COURSES FOR GENDER AND RACE STUDIES

African American Studies Courses

AAST201 Intro African Amer Study SB

Hours 3

A basic outline of the diversity and complexity of the African-American experience in the United States: the early academic and social concerns of Black Studies advocates; the changes in the field's objectives that arise from its connections to contemporary social movements for Black Power, women's liberation and multiculturalism; and its major theoretical and critical debates.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

AAST221 Contemporary In(queer)ies

Hours 3

In her essay "Queer and Now," Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick offers a rumination on the political, epistemological and pedagogical imports of "gueer" at that moment: " That's one of the things that 'queer' can refer to: the open mesh of possibilities, gaps, overlaps, dissonances and resonances, lapses and excesses of meaning when the constituent elements of anyone's gender, of anyone's sexuality aren't made (or can't be made) to signify monolithically." This 3 credit hour course, takes up Sedgwick's suggestion of the possibilities of "queer" to consider the development of gueer theory, gueer studies, and gueer politics. Although this course is organized thematically across a number of disciplines, it also resists a kind of stringent categorization or segmentation-mirroring the energy that has characterized this interdisciplinary field. While paying attention to the seemingly endless possibilities associated with queer theory, this course is profoundly committed to as Sedgwick argues to keep "same-sex sexual expression at "the terms definitional center," as not to "dematerialize any possibility of queerness itself.".

AAST222 LGBTQ Histories

Hours 3

During the past decade, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) Americans have achieved various forms of empowerment and visibility in the nation's political, legal, social, and cultural arenas. However, LGBTQ persons continue to face various barriers to full equality and well-being including employment discrimination, high rates of homelessness among teens, violence, and inadequate access to health care. This 3 credit hour course places will focus on the events emergence of the last decade into a longer history of LGBTQ communities, visibility and politics that begins LGBTQ community in the late nineteenth 20th century and ends in the early twenty-first century. American Culture. During the semester, we will explore the historical development of LGBTQ identities, communities, politics, and cultural production. Together, we will analyze an array of materials including scholarly texts, oral histories, newspapers, films, photographs, art and political ephemera.

AAST225 Black Women's Experiences in the South Hours 3

Southern/Black/Woman. This demographic descriptor encompasses notable figures - Ida B. Wells, Bessie Smith, Condoleezza Rice, Beyoncé – and millions whose names and individual stories are often marginal to American memory and public policy. This course examines various aspects of Southern Black Women's lives and labors, pain and pleasures, adventures and adversities from the nineteenth century to the present day. Students will analyze an array of materials including: memoirs/ autobiographies, oral histories, secondary scholarship, census data, paintings, photographs, film, television and music. Using in-class activities, discussion and writing assignments, this course addresses one central question: What can the academic study of Black Women's experiences in the South reveal about gender, race, class, and sexuality in the United States (past and present)?.

AAST249 African American Literature

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Hours 3

Survey of African American literature from its earliest expressions to the present. In order to identify the aesthetics of the African American literary tradition, the course material includes spirituals, slave narratives, poetry, drama, autobiography, fiction, and nonfiction.

Prerequisite(s): (Undergraduate level EN 101 with minimum Grade of C- and Undergraduate level EN 102 with minimum Grade of C-) OR (Undergraduate level EN 103 with minimum Grade of C- or Undergraduate level EN 104 with minimum Grade of C-) OR (Undergraduate level EN 120 with minimum Grade of C- and Undergraduate level EN 121 with minimum Grade of C-)

Humanities, Literature

AAST302 The Black Church Hours 3

A survey of mainstream Christian expressions of black spirituality as well as other forms of sacred collective consciousness. Study of local churches and theology is encouraged.

AAST303 Education Of Southern Blacks Hours 3

A study of the "miseducation" of Africans in America. The course explores education for blacks from West Africa at the middle of the second millennium and early American society to the emergence of the separate school system of the 19th and 20th centuries.

