

WGST 4812B/5901B – Special Topic: African Feminisms
Fall 2020

This course will be using blended methods.

Course Description

This course is an advanced introduction to the ways in which feminisms emerged in Africa as a set of theoretical interventions and as political practice. It examines the ways in which gender was understood as a marker of power – status, hierarchy as well as social capability – in different parts of Africa, and the ways in which gender operated as a system of distribution of resources, responsibilities and solidarities. African theories of gender and sexuality are explored in relation to colonialism, class and race. These intersecting forms of power have resulted in differences in the forms of feminism in different parts of the continent. Although the focus will be on texts from Anglophone Africa, variations across regions will also be explored. The course is historically grounded, and takes the approach that the genealogies of ideas have explanatory capacity.

By the end of the course, students will develop an understanding of the richness and complexity of African feminisms, and will be able to place African feminisms in conversation with feminisms in other parts of the world.