



School of Culture, Gender & Social Justice: Introductory Courses

AAST 1000: Introduction to African American Studies

This course aims to provide students with an interdisciplinary introduction to the fundamental concepts, theories, methodologies, and debates in the disciplines covered by African American Studies. We will survey a myriad of perspectives in African American Studies, across academic disciplines such as history, economics, psychology, literature, political science, sociology, gender studies, philosophy, music, and art. In short, the course provides a foundation for a critical understanding and discussion of the field. Students will be introduced to the origin, scope, and relevance of African American Studies, as well as its theoretical foundations and challenges. As an interdisciplinary course, the African American Diaspora and its consequences are explored through history and culture. Culture is used as a means of looking at the past and the present.

LTST 1300: Introduction to Latina/o Studies

This course is an introduction and an overview for experiences and conditions of U.S. Latina/os. The specific groups studied include Mexican Americans, Dominicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Latin American people. The immigrant experience is a particular focus of the course, including its role in the incorporation of Latinos into U.S. society. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach by drawing from areas of education, geography, social sciences, expressive arts, folklore, and humanities. Through readings, presentations, class discussion, videos, and other activities, the students examine historical and contemporary issues affecting Latinos including but not limited to immigration, language, identity, national origin, education, politics, employment, and economic mobility.

NAIS 1001: Foundations in American Indian Studies

This course provides students a foundation in the development of American Indian Studies, focusing on the history, culture, and contemporary lives of Native and Indigenous people. This course highlights how a variety of disciplines inform this field and interact to facilitate the exploration and understanding of major contemporary topics of concern.

WMST/ENGL 1080: Introduction to Women's Studies

Introduction to Women's Studies is a course for everyone interested in historical and contemporary issues related to gender and sexuality. In this class, we explore how feminist theory can help us understand real world issues that are critically important today. The class will provide you with opportunities to examine and discuss the multiple factors—not only gender, but race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, age, and other identities—that affect the lives of people in our community, in our nation, and globally.

WMST 2000: Introduction to LGBTQ/NS Studies

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and New Sexuality Studies (LGBTQ/NS) explores the interdisciplinary study of sexuality and its importance to the organization of social relations and social institutions. Primary among its concerns is the study of the lives, the politics, and the creative work of sexual minorities