, and cultural response to family violence. Discussion of the theories used to describe and research family violence that include: violence against women, children, intimate partners, and elderly family members. Thomas.

CHL 401 Criticism of Children's Lit (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Develops the individual critical voices of students and acquaints them with the literary canon and a variety of literary perspectives through exposure to many influential schools of literary criticism. Applies critical skills in the examination of a range of novels (realism and fantasy), short stories, biographies, nonfiction, and translated works published for children. Mercier.

[CHL/ENG 423 19th- Century American Children's Literature

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008]

Reading writers including Hawthorne, Alcott, Twain, Susan Warner, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, and Margaret Sidney, this class will consider the role of religion, the classed and gendered nature of writing for children, and the way the family is depicted and disciplined. We'll also take up the question of slavery, women's suffrage, and industrialization in the children's literature of the

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period. Hager.

ENGL 402 Seminar in the Teaching of Writing (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Serves graduate students interested in the theory and practice of teaching writing at the undergraduate and secondary school level. Focuses on reading of research and texts in the field, regular writing assignments, and classroom observation and simulation. Pei.

[ENGL 506 Victorian Literature and Culture]

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008.]

Surveys British poets, prose writers, and novelists from the 1840s to the turn of the century. Studies writers who may include Tennyson, Robert and Elizabeth Browning, Matthew Arnold, Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria, Darwin, Ruskin, Mill, Newman, and Carlyle. Bromberg.

[ENGL 507 Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf]

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006–2008.]

Studies the two major English women novelists of the 19th and 20th centuries in relation to their major works and current critical debates. Bromberg.

ENGL 508 The Postcolonial Novel (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies the novels of such writers as Joseph Conrad, Jean Rhys, V.S. Naipul, Nadine Gordimer, Tayeb Salih, Chinua Achebe, Buchi Emecheta, Jamaica Kincaid, and Anita Desai in the context of contemporary post-colonial theory. Bromberg.

ENGL 520 American Women's Poetry (F-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Focuses on Emily Dickinson and Adrienne Rich alongside their influences and inheritors, from Anne Bradstreet to Joy Harjo. Uses frameworks of textual, intertextual, and cultural analysis within a seminar format. Bergland.

[ENGL 522 The Postmodern Novel]

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2006-2008.]

Explores an array of postmodern fiction and film, primarily from England and the Continent. Authors include Barnes, Kundera, Fowles, Calvino, Byatt, Atwood, and Swift. Designed for graduate

students and advanced English majors. Bromberg.

ENGL 523 Special Topics in Literature (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Topic for S-1: Toni Morrison and American Literature

This course will read most of the novels and short works of Toni Morrison, viewing them both as involved in thematic conversations with other writers of the American literary canon and as presenting critical evaluations of the racial history that Morrison believes continually haunts this canon. George.

ENGL 527 Race and Gender in Psychoanalytic Discourse [S-2]

4 sem. hrs.

Investigates psychoanalysis as a theoretical discourse that has been forced continually to rewrite itself as it rethinks and makes room for the concepts of race and gender. Focuses upon Freud, Lacan, and more recent scholars and theorists who have used race and gender to redefine psychoanalysis. George.

ENGL 530 Postcolonial Cinema [U-1]

4 sem. hrs.

Surveys post-colonial cinema with emphasis on films from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Focuses especially on how these films address the cultural and political issues relevant to an understanding of post-colonial identity. Weekly screenings of films and reading in post-colonial theory and film criticism. Staff.

ENGL 598 Feminist Film Studies [F-2]

4 sem. hrs.

Looks at various cinematic traditions from the '40s to the present and examines how films implicitly and explicitly locate gender and sexuality along a continuum of the acceptable and the perverse. Includes an intensive consideration of feminist film criticism and theory. Staff.

HIST 527 Archives, History, and Collective Memory*

4 sem. hrs.

Explores the relationship among historical events, the creation and maintenance of archival records,

and the construction of social memory. Analyzes the role of archives in the process of memory conservation, the display or public history, the writing of history, and the construction of political and national identities. Focuses on 20th century events, considering such historical and archival issues as repatriation, record preservation, the use of misuse of archives to shape political myths, and the use of documents to influence a shared historical consciousness. Bastian and Prieto.

HIST 560 Seminar in the History of Women and Gender (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Offers advanced studies in the history of women's experience and the construction of gender. Draws upon one of a series of revolving themes, including gender and consumer culture; women and education; gender and war; women, work and professionalization; and the suffrage movement. Prieto.

HIST 571 Seminar in Early American History (F-2, S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies the development of a new society and culture in British America from the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 through the War for Independence. Focuses on varied developments in New England, the Middle Colonies, and the South, with special attention to political institutions, social structure, race relations, and gender roles. Çınlar.

HIST 573 Seminar in 19th Century U.S. History (F-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Focuses on topics in the cultural, social, and political history of the U.S. during the course of the "long" 19th century, between the Jacksonian Era and the Jazz Age. Prieto.

HIST 574 Seminar in Modern U.S. History (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Focuses on topics in the cultural, social, and political history of the U.S. after 1890. Themes include urbanization, progressivism, immigration, the development of consumer culture, the Great Depression, Cold War culture, and movements for

civil rights. Prieto.

HIST 577 Seminar in Topics in Modern European History (F-1, 2)

4 sem. hrs.

Provides an intensive study of a specific topic in modern European history varying from year to year. Takes advantage of current issues in historiography and faculty expertise. Topics include post-1989 Europe, history and memory, and war and society. Leonard.

