Contemporary Feminist Theories has a number of goals, including: to survey some of the major issues, debates, and contested terrains within contemporary feminist theories; to dislodge the hegemony of white Western feminism and promote understandings of feminisms as transnationally constituted; to introduce newly emerging areas of study within contemporary feminisms; to consider some of the possibilities opened by and the limitations inhering within the projects and practices of feminist theory; to assess some feminist methodologies, their reasons for being and the possibilities opened by them; to analyze some of the ways in which feminist theories have transformed traditional disciplines and institutional practices; to provide opportunities for students to practice thinking theoretically, critically analyzing theory, and using theory in their own work.

A critical examination of how gender and sexuality, and social expectations surrounding femininity and masculinity, influence experiences in sport and physical activity.

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to qualitative humanistic communication research methods, the logic and philosophy of such methods, and innovations/controversies in these methods. We will examine general qualitative research methods and analysis used by communication scholars and those in related fields, specifically interviews, observations, narrative analysis, ethnography, autoethnography, grounded theory, arts-based research, and content coding. In addition, we will discuss the ethical considerations in conducting human participant research.

Interdisciplinary in scope, this seminar uses the theoretical and practical frames of “ritual” and “performance” to explore the intersections between cultural behaviors and artistic productions in Renaissance Florence. Considering that the art of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were used and viewed in spaces and contexts that are drastically different than the museum and gallery culture of today, the seminar aims to vividly recreate the social life of Renaissance Florentines and to resituate Renaissance architecture, painting and sculpture within its original ritual and performative context. The course examines three primary categories of collective rituals in the Renaissance—sacred, civic and secular—and seeks to understand the various roles that the visual arts of the period played in promoting, supporting or underscoring these practices. By means of visual, theoretical and historical study, we will consider how certain types of artistic production may be viewed as a response to collective cultural attitudes and customs and how the visual arts of the Renaissance were animated through the physical and psychological participation of the collective body of the city.

This course will explore the complexities of race, gender, and sexuality in Cuba, the Caribbean, and its diasporas. After situating race, gender, and sexuality historically, the class will focus on these issues in contemporary Cuban culture. Students in this class will have the option to enroll in a class trip to Havana, Cuba during Spring Break. This trip is optional. Space in the trip to Cuba is extremely limited (only 5 seats are reserved for graduate students but a waiting list will be available). Therefore, students who are interested in the trip are encouraged to contact me (susanap@bgsu.edu) prior to registration if they have any questions so that they can register for the class and trip as soon as registration opens.