

# WGS NEWS

May 2021 | [www.uta.edu/womens-studies/](http://www.uta.edu/womens-studies/) | [womensstudies@uta.edu](mailto:womensstudies@uta.edu)

## Calendar

May 13-15  
Commencement

May 31  
Memorial Day



## Things to Do

[NWWM Virtual Exhibit on Women's Army Corps](#)

Dallas Museum of Art presents  
["Frida Kahlo: Five Works"](#)

[Brene' Brown Podcast Unlocking Us "Trauma, Resilience, and Healing"](#)

## Things to Read

***Justice, Justice Thou Shalt Pursue***

by Ruth Bader Ginsburg &  
Amanda L. Tyler

***While Justice Sleeps***

by Stacey Abrams

***Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power***

by Susan Page

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON



## WOMS 2315 Intro to LGBTQ+ Studies

**The Professors:** Several professors have taught our WOMS 2315 course. Learn more about our most current teacher below.



**Ms. Jessica Sanchez, MSW, Med**

**What do you like about teaching the course?** What I LOVE about teaching this course is having the opportunity to educate students about query theory and how amazingly diverse the LGBTQ+ community is.

community is.

**Why should students take the course?** If they have yet to experience a course where they could feel brave, courageous, and be their authentic selves, while learning about some really cool history and information that you more than likely won't learn in another course here at UTA, I absolutely encourage students to sign up!

**What might students learn about in the course?** Students will learn about a variety of topics about the LGBTQ+ community. We also had amazing guest speakers on the following topics: disability and sexuality, queer families, transformative justice and human sexuality, LGBTQ+ elders, and the Bear community.



Shelby Melton, WGS Minor  
 “My outlook on women and how we’ve evolved throughout the years has changed in ways I never would have imagined.”

## WGS Graduating Minors

Congratulations to graduating  
 WGS Minors!

Alexis Bravo, Michaela Giesey,  
 Elisa Gonzalez, Andrew Jones,  
 Alexandria Keenan-Lee,  
 Shelby Melton, Clovis Patterson,  
 Tammy Pedersen,  
 Sujana Sunuwar, Manda Tuttle,  
 and Brenda Umana

### GIVE AWAY!



The first 5 people to email [womensstudies@uta.edu](mailto:womensstudies@uta.edu) will receive 1 mini-LED flashlight (batteries included). Choose your color: blue or orange. Our program & school names are etched on the side.

**How did you come to teach courses on WGS?** Dr. Harp provided me an opportunity and I refused to pass it up! I am a major advocate and ally to the LGBTQ+ community and this was a once-in-a-lifetime type opportunity.

**What other courses do you teach and what research interests do you have?** I also teach for the School of Social Work where I lead a course on Intimate Partner Violence. My own dissertation research focuses on how Mexican American women experience sexual subjectivity, i.e., sexual efficacy, sexual pleasure and desire, contracting for sexual safety, sexual communication, and body image.

**Anything else you think students should know about you or the course?** While I believe this course should be required for all incoming students, the UTA community should know that the Intro to LGBTQ+ Studies course now fulfills core curriculum requirements!

**Would you like to share a fun fact about yourself?** I am a dog mom to a handsome four pound Morkie named Chucho (he/him).

### What are students saying about the class?

**What piece of information did you find the most interesting?**

“The biggest thing I’ll take away is how broad the community is. As a member of the community, I thought I knew everything, but there is so much to learn.” “I found the lack of grief support for LGBTQ+ families the most interesting. It was saddening to see that non-happy ending queer families struggle to find support more than cashed families.”

**What assignment do you think was the most challenging?**

“The final assignment, “Circles of Sexuality,” was the most challenging one as it requires you to acknowledge your vulnerability and accept the experiences from the past.” “The Resource Guide was the most challenging for me because I had never interviewed anyone and this course topic was new to me, so to interview the person who is already working and devoted in the field is challenging.” “The assignment that was the most challenging was telling about your bias thoughts. It had to do with some self-reflection, and a lot of the time, telling yourself what you do wrong is hard.”