HIST 597 Historical Methods and Research (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies history as an interpretive craft and explores various methods and models for researching, analyzing, and writing history in both academic and popular forms, from essays to public exhibits, monographs to films. Prieto.

INRL 590 Seminar in International Relations (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Addresses a different topic each year. Carrington.

PHIL 532 Law and Philosophy (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines the institution of law from a philosophical point of view. Topics include the nature and definition of law, the relationship between law and morality, grounds for obedience to law or civil disobedience, justifications of punishment, legal reasoning, justification of the adversary system, professional ethics of lawyers, and feminist jurisprudence. Raymond.

PHIL 590 Seminar [S-1,2]

4 sem. hrs.

Intensively examines a particular philosopher, philosophical school of thought, or philosophical problem. Staff.

POLS 590 Seminar in Political Science (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Offers an intensive study of a specific topic in political science. Staff.

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SOCI 439 Introduction to Social Research (F-1,2; S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Introduces methods and strategies used in research in the social sciences. Teaches responsible consumption of social science research and presents the logic and skills of social research methods. Emphasizes the nature of inquiry and the relationship between theory and research. Includes social research ethics and an introduction to data analysis using computers in research. Previous courses in statistics or computers not required. Leiter, Sandoval Giron.

SOCI 511 Critical Race Legal Theory (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Chronicles critical race theory as an intellectual field created in dialogue with dominant race and legal constructions since the civil rights movement in the U.S. Gives particular attention to key contemporary legal and political debates about affirmative action, assaultive speech, land rights, the punishment industry, violence against women, and multicultural education. Thompson.

SOCI 539 Qualitative Research Workshop (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Immerses students in qualitative research techniques in a workshop format, focusing on the conduct of qualitative interviews and on the analysis of existing documents and interview data. Addresses ethical and political issues in research, emphasizing acquisition of theoretical and hands-on experience needed to conduct independent qualitative research. Leiter.

SOCI 545 Health Systems and Policy (S-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines the current U.S. health system and health policies focusing on interests of individuals, groups, and organizations as clients, providers, and citizens. Explores the impact of policy and systems on the health of various populations. Describes the evolution of the U.S. health system and uses organizational concepts and theories to explain and predict its form and functions; the influence of organizations on the definition of health, illness, and healing; and the application of organizational analysis to health policy issues. Leiter.

SOCI 546 Society and Health (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Introduces a framework and methods for understanding societal characteristics as powerful determinants of population health and the implications for research and policy. Examines the theoretical underpinnings of each social construct (e.g., gender or ethnicity) and the empirical research linking each to population health status. Leiter.

SOCI 547 Antiracism and Justice Work (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Offers a multicultural social history of antiracism in the U.S. from the 1950s to the present with particular focus on the civil rights and black power movements, multiracial feminism, Central America solidarity work, multicultural education, and prison activism. Thompson.

SOCI 548 Re-envisioning the Third World (S-2)

4 sem. hrs.

Explores the meaning and politics of the concept of the Third World from a post-colonial, feminist perspective. Critically considers histories of colonialism, anti-colonial movements, nationalism, decolonization, science, and geography. Encourages rethinking the concept of the Third World to enable transnational networks of alliances. Puri.

WST 500 Gender and Sexuality (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Focuses on theoretical and thematic considerations of gender and sexuality, including the role of medical discourse in constructing notions of gender and heterosexuality; sexuality as an instrument of power; and the links with nationalisms, queer theory, hybridities, and political possibilities. Taylor, Puri.

WST 504 Feminist Theories (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines the development and current manifestations of competing feminist views, including liberal, radical, and Marxist feminism, as well as more recent feminist theory deploying psychoanalysis, postmodernism, and multiculturalism. Raymond, Trigilio.

Other electives are often available on a semester-by-

semester basis. A list of current electives for each semester is available from the program director.

Degree candidates conclude their programs with one of the following capstone courses. All students in GCS 455, 460, 470, or 480 present their work at a master's colloquium in the spring. Students may also complete the program without completing a capstone option by substituting an eighth course to meet graduation requirements. However, an essay of 20–30 pages in length must be written and presented at a master's colloquium to fill the capstone requirement. This essay will be a significantly revised and expanded version of an essay written within the framework of a GCS course or elective. The revision must be supervised by the director of the program.

GCS 455 Thesis (F-1,2; S-1,2)

8 sem. hrs. (over two semesters) Prereq.: Consent of the program director.

Involves a year-long independent research and writing project culminating in a paper of approximately 60–80 pages under the supervision of one reader with expertise in the subject area. Requires permission from the GCS director and advisory board and a proposal approved during the semester before the course is taken. Staff.

GCS 460 Master's Project (F-1,2; S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Involves a research and writing project culminating in a paper of substantial length (30–40 pages) that may include an exhibit, film, media presentation, etc. Entails integration of materials relevant to the student's specialization. Requires a proposal approved during the semester before the course is taken. Staff.

GCS 470 Internship (F-1,2; S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Offers students a work experience of five to ten hours per week under the direction of a workplace supervisor and a Simmons advisor. Serves as a source of information for inquiry and research. Culminates in a final paper of 20–30 pages that studies and analyzes an aspect of the work experience or site (e.g., an institutional ethnography). Requires a proposal approved during the semester prior to the internship. Staff.

GCS 480 Fieldwork (F-1,2; S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Offers an opportunity to conduct field research for five to ten hours per week under the direction of a Simmons advisor. Involves gathering empirical information for a study of approximately 20–30 pages. Requires a proposal approved during the semester prior to the fieldwork and may require approval from the institutional review board for research involving human subjects. Staff.

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