

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
CHATTANOOGA

Fall 2021 Newsletter

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Edited by Meredith Maxwell

New Courses Offered in 2021-2022

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Cross-Cultural Social Construction of Sexualities

Study Abroad in Amsterdam! (WGSS 4550R)

During the spring of 2022, Dr. Elisabeth Sheff-Stefanik will be teaching this online course followed by a trip to Amsterdam which will be held from May 15, 2022– May 22, 2022. The class will be comparing the cultural differences of ideas of gender and sexuality between the United States and Amsterdam. If you have any questions, email: elisabeth-sheff-stefanik@utc.edu or stop by the study abroad office.

Queer American History (WGSS 3425)

In collaboration with the UTC Department of History, Queer American History is now an official WGSS course. It has been taught previously as a special topics course and now it will be listed as WGSS 3425. This class is being taught this fall by Dr. William Kuby of the UTC Department of History. The class will focus on queer history and themes from the 17th century to the present. When asked to describe the class, Dr. Kuby stated that during the course, “we trace this broader framework of US history, but keep questions of gender and sexuality at the heart of it.” The class will examine changing notions of queer identities and the historical perception of alternative gender performance, expression, and identity. This course will consist of discussions guided by Dr. Kuby based on the readings assigned.

Gender and Sexuality in Religion (WGSS 4160)

Dr. Jaclyn Michael, faculty in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, is teaching Gender and Sexuality in Religion as an official WGSS course this fall. This class has been taught once before as a special topics class and will now be integrated into the official curriculum. The class will focus on perspectives of gender and sexuality within eastern religions specifically. Dr. Michael makes an effort to give a voice to Gender and Sexuality minorities seen within eastern religions while making sure the critiques of certain cultures and religions are not from a Eurocentric lens.



Two New Psychology/WGSS Courses

Psychology of Human Sexuality (WGSS 3370) & Psychology of Men and Masculinities (WGSS 4420)

Dr. Alexandra Zelin, a professor in the Department of Psychology and Dr. Hannah Osborn, a former UTC professor, worked to develop these two classes. Both classes will be a mix of discussion and lecture. For the Psychology of Human Sexuality course, Dr. Zelin says that human sexuality as a whole will be examined from a biological and psychological perspective by looking into subjects such as biological sex, sexual anatomy, sexual behaviors, identity, and sexual orientation. The course Psychology of Men and Masculinities will take a look at the experiences of men and boys from an intersectional feminist perspective. It will examine the psychology of men and masculinity including mental and physical health, relationships, parenting, sexuality, violence and aggression. Both classes require prerequisites with either 6 hours of previous PSY coursework, 6 hours of WGSS coursework, or department head approval.

Leila J. Pratt Women's Studies Endowed Scholarship

This is a new scholarship for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors and now it is one of two scholarships offered exclusively for WGSS majors along with the preexisting Felicia Sturzer Scholarship.

Dr. Leila J. Pratt retired as Emeritus Professor of Economics from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga on January 1, 2018, after 43 years of service at the institution. In over four decades of working in academia, she influenced thousands of students. Dr. Pratt received her Ph.D. in Economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1975. During her tenure, she also served as the second coordinator for the Women's Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at UTC for five years.

The scholarship shall be open to all applicants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship, disability, age, or veteran status, subject to the following criteria:

1. Applicants must be currently enrolled at or admitted to attend The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.
2. Additional requirements are as follows:
 - i) Applicants must hold current status in good standing
 - ii) Applicants must demonstrate successful academic performance
 - iii) Applicants must be a declared WGSS major in the College of Arts and Sciences
 - iv) Applicants must have earned an overall 3.0 GPA or above in the Women's Studies course work
 - v) Applicants will have successfully completed or be currently enrolled in at least six hours of WGSS course work

Student Spotlight: Meredith Maxwell

This year's winner of WGSS's Felicia Sturzer scholarship is senior Meredith Maxwell. A native of Austin, Texas, Meredith moved to Murfreesboro and was educated there and in Nashville. She began her academic career at UTC in the fall of 2018 as a math major, but decided to change her major to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her favorite course in WGSS was titled Hannah Arendt: Philosophy, Politics, and Revolution with Dr. Talia Welsh in which she gained a deeper understanding of politics and philosophy and how they relate to women's issues. During the first semester of her senior year, Meredith completed an internship for the department of Political Science and Public Service for her other major with a focus on Politics. She worked with the League of Women Voters of Chattanooga on voter education and voter registration and also worked as a communication specialist for the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. Meredith intends to graduate by May of 2022 and she is planning to apply to graduate school for something to do with politics and human rights. Meredith is also considering applying to law school.



Alumni Spotlight: Brittany Dillman



Brittany Dillman is a recent UTC graduate of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. When she began her studies at UTC, Brittany was a Communications major and a Women's Studies minor. It was not until she took Introduction to Women's Studies with Dr. Sheena Monds that she decided to change her major to Women's Studies with a minor in Communications. She has always been passionate about issues to do with women's rights and the WGSS classes directly pertained to these issues. She just finished her first year as a law student at American University in Washington D.C. Brittany decided to go to law school because of her interest in women's issues and all she had learned from her major at UTC. She has always had an interest in the law so gaining a law degree would give her the ability to understand the legal systems that work to disenfranchise minorities. Although she is not sure what field of law she will go into, Brittany is interested in the family law field or work on domestic violence cases. Brittany was recently accepted by a law review journal which is the *Journal for Gender Social Policy and the Law*.

**Women, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies**

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National Voter Registration Day

**Sponsored by the UTC Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program in partnership with
The League of Women Voters of Chattanooga
and MocsGoVote**

September 28th

9:00am-4:00pm

Heritage Plaza

***Anyone looking to volunteer an hour or more of their time to help set up, staff, or clean up, please contact WGSS Communications Assistant Meredith Maxwell at zrp393@mocs.utc.edu**