

## **Other GWST and GWST-related courses**

### **GWST 3030 – Gender in Popular Culture: Gender in Film – with Dr. Dorothy Graham**

This course will focus on the role of women in film since its beginnings through the present. We will examine women's roles as directors, actresses, and characters within films, such as *Sunset Boulevard*, *His Girl Friday*, *Thelma and Louise*, *A League of their Own*, *Daughters of the Dust*, *TransAmerica*, *Yentl*, *Mississippi Masala*, and *Boys Don't Cry*. We will also compare and contrast women's roles with male characterizations in Hollywood film. This course can also be used in the film minor.

### **ENGL 3500 – Maya Angelou, Alice Walker and Toni Morrison – with Dr. Eva Thompson**

Though nominated for the National Book Award for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1970), Maya Angelou ranks number 8 on the list of "Top Ten Challenged Authors, 1990 to 2004." Ten years after publication of Alice Walker's controversial *The Color Purple* (1982), for which Walker was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the novel was banned in Souderton, Pennsylvania and in 1997, removed from library shelves in Jackson County, West Virginia. In 1993 Toni Morrison was honored with the Nobel Prize for literature and in this same year, *Song of Solomon* was challenged by the Columbus, Ohio School District. In 1994 the novel was removed from reading lists and library shelves in Richmond County, Georgia and removed from reading lists in St. Mary's County, Maryland schools in 1998. Moreover, *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved* (1987), which earned Morrison the Pulitzer Prize, were challenged in 1995 by the St. Johns County Schools in St. Augustine, Florida. I can't think of a better way to spend the semester than to read "bad literature."

### **ENGL 4230/01: Theory-Based Studies In Literature: Feminist Theory and Criticism-- with Dr. Kellen Williams**

Course Description: Pairing selected literary works with contemporary Feminist Theory and criticism, this course explores the ways in which Feminist Theory not only revisits in order to revise key concerns within its history, but also seeks to accommodate and at the same time distinguish itself from recent studies in masculinity, Queer Theory, sexuality, and other forms of Difference. Topics include: historical moments when social, political, and legal exigencies came to bear on the construction and institution of gender difference; 19th century medical and scientific debates on the meaning of anatomical difference, the biological demands of the female body, and the nature of woman's sexual desire as well as its deviant forms (nymphomania, hysteria, "moral insanity," and same-sex attraction); contemporary theorizations of women's relation to language, representation, and the social/symbolic order as well as the legibility of gender difference in literary texts; the problems that plague the conception of "Woman," "Gender Identity," and "Theory" itself. In addition to works devoted to Feminist Theory and Criticism, course readings will cover a mix of literary and non-literary texts, including Wollstonecraft's *The Wrongs of Woman*; or, *Maria*; Rhys' *Voyage in the Dark*; Fowles' *The Collector*; and excerpts from *The Female Offender* (1893), *The Sex Factor in Marriage* (1930), "Studies in Feminine Inversion [Homosexuality]" (1921), and "A Perversion Not Commonly Noted: Love-Making between White and Colored Girls" (1913).

### **ENGL 4372 – Renaissance Women Writers, 1500-1700 – with Dr. Keith M. Botelho**

Renaissance Women Writers, 1500-1700 will explore the questions, "Did women have a Renaissance?" "Was there a Renaissance Feminism?" and "Were Renaissance women really the 'weaker vessel'?" We will examine debates about women's place in Renaissance society, and read how many women "wrote back" against male exhortations to be "silent, chaste, and obedient." We will explore gender issues such as cross dressing, motherhood, Renaissance gynecology, witchcraft, sexuality, and domestic affairs. And we will spend a significant amount of time looking at the central female figure of the period: Queen Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen who ruled over Britain for 45 years.

### **HIST 4499 – Senior Seminar: Women and War – with Dr. Katya Vladimirov**

Most of the good history being taught and written today looks at the whole range of human activities, making an effort to place them in solid historical context. Since the historical doings of women have been often overlooked, or ignored, or poorly researched, we mainly have had a history which is seen through only "a half-opened window". This class is an effort to flesh out the historical reality the lives of the half of humanity which has to be thoroughly researched and written about. Rather unfortunately wars have been a permanent part of human history. Women were rarely passive observers. Victims and guerrilla fighters, war heroes and martyrs, nurses and pilots, dissidents and activists, mothers and daughters, they were an important and often essential component. Who were these women? How did they see themselves? What did they think about violence and war? Were their roles assigned or adopted? How did their lives change afterwards and how did it change the world? We will examine these and other questions looking at women's participation in international wars and conflicts of the 20th century, such as World War I and II, the Stalinist purges and Gulag, the Holocaust, revolutions in Central America, wars in Africa, former Yugoslavia, and Iraq. We will also examine the rhetoric and iconography of war using lots of primary sources and scholarly research on the subject.

### **PHIL 4450 – Major Figures: Simone de Beauvoir – with Dr. Stacy Keltner**

January 2008 marks the centenary of the birth of Simone de Beauvoir, arguably one of the most important philosophers, writers, and feminists of the twentieth century. Alongside philosophy, literature, and women's studies departments around the globe, the Gender and Women's Studies and Philosophy programs at KSU will celebrate the centenary through a Major Figures course and special events. The course will situate de Beauvoir's work within the broader historical, political, and philosophical context of its time, and it will focus on the significance of de Beauvoir's work for understanding the history of the twentieth century and the philosophical, literary, and political debates and events that shaped it. We will review her major philosophical works – including *The Ethics of Ambiguity* and *The Second Sex*, perhaps the most widely read feminist work in the world– as well as her major literary achievements – including *She Came to Stay* and her memoirs. The course will also address some of the more recent philosophical and feminist debates inspired by de Beauvoir. The course will be organized as a 2 hour 45 minute seminar. Requirements will include essays and presentations. Seats are limited to 20.

### **SOCI 3324 – Sex Roles in Modern Society – with Dr. Linda Treiber**

An examination of the implications of the changes in the kinship, economic, and political structures related to male/female relations and their impact on gender equality in contemporary society.