WST 220 – GENDER, CULTURE, AND SCIENCE
FULFILLS UCORE [DIVRS]
Spring 2018, MWF 9:10 – 10am, Dr. Jenifer Barclay

How objective is objectivity? Who determines "the facts" and what social, cultural, economic, and political forces influence those who do? Are fields like science, technology, engineering and medicine always completely objective and free of any kind of bias? These kinds of questions lay at the heart of this course as it maps the rise of Western science and the ways that ideas about gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and nationality shape(d) the production of knowledge, including scientific discourses, professional medicine, technological developments, and many other seemingly "objective" topics. The influence of these socially constructed categories is felt today in the underrepresentation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in STEM fields and medicine as well as in the erasure of their many contributions to these fields throughout history. Through lectures, thought-provoking readings, in-class discussions, documentaries and films, students will grapple with these slippery questions in a global, national, and historical context. We will also consider how solutions to these deeply embedded biases and limitations are articulated in educational policies and representations of women and minorities in the sciences in film and media.