AAST304 Civil War Still Lives': Race, Memory, and the Politics of Reunion Hours 3

For over 150 years, the Civil War occupies a prominent place in our national memory and has served to both unite and divide Americans. This course will explore the various ways in which Americans have chosen to remember their civil war through reunions, monuments and memorials, histories, literature, film, museums as well as other forms of popular culture. We will examine how memory of the war changed over time as well as the political implications for Civil War memory, the nation, and identity in understanding both historical and contemporary debates.

Prerequisite(s): None

AAST319 19th Century Black History

Hours 3

Role of black Americans in American life from the 17th century to the beginning of the 20th century, with emphasis on the institutions and events of the 1800s.

AAST322 Slave Resistance

Hours 3

This course introduces students to the major themes, questions, primary sources, monographs, and fiction in regards to slave resistance in the United States and Atlantic World. Specifically, course readings and assignments will revolve around agency and empowerment of enslaved individuals, power relations between masters and enslaved individuals and the various forms of resistance (everyday acts, runaways, rebellions, and marronage).

AAST323 Hate Crimes

Hours 3

What are the causes and consequences of bias-motivated crimes? What are the larger social and political contexts? In this class, students will examine how bias-motivated violence receives attention in the media, how and why hate crimes legislation came to be seen as a necessary legal tool to curb crimes based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, and sexual orientation. Students will also explore the opposition to such laws and the degree to which communities are able to respond to incidents of bias-motivated violence. Students will also explore the proliferation of hate groups and the impact of those groups on social and political debates over hate crimes laws.

AAST333 Black Family Studies

Hours 3

The field of Black Family Studies is an area that has received very little attention in the last decade. This course will use historical literature to address issues that have impacted Black families in America. Throughout this course, we investigate the various reasons why the majority of Black families are not the traditional units that were prevalent before the turn of the 20th century. A broad perspective will be taken to provide a balanced understanding of gender and the challenges men and women face from patriarchy, racism, mass incarceration, poverty, and economic exploitation. Students will be responsible for reading the assigned text and actively engage in class discussion.

AAST336 Concepts of Race and Racism Hours 3

This course offers a critical introduction to the conditions of possibility for modern racial thinking, with particular emphasis on racial slavery and anti-blackness. We will begin with the working assumption that slavery is at the root of the problem of race and racism. In order to excavate this assumption, we will survey debates on 1) the origin and history of race and racism (from the Ancients to the early moderns); 2) the deployment of categories in contested proximity to race (from class to gender); and 3) the development of different conceptual paradigms (from double consciousness to political ontology) to parse the relationship between race and the world. Instead of resolving these debates, our problembased approach will emphasize that texts are intellectual and political acts whose scope and framing bear on present problematics. In doing so, we will learn to mobilize our readings as theoretical and historical tools in interpreting the contemporary and interrogating our responsibility toward the themes of the class.

AAST345 Black Politics Hours 3

This course examines the historical origins and present framework of Black politics, including the civil rights movement, Black political culture, local and community politics, and current and future issues for Black America such as Black imagery in television/film, Black feminism, sexuality, the War on Drugs, the impact of mass incarceration, and modern social justice and protest movements like #BlackLivesMatter. Students will explore questions regarding the history of race in American political life as well as how race has shaped a broader national identity. And evaluate what concepts like "equal treatment under the law" and "liberty and justice for all" mean with respect to the legacy of Black political participation.

AAST350 Topics African American Lit Hours 3

A cross-genre survey of African American literature, historical events, and critical movements. Authors may include Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Richard Wright, Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larson, Langston Hughes, and Toni Morrison.

AAST352 Social Inequality

Hours 3

Analysis of inequities of wealth, power, and prestige; major theories of racial and cultural minorities; behavioral correlates of stratification; social mobility.

AAST375 Freedom Beyond Rights

Hours 3

Feminism understands itself to be fundamentally liberatory - that is, concerned with increasing liberty, particularly (but not exclusively) of women. Feminist political theory often treats freedom within a liberal framework that prioritizes individual rights: for example, the right to control one's reproductive health, the right to equal pay, or the right not to experience harassment. According to this framework, to be free is to enjoy one's rights without interference or limitation. The aim of this course is to think about freedom beyond rights. Specifically, we will consider what it means to be a free political actor, whether freedom is the highest political good, whether, and how, freedom is compatible with other values, such as equality and justice, and how different kinds of politics, social norms, and modes of living might affect attempts to increase and experience freedom.

