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Course Announcement

WGS 395 Women and Science

Crosslisted as M395 and others TBA
MWF 10:10 - 11:00 am; 3cr

Course Description: This course will be an interdisciplinary study of the subject of women and science. We will study the history of women in science; both their contributions to their fields as well as the obstacles and challenges they faced. We will explore the influence of gender on the content and methods of science, including feminist critiques of science. We will analyze the social expectations of men and women regarding the sciences and how education is an important way that these expectations can be communicated. We will focus on how gender is related to science as a profession, as a field of study and as a way of knowing.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the historical experiences of people who are women in science.
2. To explore the current relation between science and gender in western society.
3. To understand important aspects of research methodologies, including an awareness of issues of scientific objectivity, social bias and critiques of scientific methodologies from a feminist perspective.
4. To begin to determine how and why the status, attitudes and professional experiences of men and women in science careers differ, including in science education.
5. To develop an appreciation of alternative perspectives of science, including feminist perspectives

Selected References:

Hall, R. & Sandler, B. (1982). *The classroom climate: A chilly one for women?* Washington, DC: Association of American Colleges Project on the Status and Education of Women.

Kass-Simon, G. & Farnes, P. (1990). *Women of Science: Righting the Record*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

McGrayne, S. B. (2001). *Nobel Prize Women in Science*. New York: Carol Publishing Group, 2nd Edition.

Rosser, S. (1990). "Women's Ways of Knowing" in *In Female-friendly Science*. New York: Pergamon Press.

Schiebinger, L. (1999) *Has Feminism Changed Science?* Harvard University Press

Target Audience: This course is designed for students with an interest in science and women's studies. It is anticipated this course will be of interest to both students studying one of the sciences and students in Women and Gender Studies Program. It is not expected that students have experience in both scientific and feminist studies.