

## Faculty

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The major and concentration in women's and gender studies offer students an opportunity to engage in two important and interrelated areas of study. Students will examine those aspects of experience that have traditionally been underrepresented (if not invisible) in academic studies—for example, the lives and works of women, the experiences of gays and lesbians. Students will also examine gender as a cultural phenomenon: as a system of ideas defining “masculinity” and “femininity” and delineating differences between “the sexes” as well as “normal” expressions of sexuality. In the process, students will encounter some fundamental methodologies of women's and gender studies, and work toward an increasingly rich understanding of gender as a social construction, one that intersects with class, race, age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, and sexual identity. In addition, students will explore the methods and concepts of women's and gender studies in a variety of academic disciplines, integrating, for instance, sociology, psychology, literature, the biological sciences, and art history.

From the debates between Wollstonecraft and Rousseau to the homo-

social worlds of Walker's *The Color Purple* and Melville's *Moby Dick*, from Barbara McClintock's work in genetics to the gendered symbolism of Mozart's *Magic Flute*, students will come to understand how questions of gender are deeply embedded in the liberal-arts tradition.

The major and concentration encourage and enable students to take responsibility for their own learning. Toward this end, courses will invite students to participate in a range of collaborative work. This culminates in the Senior Colloquium, where students determine the content and intellectual direction of the course as a whole. Ultimately, students are encouraged to acquire a sophisticated insight into the consequences of the social construction of gender for both women and men, an insight that empowers them to engage and question the pervasive role of gender in their own lives and communities.

## First-Year and New Students

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (WMNS 111) is a wide-ranging interdisciplinary course designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender. Through a focus on a series of cultural artifacts, ranging from poems and films to legal cases and psychiatric disorders, students will examine the historical development of gendered public and private spheres, the relation of biological sex to sociological gender, and the difference between sex roles

and sexual stereotypes. They will attempt to understand how racism, heterosexism, and homophobia intersect with the cultural constructions of masculinity and femininity, and consider ways to promote more egalitarian gender relations.

Look for the ♦ symbol, which designates the courses appropriate for first-year students or upperclass students new to the curriculum of the major and concentration.

## Requirements for the Major

**Credits:** 6 units will be required for the major (3 required and 3 elective)

1. **Introductory requirement:** .5 unit  
WMNS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
2. **Mid-level requirements:** 1 unit  
WMNS 330 Feminist Theory  
WMNS 331 Feminist Methodologies
3. **Diversity and globalization:** 1 unit  
Students must take two courses that focus on the social and cultural issues of U.S. and/or world peripheral communities. Consult the director for a list of courses that may be applied to this requirement.
4. **Cluster concentration:** 2 units  
Majors will be required to declare in writing a cluster of related courses that will form the foundation of their major. These clusters might be largely disciplinary (Spanish area studies, English literature, psychology), or they might be interdisciplinary (sexuality, international studies, American studies, biosocial sexual study of gender). Upon supplying a justification and obtaining permission of the program director, students may count .5 unit of non-WGS courses toward this cluster requirement.
5. **Open electives:** 1 unit.
6. **Senior Colloquium:** .5 unit  
WMNS 481 (Senior Colloquium)

examines a topic central to feminist thought. It includes current feminist texts and incorporates multidisciplinary analyses of race, class, and sexuality, in addition to gender. The course culminates in a public presentation by colloquium members. Senior majors and concentrators will meet in the fall to design the colloquium, which will be offered spring semester.

### 7. Senior Exercise (see below)

## Senior Exercise

The Senior Exercise for the major in women's and gender studies consists of:

- (a) Designing and planning the Senior Colloquium (WMNS 481) in the fall.
- (b) Creating an annotated bibliography reflecting the specialization and cluster chosen by each student, due at the end of the fall semester. The annotated bibliography should be interdisciplinary and consist of the most relevant and current research applicable to the student's chosen interdisciplinary cluster. Accompanying the presentation will be a five-page essay evaluating how the student's cluster has contributed to planning the collective project designed in the Senior Colloquium.
- (c) Passing the Senior Colloquium (WMNS 481) in the spring.

## Honors

The major who wishes to participate in the Honors Program must have an overall GPA of 3.33, and 3.5 in the major. The candidate in honors will complete all requirements for the major as well as the Senior Exercise. He or she will take two semesters of independent study and will design and complete a research project. This project should integrate both feminist theory and methodologies, as well as the student's chosen disciplinary or interdisciplinary cluster. Each honors student will prepare an annotated

bibliography on her or his chosen project midway through the fall term. After approval, the senior honors project will be undertaken in consultation with a project advisor.