AAST395 Special Topics

Hours 3

An examination of selected African American topics. May be repeated for a maximum of 18 hours.

AAST401 Black Intellectual Thought

Hours 3

An upper level seminar designed to provide students with an in-depth study of major intellectual debates and mvoements that have shaped the politics, history and identities of the people of African descent in the United States and the African diaspura. The course will combine methodologies and concepts from multiple disciplines including, history, political theory, literature, women's studies, sociology, pyschology and philosophy.

Prerequisite(s): AAST 201 and AMS 201

Hours 3-9

An examination of selected African American topics. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours.

AAST413 Communication & Diversity W

Hours 3

Study and analysis of issues of diversity as they relate to groups in society and in communication fields. Emphasis is on the media's treatment of various groups in society. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Writing

AAST415 African American Rhetoric W

Hours 3

A historical-critical investigation of African American public discourse from the Revolutionary era to the present, exploring rhetorical strategies for social change and building community. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Writing

AAST434 Race, Ethnicity and Health Disparities Hours 3

This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of race and ethnicity as it relates to health as well as major issues facing the overall health status of our society. This class will provide examples for the application of minority health basic competencies in the field of community health and medical sociology. Topics to be covered include: mental health and individual behavior access to health care, socioeconomic status and racial differences, racial/ethnic group specific health issues. The health care system covers the physician-patient relationship and increasing commercialization in the health care system.

AAST435 Black Feminism

Hours 3

This upper level undergraduate and graduate course exposes students to the key figures, texts and concepts that constitute black feminist thought.

Prerequisite(s): AAST 201 or WS 200

AAST436 Gender and Black Masculinity Hours 3

This course will examine the socio-historical perceptions and constructions of Black masculinities in various regions and periods. Students will also examine the social, political, and economic conditions of Black male life in the contemporary period and interrogate representations of Black men and boys in U.S. culture and society in relation to the broader politics of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the post-civil rights era. Specific attention will be paid to the history of ideas and approaches that have shaped and defined our understanding of Black males. Students will be introduced to historical and sociocultural circumstances that affect Black males and the diverse nature of Black culture. This course will also attempt to heighten awareness and sensitivity to the contemporary problems affecting Black males and thus help discover and evaluate social policies and programs geared towards Black males.

AAST490 AAST Independent Study

Hours 1-6

Independent study on any subject pertaining to African-American studies, under the supervision of a professor in the chosen field and/or Director of the program.

AAST495 Special Topics

Hours 3

An examination of selected African American topics. May be repeated for a maximum of 18 hours.

AAST502 Special Topics Hours 3

An examination of selected African American topics.

Women's Studies Courses

WS200 Intro To Women Studies

Hours 3

An interdisciplinary course examining the roles of women in patriarchal society, with emphasis on how factors such as race, class, gender, and sexuality contribute to the oppression of women and ways they can be challenged through feminist critical practices.

Humanities

WS205 Women's Autobiographies

Hours 3

Through an examination of women's autobiographical writings, the roles women have assumed in different cultures and periods are considered. Analytical techniques from the study of art, literature and psychology are used to discover issues inherent in women's experiences.

WS220 Mothers And Daughters

Hours 3

Investigation of the institution of motherhood, the forces shaping it, and the significance of mother-daughter relationships.

WS300 Studies in Gender and Sexuality

Hours 3

Students in the course will consider the description of gender and sexuality in popular culture, with the aim of understanding the relationship between both concepts. The goal is to follow up on the introduction to Women's Studies with more in depth analysis of how gender and sexuality are defined for individuals, in the law, and as a consequence of social change.

Prerequisite(s): WS 200

WS310 Special Topics

Hours 3

Changing topics: for example, women and work, women in the world, social inequality.

