

Major in Gender Studies

Course Description

Course Code	Course Name and Description
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GDRS1001	Thinking Gender: An Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
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This course offers an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender Studies, an academic area of study focused on the ways that sex and gender manifest themselves in social, cultural, and political contexts. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions and debates in women's and gender studies scholarship, both historical and contemporary. Students will become acquainted with many of the critical questions and concepts feminist scholars have developed as tools of thinking about gendered experience.

GDRS1002	Feminist Theories
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This course offers an introduction to various areas of feminist thought, including global feminism, poststructural feminism, radical feminism, cultural feminism, socialist feminism and the "third wave," among others. Students will read a sampling of writing from theorists dedicated to advancing different types of feminist theory, and then analyze some of the possible strengths and limitations of each. The aims of the course are to acquaint students with the diversity of feminist theories, and to introduce some of the issues on which feminists differ.

GDRS2010	Quantitative Research Methods
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This course provides an introduction to social scientific methods in gender and social research. The course will discuss the epistemological and methodological principles of all the major quantitative approaches in gender studies. Skills in survey methods, including concept formation, hypothesis development, research design, sampling, and data gathering and statistical analysis will be covered.

GDRS2011	Qualitative Research Methods in Gender Studies
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This course provides an introduction to all the major qualitative methods in gender studies. It will provide students with hands-on experiences with different approaches such as discourse analysis, textual analysis, interviews and focus group studies and ethnography.

GDRS3004 Love and Intimate Relationship

This course reviews basic concepts, theories and research findings of romantic love and intimate relationship from the perspective of psychology of gender. Various aspects of romantic love and intimate relationship will be critically reviewed. Based on most-updated research of psychology of gender, we will cover major areas such as the following: different stages in the development of love; interpersonal processes within romantic relationships (such as conversation, conflict, etc.); the role of sexuality in love; gender differences in romantic feelings and behaviors; break-ups and divorce, etc. Upon completion of the course, students should demonstrate basic understanding of structure, functions, dynamics, and development of romantic love and use knowledge from this course as an insight to improve the quality of their own relationships in the future.

GDRS3005 Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Society

This interdisciplinary course introduces and examines gender and sexuality from a contemporary and regional perspective. This course will draw on gender, cultural and postcolonial feminist theory to question basic assumptions about gender, gender difference, sexuality and equality. From a range of social contexts relevant to Hong Kong, this course critically examines: gender roles and sexual relationships; ethical and legal implications inherent in gender assumptions; gender and sexuality in respect to changing social trends. The underlying themes will be those of gender roles, human sexuality, equality, recognition of sexual diversity and sexual difference as viewed across a range of social contexts (interpersonal relationships, culture, family, educational institutions and work places). The course will focus on examining specific issues and developing strategies to promote gender equality that are relevant to the needs of young adults today.

GDRS3006 Living Feminisms

Feminism is not only about rights or liberation, patriarchy and criticism, movement, and legislation. Feminism is also a tool for revealing the reality of everyday life, which includes stereotyping, discrimination, manipulation and power struggles. More importantly, feminism is about adopting a multiple vision and a way of life, which is sensitive to hierarchy, power and relationships, and emphasizes equality and fairness in everyday life. This course aims to help students examine 13 aspects of the Hong Kong socio-political state “through the feminism lens”, from urban planning to the design and management of public space, from the implementation of public policies to gender mainstreaming and government statistics, from political election to district administration and community building.

GDRS3007 Understanding Masculinities

This course examines men's diverse experiences as boys/men and public discourses about masculinities. It will focus on how the gendered social order influences men's actions and the way men perceive themselves, other men, women, and social situations. It will pay special attention to the exploration of the relationships between multiple dimensions of social relations and inequalities including gender, race/ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation. It will address issues such as: male socialization, boyhood culture, male body image, male friendship, male sexuality and fertility, men's experiences as fathers, male aggression and violence, men's commitments to sports and work, and media representations of boys and men in contemporary culture. Students will be introduced to the latest developments of men's movements and their global networks, and to evaluate the prospects for social change in how men may think, feel, and act otherwise.

GDRS3008 Public Policy and Social Minorities

This course examines the history of Hong Kong public policy towards minorities, including legal changes, social institutions, immigration policy, and political mobilization. Current debates in public policies such as anti-discrimination legislation, education policies of ethnic minorities will also be evaluated within this context.

GDRS3009 Family and Society

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 against women, cohabitation, non-married family, single-parent family, gay family, surrogacy, and transnational adoption and so on.

GDRS3012**Chinese Culture from a Gender Perspective**

Individuals exist in a socio-cultural context, and as such, institutions such as lineage and family, marriage, religion, medical practices, art, education and politics shape our life patterns as well as social mores. Gender, as one of the building blocks of society and culture, shapes our values and is deeply embedded in our daily lives, and it weaves an intricate ideological fabric that strongly impacts our thoughts, feelings and action. Given the ubiquity of the influence of gender, a study of society and culture from this perspective is important for the development of a broad understanding of culture, a major objective in general education.

