

Call for Proposals for GCWS Core and Elective Courses

The Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS) is always seeking proposals for both our core courses (Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies, Feminist and Queer Theory, and Feminist and Queer Methodology) in addition to rotating topics-based courses. We are particularly interested in offering courses that incorporate queer theory, transgender theory, post colonial studies, Indigenous studies, critical race theory, and other disciplines that are often marginalized by university systems. It is one of our main goals to offer courses that extend and enhance what is available to graduate students enrolled at member institutions and provide faculty with a unique opportunity for professional growth. When designing courses, faculty should keep the following goals in mind:

- An explicit consideration of how interdisciplinary inquiry puts pressure on what counts as knowledge in individual disciplinary orientations;
- Systematic attention to intersections of race, class, and culture with gender as categories of analysis;
- Social and cross-cultural dimensions that ground both the concrete issues and the theory addressed in the course; and
- Attention to the implications of theory, practice, and/or policy implications of the material. In addition, courses should be designed to explore disciplinary and/or methodological conditions of knowledge.

The GCWS offers three elective courses each year in addition to three core courses: Feminist/Queer Theory, Feminist/Queer Methodology, and Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies. Elective courses are team-taught by faculty from two different member institutions and two different disciplines. Core courses are solo-taught.

Faculty from our member institutions (Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis, Harvard, MIT, Northeastern, Simmons, Tufts, and UMass Boston) are welcome to apply. We encourage interested teaching teams to apply together, but also welcome applications from individual instructors. The GCWS office can help connect interested applicants.

Courses can meet at MIT, on Zoom, or on the home campus of the faculty. Graduate and doctoral students of any discipline and from any of our member institutions are eligible to take our courses. The teaching team will determine the day, time, and semester the course meets.

The GCWS has a standing memorandum of agreement with all member institutions which allows faculty members to teach a course for the Consortium as part of their regular teaching load or to receive a stipend. The GCWS office and faculty representative for your campus can assist with this process.

Each academic year, GCWS offers three distinct elective courses on important and cutting-edge topics. The topics routinely change and these courses normally provide an opportunity for instructors to teach a subject that may not be possible at their home institution. Courses, regardless of topic, integrate a gender analysis along with issues of class, race, culture, ethnicity, and sexualities and consider the practical implications of feminist theory.

Below are a few sample ideas for which the GCWS would welcome course proposals. Additionally, faculty are encouraged to propose their own course ideas. We welcome proposals for courses that are U.S.-focused or have a more international focus.

Environmental Justice

- How is today's environmental justice and activism connected to feminist struggles within broader histories and debates about economic globalization and social change?
- How does environmental activism either center or dismiss the populations most likely to be impacted either by race, geographic location, and/or native ancestry?
- How does capitalism and corporations avert and shift responsibility to individuals through marketing reusable straws and other trendy movements?

Future Uses of the Erotic

- Sex toys and equipment can be a powerful way for people with disabilities to explore sexual pleasure and can also be used by trans/GNC/NB and queer people to explore sexual and gender identities. However, these advancements happen alongside increased surveillance and data tracking.
- How does technology and technological advancements support or monitor our sexual identities and exploration?

Liberation

- How has gender impacted liberation movements and social change?
- What are key challenges faced by people with marginalized genders participating in liberation movements?

Technology

- What are the militaristic and colonial influences on technology development?
- What are the ecological consequences of technological change?
- How do racialized and gendered divisions of labor impact technological change?

Surveillance States and Urban Development

- Urban development means more convenience but also increased cameras in our daily life – at traffic lights, public transit, public schools, storefronts, and other places.
- What are the implications of increased surveillance? How can we plan urban development without increasing surveillance measures?

Faculty are also encouraged to submit course proposals and syllabi for our core courses:

- Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies
 - This is a year-round course and occurs other week.
- Feminist and Queer Theory
 - This course is taught in fall semesters.
- Feminist and Queer Methods
 - This course is taught in spring semesters.

[Previous course topics](#) and additional information on the [course proposal process](#) can be found on our website.

Interested faculty members should submit a current CV, course title, and brief description for the course to GCWS Program Manager, Melanie Robinson at melrob@mit.edu.