

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Berry College



March Newsletter

Editor: Madeline Thompson

Happy March! There is a lot to talk about this month, so please enjoy the many parts to this edition of the newsletter. First, this month marks Women's History month, a historic and recognizable time to honor the struggles and strengths of women: past and present. Read to learn more about the legacy behind Women's History Month and the 2024 theme: Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Next, we want to give special recognition to some notable women's advocates. Included in this newsletter is also a collection of important dates to take note of! To conclude, we have drawn together a collection of media recommendations for Women's History month, a catalog of WNS courses being offered (don't forget to register!), and events to sign up for to be apart of the WNS community! Enjoy!

IN THIS ISSUE

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:
*"WOMEN WHO ADVOCATE FOR
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND
INCLUSION"*

WOMEN IN HISTORY:
*A SPOTLIGHT ON THE PAST AND
PRESENT*

CALENDAR OF SIGNIFICANT
DAYS

BE IN THE KNOW:
MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

WNS COURSES: *LET'S GET READY
FOR REGISTRATION!*

UPCOMING EVENTS:
STAY CONNECTED

Women's History Month

2024 Theme: "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion"

By Madeline Thompson

Women's History Month has been celebrated thanks to the endless commitment and dedication of women and allies throughout history. What began as a local week-long celebration in Santa Rosa, California in 1978, is now a month-long dedication to the legacy of every woman, past and present.

In 1980, the National Women's History Alliance (then the National Women's History Project) launched efforts to have it nationally recognized, which President Carter honored. In 1987, Congress then formally established March as Women's History Month.

Every year, the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) announces a theme to encourage intentional recognition and provide a focus for the month. "Women Who Advocate for Equity, diversity, and Inclusion" is the theme. NWHHA writes that this theme "recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives and institutions."

The goal of this theme is to encourage advocacy for more than just equal treatment, but also an emphasis on "fairness" in our current society, such that all individuals with "different voices

***"I AM NOT FREE
WHILE ANY
WOMAN IS
UNFREE, EVEN
WHEN HER
SHACKLES ARE
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FROM MY OWN."***

-- Audre Lorde

with different perspectives" are all inclusively heard and celebrated. The NWHHA wants to recognize that society does not operate on an "even playing field" and that real change involves creating equitable environments, whether that be at work, home, school, and everywhere in between. This year, "we honor local women from the past and present who have taken the lead to show the importance of change and to establish firmer safeguards, practices and legislation reflecting these values."

References:



[Women's History Month](#)



[The 2024 National Women's History Theme: "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion"](#)

Women in History

A Spotlight on the Past and Present



Written by Gabriel L'Heureux

Jane Addams

1860-1935

Jane Addams was an American social reformer and pacifist, and co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. She is probably best known as a co-founder of Hull House in Chicago, which is one of the first social settlements in North America. Hull House gave many women opportunities that they otherwise would not have received, such as training for social work and a day nursery for mothers. In addition to Hull House, she also aided in founding the American Civil Liberties Union in 1920. She helped women during her time even beyond.



Written by Madeline Thompson

Benazir Bhutto

1953-2007

“The government I led gave ordinary people peace, security, dignity, and opportunity to progress.” Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, is remembered today as being the first woman to serve as Prime Minister in an Islamic country. More than this, however, Bhutto was a political activist, who sought anti-corruption, democracy, and healthy living conditions for her people. Despite constant opposition, she pushed for radical change in the political structure of her country and continued to pursue progress until she was assassinated in 2007. The legacy she left behind continues to echo in the world today.



Written by Madeline Thompson

Kimberlé Crenshaw

1959-Present

A professor at Columbia Law School and the University of California, Los Angeles, a scholar, writer, and theorist, Kimberlé Crenshaw is a remarkable advocate for women’s rights, civil rights, and social justice. Some of her most famous work centers on the term she coined “intersectionality”, the systemic nature of inequality and oppression, and public movements such as “Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women.” In addition to her academic work, Crenshaw is a famous speaker and writer for media outlets. There is no end to the transformational work that Crenshaw has done.

Women in History

A Spotlight on the Past and Present



Florynce (Flo) Kennedy

1916-2000

Described as “The biggest, loudest, and, indisputably, the rudest mouth on the battleground where feminist activists and radical politics join in mostly common cause” (*People*, 1974), Florynce Kennedy was a lawyer, civil rights activist, and women’s rights activist during the Second Wave of Feminism. She established the Media Workshop which focused on combatting racist advertisements, was a founder of the Feminist Party, and hosted the *Flo Kennedy Show*, a talk show focused on marginalized individuals on Manhattan Cable Television from the 1970s-1990s. She was also well known for representing H. Rap Brown and the Black Panthers in court.