We encourage students to think boldly and innovatively about the kinds of projects they undertake and about how those projects interact with and benefit their communities. Senior honors projects might include gender-focused sociological or historical studies undertaken locally; exhibitions, productions, or installations of gender-exploratory art, music, or theater; or political, social, and/or environmental service-oriented or activist work. Students will be closely mentored throughout their projects and, in the spring, will be evaluated by an external evaluator and by faculty in the program and in relevant disciplines. The evaluators will assess the strength of the students' overall work, as well as the strength of their self-designed, project-appropriate public presentations of that work.

## Requirements for the Concentration

**Credits:** 3 units of courses in women's and gender studies

1. Either WMNS 330 (Feminist Theory) or WMNS 331 (Feminist Methodologies)
2. WMNS 481 (Senior Colloquium). See description, above.
3. Electives: Four approved courses which must be spread over at least two divisions of the College. No more than 1 unit in a single department may count toward this requirement.

## First-Semester Courses

### Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

♦ WMNS 111 (.5 unit)  
*Finke*

This course is designed to help the student develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender, including such extremely

important contemporary issues as sex discrimination and harassment, women's health, and developmental issues. In addition, the course will introduce students to the interdisciplinary fields of women's and gender studies, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in recent scholarship are arising. Emphasis will be placed on women's significant contributions to knowledge and culture, but we will also survey other areas of gender studies, including men's studies, family studies, and the study of sexuality. Central to the course will be an examination of personal narratives—memoirs, autobiographies, oral histories, ethnographies, photographs—and their relation to larger social issues. Enrollment limited.

### **Feminist Theory**

WMNS 330 (.5 unit)  
*Finke*

In this course, we will read both historical and contemporary feminist theory with the goal of understanding the multiplicity of feminist approaches to women's experiences, the representation of women, and women's relative positions in societies. Theoretical positions that will be represented include liberal feminism, cultural feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, socialist feminism, and poststructuralist feminism. In addition, we will explore the relationship of these theories to issues of race, class, sexual preference, and ethnicity through an examination of the theoretical writings of women of color and non-Western women. Prerequisite: WMNS 111, any approved departmental course, or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

### **Individual Study**

WMNS 493 (.5 unit)  
*Staff*

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and program director.

## **Second-Semester Courses**

### **Gender and Film**

WMNS 221 (.5 unit)  
*Finke*

This course explores the representation and construction of gender in and through film. Adopting both an historical and theoretical approach, we will focus on how masculinity and femininity, in their various forms and combinations, are signified, how the gender of both the character and the spectator is implicated in the cinematic gaze, and how gender characterizations inform and reflect the larger culture/society surrounding the film. A wide variety of cinematic traditions will be discussed, and, although Hollywood films will form the base of the course, other national and regional cinemas will be explored, through both the screening of full-length films and numerous excerpts of others. No prerequisite. Enrollment limited. **Note:** This course requires attendance at weekly film showings in addition to regular class meetings; students will register for two class periods, one of which will be used exclusively for screening films.

### **Senior Colloquium**

WMNS 481 (.5 unit)  
*Finke*

The seminar will be organized around a theme to be determined by students registered for the course in consultation with the instructor during the semester prior to the beginning of the course. Previous topics include "Gender and Pornography," "Feminist Humor," "Race and Gender," "Transgressing Gender," and "Gender and Politics." Prerequisite: WMNS 330 or 331 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

### **Individual Study**

WMNS 494 (.5 unit)  
*Staff*

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and program director.

## **Approved Courses**

The following courses for 2006-07 have been approved for the major and concentration in women's and gender studies:

### **First Semester**

- ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture
- CLAS 114 Classical Mythology
- ENGL 103.05 Monstrosity and Otherness
- ENGL 210 Proper Ladies and Women Writers
- ENGL 240 Highwaymen, Harlots, Thieves, and Spectators: Early Eighteenth-Century Literature
- ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature
- ENGL 339 The Restoration on Stage and Screen
- ENGL 378 Race in the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination
- ENGL 382 The Jazz Age
- HIST 341 African Women in Film and Fiction
- PSYC 346 Psychology of Women
- RLST 325 Women and Islam

### **Second Semester**

- ENGL 104.03 Monstrosity and Otherness
- ENGL 254 Nineteenth-Century British Literature: Literary Women
- ENGL 369 Canadian Literature and Culture
- HIST 208 Women in America
- MUSC 303 Women and Music
- PSCI 380 Women and Politics
- PSYC 425 Research Methods to Study Gender
- RLST 103 First-Year Seminar: Women and Religion
- SOCY 492.01 Women of Color in the United States