**What do you think you will remember from the class?**

“This class was so invigorating and mentally stimulating that it opened my outlook on life.” “I will remember how accepting and kind the class felt.” “We could express our feelings and emotions through the assignments.” “I learned so much and although everything I learned I will remember and apply, I also found a professor I can reach out to if I ever need guidance throughout my life.”

## Student Corner

WGS and the Arlington AAUW branch raised funds to register 14 UTA students for the AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

The May 25-26 "event will bring hundreds of college women together from around the country for leadership training, inspiration and networking.

The conference, which will be held virtually this year, specifically focuses on leadership and professional development, activism, women's issues, and identity and diversity," according to the AAUW website. And, according to Sheri Quick, member of the Arlington AAUW Branch, "about 800 students attended the conference" in 2020.

UTA students attending the conference:

Jill Abbot Bold, Elena Fox, Brianna Gomez, Leah Ivy, Breanna Jones, Amanda Joy Kennedy Dominique Lange, Maritza I. Maturino, Mia Perkins, Lizbeth Sanchez, Sarah Sommer, Sujana Sunuwar, Kailyn Thibodeaux, Giselle Vasquez.

This newsletter is distributed in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov by UTA's Women's & Gender Studies Program. To unsubscribe, email [womensstudies@uta.edu](mailto:womensstudies@uta.edu)

## Faculty Corner

**Dr. De'An Roper**, co-chair for LGBTQ+ clinical subcommittee for NAADAC (Association for Addiction Professionals), reports her committee's article, "Welcoming Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Clients into Treatment" is featured on the front cover of [Advances in Addiction Recovery](#).

**Dr. Desirée Henderson & Dr. Amy Tigner** promoted to Full Professors in English Department; **Dr. Estee Beck** promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in English Department.

**Dr. Jennifer Miller**, English Department, has 3 publications: "Queer Theory: Queer Children, Queer Childhoods" in *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory*. Eds. Neil Badminton and Emma Mason. Volume 30, 2020; a book chapter: "For the Little Queers: Imagining Queerness in 'New' Queer Children's Literature" in *LGBTQ Culture: The Changing Landscape*. Ed. Bruce Drushel (Routledge, 2020); a book review of *Considering Emma Goldman: Feminist Political Ambivalence and the Imaginative Archive* by Clare Hemmings: "Imagining a Transformed World with Emma Goldman" in *Journal for the Study of Radicalism*. Volume 14, No. 2, Fall 2020. Also, **Miller** will present "Locating Longing in Benjamin's The Arcades Project and Our Queer Kid Lit" at the virtual 2021 Children's Literature Association Conference this June.

**Dr. Sarah El Sayed**, CRCJ, promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

**Prof. Patty Newton**, Art + Art History, is shooting her film *Rescued* this summer with an all-female crew consisting of current undergrads, MFAs, and alums. They're headed to West Texas starting May 17 to begin production. The film's Logline: *Ferona, a working class, self-employed baker, struggles to balance the tension in her home with her rough-edged husband, while keeping her own self-destructive impulses at bay. A visit from a friend from her past induces Ferona's launch into a cathartic chain of events.*

## Message From the WGS Director

Congratulations to the 11 WGS Minors graduating this spring. This year has been incredibly unusual for the UTA community (and world) and I'm so proud of our students who have thrived and survived through it. I'm looking forward to being back on campus in the Fall, where I can again support our students face-to-face rather than through my screen. And I know I am not alone in this feeling.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful intern, Samantha Petty (Department of Communication major), who served as our Social Media, Promotion & Events Specialist throughout the spring semester. If you are interested in this position in an upcoming semester (or during the summer) or if you know of a student who would be perfect for the position, please contact me.

Thank you to our WGS campus community, our fabulous faculty, and amazing students for helping make the program better with every semester! And, lastly, please contact me with any questions or suggestions you have about the WGS Program.

Dr. Dustin Harp, Director