How, and from where, does gender emerge? What are the implications when the workings of power are played out in existing societal systems and relational understandings of gender? Students will examine feminist theories, liberal, socialist, radical, multicultural, postcolonial, ecofeminist; as well as Queer theory. This exploration of theory will introduce students to one of the most exciting and dynamic areas of contemporary inquiry, while preparing them for engagement in social movement, community and social transformation, and social justice. Prerequisite: GWS 1100.

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Overview of feminist theory

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. survey the various feminist theories that attempt to explain the condition of women and men in society.
2. be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical paradigms, and will be asked to apply these theories to contemporary aspects of everyday life.
3. examine theories that attempt to explain the cause of gender inequality, theories that explore the mechanisms that maintain systems of gender inequality, theories that interpret the consequences of gender differentiation and inequality, and theories that incorporate activist approaches to change.
4. review classical writings as well as recent articles that apply theories to specific situations and issues.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted