

Brief Course Description of MA in Gender Studies 2018-19

GDRS 5011 - Introduction to Gender Studies

This course introduces students to the main streams of the current academic discourse on gender theory and feminism. It will explore various schools of thought in feminism and relate theoretical frameworks to issues of current interest such as the ability of women to earn an independent income, social security, occupational segregation, women sexuality, body politics and discrimination against women in different fields of society. It also introduces students to some basic methodology in gender and feminist research.

GDRS 5050 - Contemporary Women's Issues

This course aims to introduce methods and approaches of Women's studies for the understanding of Women's issues in contemporary society. It shall examine a broad range of issues facing women today, including job segregation, gender stereotypes in education, double-burden of working women, health and globalization, as well as discrimination against middle-aged women, single mothers and new women immigrants. The course will also review the continuous development of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Women's Commission established by the government, and their impact on Hong Kong society.

GDRS 5083 - Feminism and Civil Society

The course aims at exposing students to a broad perspective and critical examination of the dynamic relationship between feminism and civil society. In addition to introducing contemporary feminist thoughts and issues, the course will guide students in examining issues such as gender and culture, knowledge and education, globalization and the economy, sexuality, the environment, and democracy. Students will also take part in visits and presentations.

GDRS 5084 - Genders and Sexualities in Asia

This course looks at the critical sites of gender/sexuality formations in different Asian societies and the many meanings of gender/sexuality in Asian Cultures by drawing on a cross-cultural perspective and a comparative approach. Issues surrounding the constructions of gender/sexuality and the changing gender relations and sexual politics in the context of Asian modernities against the backdrop of postcolonialism, globalization and transnational capitalism will be addressed. The course covers topics such as the sex/gender systems, categories of gendered and raced identities, representations of femininities/masculinities in popular culture and media, and gendered migration and displacement.

GDRS 5085 - Gender and Work

How is work different for men and women? Why does gender matter in shaping the experience of work? Beginning with these questions, this course explores the distinct positions of men and women in the workplace and in the labor markets and examines gender relationship, gender segregation and gender discrimination across a variety of research topics on farm work, factory work, migrant work, business, housework, service work, entertainment and leisure. We will be reading about, analyzing, and discussing diverse empirical studies on men and women as workers, homemakers, care workers, organizers, or entrepreneurs, which provide fresh ways to look at the relationship between gender and work. This course provides students with key concepts and theories about the gendered institutions of economic development, organization, migration, and culture. Based on lectures, class discussions, and analytical practices, this course will help students to be an independent thinker and educated reader of social issues from a gender perspective. Students are expected to acquire critical thinking and analytical skills to reflect on theories and research findings, and to evaluate social facts and trends with implications for education, policy interventions and public participation.

GDRS 5086 - Gender and Family

This course explores the concept of the family as a gendered social construction, considering how the institution of the family perpetuates gender roles and how social changes transform the familial structure at the same time. The course puts a premium on feminist thoughts on the reproduction of gendered family. We'll start with introduction to how family is formed in different cultural contexts, and then proceed to discuss how family and kinship can be redefined

under the development of reproductive technology, transnational migration, and globalization. Topics will include familial formation in contemporary patrilineal/matrilineal societies, non-mainstream marriages like walking marriage and bride kidnapping practices, gendered division of labor in conducting housework, the social construction of motherhood, domestic violence, cohabitation, non-married family, single-parent family, gay family, surrogacy, and transnational adoption and so on.

GDRS 5090 - Special Topics in Gender Studies

The course is aimed to teach students a particular gender issue (or particular set of gender issues) and their practical and theoretical implications.

GDRS 5131 - Women and Literature

This course explores the historical and theoretical connections between literature and women. Besides the focus on the idea and image of the woman in a selection of literary texts, the course will also examine the roles of women in literary activities.

GDRS 5210 - Gender and Law

The course aims to introduce students to the relationship between gender and law in different jurisdictions, to introduce students to the legal concept of equal opportunities under the framework of gender politics and to encourage students to be aware of possible gender bias in their future careers.

GDRS 5403 - Gender and History

The course demonstrates critically how the gender perspective as an important new academic paradigm challenges the mainstream historical analysis and explanation and influences feminist historiography. Topics may vary from year to year based on the respective teacher's research specialization in women's/gender of China, Asia or the West. (Not for students who have taken HIST3420.)

GDRS 5640 - Psychology and Gender

This course reviews historical and cultural perspectives of the psychology of gender. Various genetic, biological and social determinants of gender similarities/differences in physical and sexual attributes, cognitive abilities, personality, and social behaviour are examined. Socialization processes and their consequences will be explored in relation to individual development, education, work, and mental health; and related research findings will be critically reviewed. Current issues in gender relations and conflicts such as battering, sexual assault, and sexual harassment will be explored. (Not for students who have taken PSYC3640).

GDRS 5920 - Media and Gender Representations

This class will examine the different forms of medial and discuss the role of media in constructing notions of gender and social identities.