Eleanor Roosevelt

1884-1962

Eleanor Roosevelt was an American diplomat and humanitarian. First Lady to the 32nd U.S president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, she was one of the world’s most powerful and admired women. During her 12 years as First Lady, she became a thorough advocate for liberal causes, becoming a controversial political figure. After her husband’s death in 1945, President Truman appointed her to the United Nations as a chairman of the Commission on Human Rights. She went on to play a major role in the drafting and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). Throughout her entire life, she was an advocate for women’s rights, the rights for racial minorities, and the rights for the impoverished. She stood for all who couldn’t stand themselves.



Gloria Steinem

1934-Present

Gloria Steinem has earned her right as a household name, known for her work as a journalist, pioneer of second wave feminism, and one of the historical leaders of Women’s Rights movements. In her start as a journalist, she encountered many barriers, all which pushed her further into her work as a feminist, and would later influence her push for the Equal Rights Amendment. In her career, she led countless marches and protests, and spoke at many events. Her inspiring leadership and writings have influenced much of feminism as we know it today.

Calendar of Significant Days

By Alyssa Prather

March is a significant month in recognizing many groups and cultures. We have created a timeline of the significant events approaching, and encourage our readers to join in celebrating these days and raising awareness of the notable themes.

MARCH

March 1

Zero Discrimination Day

This day calls for the elimination of all discrimination and advocates for equity and inclusivity

March 10

First Day of Ramadan

Ramadan commemorates the month when the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad in the Islamic faith.

March 18-24

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

This week is an event to celebrate diversity within the neurodivergent community.

March 31

International Transgender Day of Visibility

This day was dedicated in order to celebrate trans individuals and combat discrimination faced by the community.

March 8

International Women's Day

This day is a global celebration of women's achievements and works toward gender equality.

March 15

International Day to Combat Islamophobia

This day hopes to address and combat the discrimination and prejudice faced by Muslims.

March 31

Easter

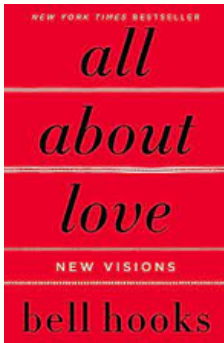
Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Be in the Know This March

Media Recommendations

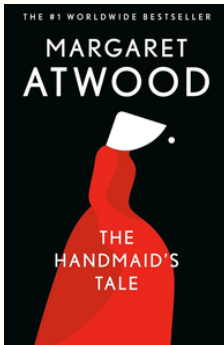
By Chloe Rodriguez

Books



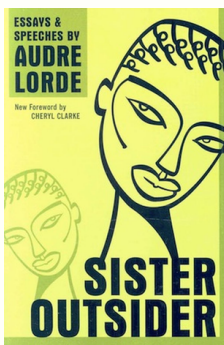
All About Love: New Visions by bell hooks

“*All About Love: New Visions* is a book by bell hooks published in 2000 that discusses aspects of romantic love in modern society. The book is organized into thirteen chapters, in which each chapter discusses an aspect of love” (“*All About Love: New Visions*”).



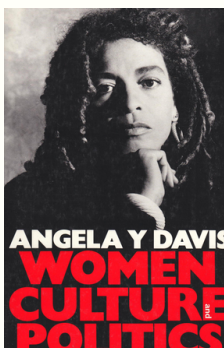
The Handmaid's Tale by Margret Atwood

“*The Handmaid's Tale* is a futuristic dystopian novel by Canadian author Margaret Atwood published in 1985. It is set in a near-future New England in a patriarchal, totalitarian economic state known as the Republic of Gilead, which has overthrown the United States government” (“*The Handmaid's Tale*”).



Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde

“*Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches* is a collection of essential essays and speeches written by Audre Lorde, a writer who focuses on the particulars of her identity: Black woman, lesbian, poet, activist, cancer survivor, mother, and feminist” (“*Sister Outsider*”).



Women, Culture & Politics by Angela Y. Davis

“A collection of speeches and writings by political activist Angela Davis which address the political and social changes of the past decade as they are concerned with the struggle for racial, sexual, and economic equality” (“*Women, Culture & Politics*”).

Be in the Know This March

Media Recommendations

By Chloe Rodriguez

Movies



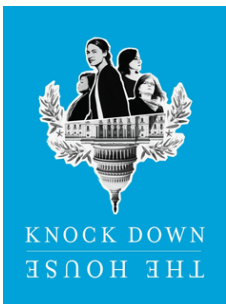
A Fantastic Women (2017)

A Fantastic Women follows Marina, a young transgender women in Santiago, Chile working as a singer and waitress. While in a relationship with an older man, he dies and she is struck by the overwhelming grief of her boyfriend, but is also dealing with the invasion of privacy by those around her.