WS323 Hate Crimes

Hours 3

What are the causes and consequences of bias-motivated crimes? What are the larger social and political contexts? In this class, students will examine how bias-motivated violence receives attention in the media, how and why hate crimes legislation came to be seen as a necessary legal tool to curb crimes based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, and sexual orientation. Students will also explore the opposition to such laws and the degree to which communities are able to respond to incidents of bias-motivated violence. Students will also explore the proliferation of hate groups and the impact of those groups on social and political debates over hate crimes laws.

WS329 Social Movements through Social Media Hours 3

This course explores contemporary U.S social movements around gender and racial justice through the lens of social media activism. The multifaceted online forums that activists have at their disposal today marks a significant break with the past and yet, "using" the media has long been a central tactic for many U.S. justice movements of the late 20th century. Students will be guided through data collection exercises and discursive analysis of the information gathered in order to interrogate the knowledge produced by select social movements through their use of social media overtime. Employing theoretical, historical, and ethnographic arguments at the center of feminist and anti-racist struggles, students will explore the opportunities and constraints of relying on social media and its particular import for what the academy refers to as a "public intellectualism.".

WS342 Women in the South

Hours 3

Examination of the cultural concepts, myths, and experiences of black and white Southern women from a variety of economic and social backgrounds. Special attention is given to the interaction of race, class, and gender in Southern women's lives. Texts include historical studies, autobiographies, biographies, oral histories and novels written by and about women in the 19th and 20th -century South. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Writing

WS345 Black Politics Hours 3

This course examines the historical origins and present framework of Black politics, including the civil rights movement, Black political culture, local and community politics, and current and future issues for Black America such as Black imagery in television/film, Black feminism, sexuality, the War on Drugs, the impact of mass incarceration, and modern social justice and protest movements like #BlackLivesMatter. We will explore questions regarding the history of race in American political life as well as how race has shaped a broader national identity. We will evaluate what concepts like "equal treatment under the law" and "liberty and justice for all" mean with respect to the legacy of Black political participation.

WS352 Social Inequality

Hours 3

Analysis of inequities of wealth, power, and prestige; major theories of racial and cultural minorities; behavioral correlates of stratification; social mobility.

WS375 Freedom Beyond Rights Hours 3

Feminism understands itself to be fundamentally liberatory - that is, concerned with increasing liberty, particularly (but not exclusively) of women. Feminist political theory often treats freedom within a liberal framework that prioritizes individual rights: for example, the right to control one's reproductive health, the right to equal pay, or the right not to experience harassment. According to this framework, to be free is to enjoy one's rights without interference or limitation. The aim of this course is to think about freedom beyond rights. Specifically, we will consider what it means to be a free political actor, whether freedom is the highest political good, whether, and how, freedom is compatible with other values, such as equality and justice, and how different kinds of politics, social norms, and modes of living might affect attempts to increase and experience freedom.

WS410 Essential Readings & Writings in Women's Studies *W*

Hours 3

This course explores texts and themes central to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. Course texts may include theoretical, expository, autobiographical, and fictional writings from early feminism as well as contemporary selections. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Writing

WS420 Women On Screen Hours 3

This course wrestles with concerns and key debates that surround the place of women in film and television and the questions that gender studies raises about representation, consumption, authorship, and spectatorship. To enter these debates, we will examine the role of women both in front of and behind the camera predominantly through U.S. media history, although notable developments in global cinema (particularly in terms of female directing) will be addressed. While film history and criticism will be the background for course discussions, the main objective is to consider more broadly how women have acted as consumers and viewers of popular media including television, how they have been portrayed in mainstream U.S. culture, and how they have created their own representations of gendered experience. Particular attention will be paid to how other identities such as those based in race, class, sexuality, and age have intersected with gender to inform both consumers and creators of visual media.