Through the exploration of selected issues in Chinese culture which are significant and relevant to everyday life, this course introduces to students historical materials which relate to, and contemporary research on, the role of gender in the making of history and culture. As they participate in the learning activities of the course, students will be gradually led to understand Chinese culture from a new perspective. Furthermore, students will have a chance to reflect on long-held values and beliefs which they themselves have acquired as members of this culture, or which they witness in the daily life of the community around them.

GDRS4006**Gender in China**

This course introduces gender as an analytical tool to study Chinese history from ancient times to the present day. It demonstrates how gender challenges mainstream historical analysis and explanations. The focus is placed on the changing meanings and practices of femininity/masculinity across time. Issues such as gender transgression, homosocial relationships, marriage, sexuality and reproduction will be explored, both to shed light on, and to question our familiar perceptions of China. By examining the interaction between historical context and gender politics, this course also provokes reflections on methodologies, sources and discourses.

GDRS4009**Internship**

This is an experiential course which demands sound planning and a high level of reflection on the part of the students. Before the start of the second year, the student is expected to have completed a three-month supervised internship in an NGO or a university-affiliated unit which is involved with gender-related services or advocacy work. Before the internship starts, the student prepares her proposal, outlining the objectives of her internship, and the theoretical knowledge or insights it rests on. Finally, a final report will be submitted, in which the student demonstrates her depth of reflection on her field experience, as well as the extent to which theory and practice can be integrated.

GDRS4010**Thesis**

This course provides an opportunity for students to undertake supervised study on a selected topic of interest. Students will be led to examine aspects of the selected topic, conduct a critical literature review and a systematic investigation of the topic they have chosen. Students are required to regularly discuss with the teacher concrete findings in their research and submit written progress reports as scheduled by the teacher and a complete project report at the end of

the term.

GDRS3011 Women's Narratives and Hong Kong History

In 21st century post-colonial Hong Kong, the preservation of 'collective memory' of this fast-changing city has become an everyday discourse. From award-winning movies, heart-warming testimonies, tabloid stories to Facebook groups and social campaigns, we have been consuming, constructing, and circulating narratives of 'the past'. This act of remembering and exploring 'our history' questions a mainstream Hong Kong story of success demonstrated by economic development and material wealth, and attempts to identify discontinuities, gaps and silenced voices in the dominating narrative. It has also prompted reflections on the relation between narrative and identity — personal, collective, and spatial — in historical inquiry, and in what ways the writing of history has been shaped by disparate ideals, values, web of relations and power.

This course will revisit Hong Kong's history through the exploration of narratives documenting women, a group often made invisible in history writing, as social actors in the fabric of colonial Hong Kong. From elites' households to textile factories, from rural villages, western-district brothels to mid-levels convents, schools and hospitals, women of different generations have worked as caregivers, breadwinners, pioneers, and educators while contesting the prescribed subordinate status as objects of exploitation in a patriarchal society. Drawing from a wide range of sources, including archival documents, published biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, family histories, school histories, and oral histories, this course will seek to introduce a multi-faceted history of colonial Hong Kong with women as the focus of inquiry. The discussion of women's narratives will be situated in respective historical contexts linking the personal to social, political and economic changes in Hong Kong under colonial rule. It will also discuss the use of auto/biographies and oral histories as a methodology in historical research investigating the relations between memory, self and identity.

GDRS4007 Gender, Sexuality and Race in Political Issues

The course will examine the production of gender and sexuality in Asian societies, and how contemporary political issues in the region produce racial identities. For example, the Korean-Japan and China-Japan dispute over issues of comfort women in World War II; Hindu-Muslim conflict in India; the political upheaval of Egypt in recent decade; and the religious right-wing movement in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

GDRS4008 Gender, Age, Race and Health

The course examines the role of gender, and its interaction with age and race, in health care and in practices of medicine. Topics on health care disparities, the medicalization of society, and feminization of poverty will be critically examined.

GDRS5085**Gender and Work**

This course explores the question why women and men are treated differently in the workplace through the lens of performance anthropology, which focuses on how a person can become good at being a man or woman (quite apart from biological sex). The assumption is not that your biological sex affects your success in the workplace, but rather that your success is affected by how well you perform being a man or woman in the eyes of your employer. Our goal is to move beyond the old dualisms by trying to understand how the same person might be treated as a "man" by another. Since talking all the time at the theoretical level is boring, we will be examining ethnographic examples of the performances of man and woman-hood in the workplace.

GDRS5210**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.

For the course descriptions of non-GDRS courses, please refer to the websites of the respective departments.