Joy Luck Club (1993)

The film, adapted from Amy Tan's bestselling book *Joy Luck Club*, portrays the lives of four Chinese-American immigrant women who bond over familial tales during their Mahjong games. Through the perspectives of these four characters, the narrative delves into the complexities of immigrant motherhood and womanhood, each sharing their own distinct experiences.



Knock the House Down (2019)

This documentary explores the journey of four resilient women from diverse backgrounds, among them Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, also known as AOC, who ignited a movement by taking on prominent politicians in the 2018 congressional race. One of these women ultimately made groundbreaking political history.



Respect (2021)

Respect is a biographical film, that tells the story of legendary singer Aretha Franklin. The movie follows Franklin's journey from her childhood singing in her father's church choir to her rise to fame as the Queen of Soul. It delves into her struggles, including her tumultuous relationships, battles with addiction, and the challenges she faced as a black woman in the music industry.

Be in the Know This March

Media Recommendations

By Chloe Rodriguez

Television Series



Cable Girls (2017-current)

In the 1920s, four women join the first telephone company in Spain. They strive for equality and progress at work, while managing their families and friendships outside the workplace, in an era when women are starting to find their voice. This Spanglish series was inspired by the Spanish TV show "Cable Girls."



Grace and Frankie (2015-2022)

When Grace and Frankie's husbands reveal their love for each other, leading to their divorces and leaving the two women single in their 70s for the first time, they must rely on each other as their lives change dramatically. The series starring Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin delves into themes such as ageism, sexual desire, sexuality, and the bond between women.



Jane the Virgin (2014-2019)

Jane the Virgin is a Spanishlingh show that centers around a multi-generational family of single women living in America. Jane the main character is a 25-year-old virgin who is accidentally artificially inseminated. In classic telenovela form, there are many twists and turns as each women find themselves and who they are in the world. The show dives into the complexities of being a single mom in America as an immigrant.



Scandal (2012-2018)

Olivia Pope, portrayed by Kerry Washington, is Washington D.C.'s top fixer and former White House press secretary. Alongside her team, they work on resolving the issues of high-powered politicians while also dealing with their own challenges. The show made a significant impact when it premiered in 2012 as it marked the first time in almost four decades that a black woman led a television series.

WNS Courses

Summer 2024

ENG 201 A

*Women in
Renaissance Drama*
Block A

This course centers on women, an often-overlooked group of individuals during the Renaissance, and the value of their presence in their community. Mainly characterized as being weak and feeble, the women we explore in our short five weeks are just the opposite! Works from Middleton, Dekker, Rowley, and Cary invites us to reflect on fundamental questions that society has faced regarding gender. What happens when women operate outside of the rules their environment has placed upon them? Find out in this fully online course!

This class is one that everyone should take at some point in their lives; in a society filled with sex, we as a society actually know very little about human sexuality. There is no taboo topic in this course; we discuss anatomy, sex education, the orgasm gap (and how to remedy it), sexuality across the lifespan, pornography, and much, much more. This class is fully online and asynchronous, with a flexible schedule of online, open book quizzes, assignments, and discussion boards.

PSY 311 A

Human Sexuality
Block A

This interdisciplinary course is focused on social justice and the intersection of race, sexual identity, age, ability, and social class with gender. It investigates a wide range of intersectional issues related to gender including gender identity formation, media representations, law and social policy, occupational issues, family life, health care, and religion. This class is fully online and asynchronous, with a flexible schedule of online, open book quizzes, assignments, and discussion boards.

WNS 210 A

*Intro to Women's &
Gender Studies*
Block A

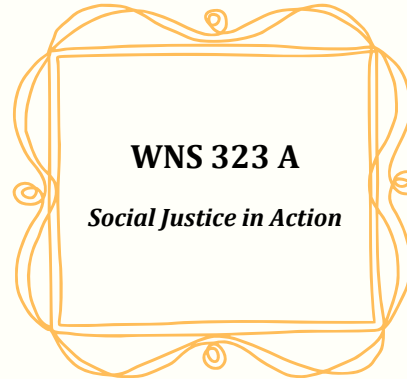
PSST... Be on the look out for information about exciting WNS SIPs...
"Psychology, Gender, and Culture" - PSY Course & "Women Writers of Northern Spain" - ENG 201
Taking place in Spain, summer of 2025!

WNS Courses

Summer 2024

“Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of something truly transformative.”

“Be the change you wish to see in the world!”



“WNS 323 is a one-week immersive course where learning meets action!”

“Are you ready to make a real difference in the world?”