WS425 Monsters in Popular Culture Hours 3

This interdisciplinary seminar will critically engage with the concept of the monstrous "Other" from the perspectives of gender and race studies. Examining a variety of texts--from films, television, and works of literature to police reports, psychology texts, and medieval manuscripts--this course will explore how the monster has been constructed historically and culturally as a defining opposition, the Other against which the dominant or privileged defines itself. What lies outside of, what must be expelled from, what needs to be repressed in dominant culture is figured in or inconveniently rises up as the "monster." He/she both haunts and polices the boundaries of normative sexuality, the gender binary, and racial privilege. In this course, we will read critical, historical, and theoretical material as a lens through which to critique primary texts, or what one might call our monstrous examples (from American Horror Story to Edgar Allen Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher"). As a seminar, this highly interactive course enables students to critically engage with content in responsible ways and is designed to explore interdisciplinary approaches to a particular issue, theme, or problem. Within this format, students can expect a reading- and discussion-intensive course with opportunities for self-directed inquiry as well as collaborative work.

WS430 Contemporary Issues: Feminist Theory *W*

Hours 3

Through the study of key feminist political and theoretical texts on an issue central to contemporary feminism, students in this seminar will develop advanced undergraduate research skills and gain a substantial foundation for further study, including graduate work in this area. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): WS 200 or permission from the instructor.

Writing

WS435 Black Feminism

Hours 3

This upper level undergraduate and graduate course exposes students to the key figures, texts and concepts that constitute black feminist thought.

WS436 Gender and Black Masculinity Hours 3

This course will examine the socio-historical perceptions and constructions of Black masculinities in various regions and periods. Students will also examine the social, political, and economic conditions of Black male life in the contemporary period and interrogate representations of Black men and boys in U.S. culture and society in relation to the broader politics of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the post-civil rights era. Specific attention will be paid to the history of ideas and approaches that have shaped and defined our understanding of Black males. Students will be introduced to historical and sociocultural circumstances that affect Black males and the diverse nature of Black culture. This course will also attempt to heighten awareness and sensitivity to the contemporary problems affecting Black males and thus help discover and evaluate social policies and programs geared towards Black males.

WS440 Seminar in Women's Studies

Hours 3

Courses under this rubric are designed to investigate a particular subject supplemental to regular course offerings. Students in this senior seminar will develop advanced undergraduate research skills and gain a substantial foundation for further study, including graduate work in this area. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upperdivision student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

Prerequisite(s): WS 200 or permission of the instructor.

Writing

WS442 Writings in Women's Studies Hours 3

This course will provide students with a writing course in topics important to contemporary feminist theory. Among the topics will be a study of classical texts, such as Antigone, for gender politics, the development of student training in areas of feminist analysis from within the fields of natural science, political science, english, anthropology, rhetoric, art, economics, and American Studies. Demonstrated writing proficiency is a requirement for successful completion of the course. Students will complete at a minimum 5 short papers of from 1-3 pages each, essays derived from course readings and topical assignments, as well as a longer paper of from 7-10 pages. Instructor assessment of student writing and constant feedback is an important part of the course, and students will be asked to develop their own writing through in class assignments as well. Students will read a considerable amount of material in feminist analysis, comment upon this, and engage in classroom discussions on a regular basis.

Prerequisite(s): None

WS445 Seminar in the Study of Gender and Sexuality Hours 3

Students will study the different approaches to the study of sexuality within the framework of the disciplines of Women's Studies and African American Studies. The focus is on understanding how gender and sexuality develop through intersectionality, contemporary popular culture, and/or through policy changes. International research in gender and sexuality studies is also a potential focus of the course.

WS450 Independent Study in Women's Studies

Hours 1-6

Independent study on any subject pertaining to Women's and Gender Studies conducted under the supervision of a professor in the chosen field.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the supervisor and arrangement in advance of the semester in which enrollment is planned.

WS470 Gender, Race, and Class Hours 3

Emphasis is placed on theories and research on the intersectionality of gender, race, and class formations in various historical and geographical contexts. Students explore the interactions between forces of discrimination and domination and their manifestations in different sites, as well as the methods by which to defuse and work toward their elimination.

Prerequisite(s): WS 200 or permission of the instructor.

WS500 Independent Study

Hours 1-6

Independent study on any subject pertaining to women. Projects are conducted under the supervision of a professor in the chosen field and must be approved in advance by the program director.

