



#### Course Name

Research Methods in Gender Studies

**Contact Hours** 

Friday 2:30 pm - 5:20 pm

#### **Course Instructor**

See SOLUS

# **Course Description**

This course introduces students to methods that scholars use to conduct research and to create knowledge in gender studies. The course also invites students to imagine how they would use the methods we study to research a subject of personal interest and contribute new knowledge.

The course opens by examining the relationship between research and power, and asking how students might navigate power to produce their own research. We then turn to study examples of gender studies scholars practicing the methods of historical, literary, and discourse analysis, science and health studies, and social research. In all instances, we also consider how scholars can practice research creatively and by participating in activism and collaborations.

Students may choose one of the following for their final paper in the course:

- a book report, examining how research methods appear within a scholarly work
- an original research proposal, which explains how the student would use their chosen research methods to study a topic of interest and to contribute new knowledge to our field.

# **Required Course Materials**

Articles assigned on Course Reserves

Optional: If a student chooses to write a Book Report as their Final Paper, they may study how methods are used in one of the following books:

- Iskwewak Kah' Ki Yaw Ni Wahkomakanak: <u>Neither Indian Princesses Nor Easy Squaws</u>, Janice Acoose
- Reproductive Injustice: Racism, Pregnancy, and Premature Birth, Dána-Ain Davis
- Queer Activism In India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics, Naisargi Dave
- Moving Politics: Emotion and ACT-UP's Fight Against AIDS, Deborah Gould
- The Disordered Cosmos: A Journey into Dark Matter, Spacetime, and Dreams Deferred, Chanda Prescott-Weinstein

# **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe, compare, and contrast key research methods that are used in the field of gender studies
- Explain why and how a researcher might choose a method from among those that we examine
- Explain how, and why knowledge is conditioned by the methods that created it
- Explain how methods, in turn, are conditioned by the racial, colonial, gendered, sexual, national and global histories that shape them
- Model the process by which research is produced: identifying a research interest; forming a research question; choosing methods that can address the question; practicing methods to learn new information; interpreting what methods revealed; presenting interpretations in speech and writing.
- Develop and demonstrate skills in analytical essay writing

#### **Course Evaluation**

- Participation 25%
  - Attendance
  - In-Class Exercises
- Reading Responses (4 total) 20%
- Essay 1 25%
- Final Paper (Research Proposal -or- Book Report) – 30%

### **Topics in Course Outline**

#### Introductions

## **UNIT 1 - Locating Research within Power**

- When Research Misrepresents: How to Do Research Differently?
- Power and Representation
- Situated Knowledges
- Relational Research

#### **UNIT II - Interpretive Methods**

- Historical Research, Oral History, Memory
- Literary Analysis and Discourse Analysis
- Science Studies and Health Studies
- · Social Research: Feminist and Queer Ethnography
- Activist Research

## **Research and Book Presentations**