ABOUT THE COURSE:

In this dynamic class, you’ll dive deep into the heart of social activism and explore the root causes of social injustices. Through engaging discussions, interactive workshops, and hands-on experiences working with local non-profits, you’ll gain a comprehensive understanding of issues such as disparities in the legal system, homelessness, food insecurity, and education.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

1) Intersectionality: Explore the complex intersections of race, gender, class, and other identities, and how they shape the experiences of injustice. 2) Social Inequalities: Analyze the systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality and learn strategies for dismantling them. 3) Causes of Social Injustice: Examine the historical, political, and economic factors that contribute to social injustices, and discover ways to address them effectively.

“HOW DO I SIGN UP?”

Contact Dr. Conradsen at sconradsen@berry.edu to schedule an interview.

Due to the nature of the course only 10 students are accepted into the class.

Interviews will begin the week of 3/11 and continue until the max number of students are selected.

COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING:

This is an ACE course, so get ready to roll up your sleeves and work side-by-side with impactful nonprofits in Metro Atlanta! You will have the opportunity to collaborate closely with organizations at the forefront addressing social issues, and will be actively engaging with at risk youth on site. By doing so, you will witness firsthand the power of grassroots activism and will develop your own ability to create meaningful change.

WHO SHOULD JOIN?

This class is open to all students from all majors who are passionate about social justice and eager to make a positive impact. Whether you are a seasoned activist or just starting your journey, this class will equip you with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to become a catalyst for change.

COURSE FORMAT:

This is a hybrid course, occurring before Block A.

Metro-Atlanta in-person dates: 5/6/24-5/10/24

Please note: Students are responsible for their own lodging and transportation during the course.

Online synchronous dates: 5/5/24, 5/11/24

There are no tests or quizzes in the course.

WNS Courses

Fall 2024

ANT 320 A

***Gender in
Anthropological
Perspective***

TH 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Lewinson

COM 418 A

***Gender, Race, & Class
in Media***

MWF 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Field-Springer

ECO 390 A

Labor Economics

MWF 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Sharpe

ENG 336 A

***Lesbian, Gay, & Queer
Literature***

MWF 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM
Bucher

REL 331 A

***Christian Faith &
Feminist Critique***

TH 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Fannin

WNS 210 A

***Intro to Women's &
Gender Studies***

TH 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
Conradsen

WNS Courses

Spring 2025

COM 205 A

Sports Communication

MWF 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Felts

EDU 201 A

Language & Gender

TH 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Pu

ENG 201 A

Confronting Racism: Social Change through Literature, Texts, and Rhetoric

MWF 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Adams

ENG 201 C

Confronting Racism: Social Change through Literature, Texts, and Rhetoric

MWF 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Adams

ENG 201 G

Resisting Enslavement: Stories of Black Women

TH 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Bucher

ENG 201 H

Major British Authors

TH 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Escott

WNS Courses

Spring 2025

continued

ENG 201 J

Major British Authors

TH 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Escott

ENG 339 I A

***Native American
Literature***

TH 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Watkins

SOC 375 A

Sociology of Disability

T 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Allred

SPA 422 I A

***Marginalized Voices
WI***

MWF 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Barnes

WNS 210 A

***Intro to Women's &
Gender Studies***

TH 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Conradson

WNS 412 A

***Women's & Gender
Studies Seminar***

W 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Conradson

Upcoming

Stay Connected to our Berry College WNS Community!

Interested in participating in a WNS book club? We will be reading How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective by Keeanga-Yamahтта Taylor.

There will be one meeting this semester!
April 2nd @ 11:00 a.m. in Cook 306.
Indicate interest below!
[Book Club Interest Form](#)

Come learn more about the WNS minor, upcoming classes, and socialize with WNS students and faculty (There will be Honeymoon cookies and a book raffle!)

Wed 3/13 from 11:45-12:45 in the Cook downstairs courtyard!
In case of rain, meeting will be held in Cook 110

Meet the Team



Madeline Thompson

Editor

Madeline is a junior Psychology major and ABA and Women's and Gender Studies double minor. Madeline's passions include: listening to music, walking outside, reading, and spending time with her friends.



Gabriel L'Heureux

Section Writer

Gabriel is a freshman double major in English and Creative Writing with a minor in Women's & Gender Studies! He loves to read and write and tries to keep up with current policy issues important to his values.



Alyssa Prather

Section Writer

Alyssa is a senior Psychology major with minors in Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology. Alyssa spends her days listening to Hozier and wistfully looking out of windows. She also enjoys reading, writing, and drinking tea.



Chloe Rodriguez

Section Writer

Chloe is a junior Communications major and a Creative Writing and Women's and Gender Studies double minor. Chloe loves Shonda Rhimes and enjoys keeping up with pop culture, and reading.