WS503 Teaching Gender & Race

Hours 3

This course explores pedagogical theories and practices advanced by feminist and cultural studies scholars and teachers. Students read pedagogical works, attend sections of WS 200 and AAST 201, develop teaching modules and pedagogical philosophies, perform teaching demonstrations, and construct syllabi for courses. Meetings with other discussion leaders and supervisors are required in addition to written work.

WS509 Memory, Identity and Politics: History, Gender, and Race Hours 3

Course Description: This interdisciplinary graduate seminar explores the ways in which memory and the past construct political identities and the interplay of race, class, gender, and ethnicity in its social construction through readings, discussion, and student research. Reading selections include core theoretical texts on memory studies and specific case studies on topics, including not but exclusive to the American Civil War memory, U.S. South, slavery, and Reconstruction. Issues and questions are: how memories are constructed, translated into identities and political action; bases of shared memories and contested memories; political memorialization and the effects of collective amnesia; and how "communities of memory" are developed, sustained, and dissolved.

WS510 Special Topics Hours 3

Seminar format. The course offers an interdisciplinary approach to topics, which vary by semester. Active student engagement, such as conducting an interview, is required. Sample topic: women in the world.

WS518 Concepts in Social Theory: Approaches to the Study of Race Hours 3

This course offers students an introduction to the main approaches to the study of race. Students begin by exploring the early approaches to sociology, both that of DuBois and the Chicago school. Students then develop an understanding of the work done by scholars in the Harlem Renaissance, the 1960s, and the contemporary period. The goal of the course is to provide students with the foundation for further research in the field of critical race theory.

Prerequisite(s): none.

WS525 Feminist Theory Maj Text Hours 3

Seminar consists of close readings in feminist theory, with an emphasis on primary texts. Intellectual, cultural, and political theory.

WS530 Feminist Theory-Contemp

Hours 3

Considers major economic, social, psychological, and philosophical approaches to the study of women. Emphasis is on the formulation of theories and mastery of primary works in the field.

WS532 Iss Prob Women Std Res

Hours 3

This seminar focuses on interdisciplinary research and problems in methodology in Gender and Race Studies.

WS535 Black Feminism

Hours 3

This upper level undergraduate/graduate seminar exposes students to the key figures texts and concepts that constitute black feminist thought.

WS540 Seminar Women Studies Hours 3-9

Topics vary each semester. Graduate students are required to conduct original research. The courses focus on such topics as language and gender, Southern women's culture.

WS570 Transnational Feminisms

Hours 3

Transnational Feminisms is a contemporary paradigm of study that moves beyond international conceptions of feminism to think across national borders by interrogating the intersections of nationality, race, gender, class, and sexuality in the context of global capitalism. This field works to decolonize the contested terrain of knowledge production upon gendered subjectivites are constituted and reconstituted within global relations of power and privilege. While globalization relies upon the heightened mobility of bodies, capital, commodities, technologies, and conceptual imaginaries across borders, it simultaneously requires the reconfiguration and reconstitution of the state, its bordering practices, and colonial and national hierarchies of social-spatial relations and their attendant binaries-self-other, first world-third world, traditionalmodern, private-public, citizen-noncitizen. While a richly theoretical field, transnational feminisms provocatively engages with a feminist politics and practice attentive to feminism as both a liberatory formation and one with longstanding ties to colonialism, racism and imperialism. As such, it resists utopic ideas about "global sisterhood" while simultaneously working to lay the groundwork for more productive and equitable social relations among women across borders and cultural contexts.

WS585 Special Seminar in the Study of Race, Gender, and Sexuality Hours 3

This seminar is designed for the advanced study of race, gender, sexuality, and class. Students should expect to read the most complex of theoretical texts, a basic knowledge of some of the following: Hegel, Foucault, Marx, Liberal theory, Black feminist thought,feminist theory, critical race theory, psychoanalysis, and literary criticism is expected of each participant. The course will offer students the opportunity to develop their training in the topical area of choice by the professor.

WS599 Thesis Research

Hours 1-6

The focus of this research may involve traditional or community-related research on the student's approved thesis topic in Gender and Race Studies.