

Curriculum and Requirements

Interdisciplinary

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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 aspects of experiences 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 homosocial 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

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. Students construct their major by choosing courses from the offerings of both the Women's and Gender Studies Program and more than fifteen other departments and programs across the College.

First-Year and New Students

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (WGS 111) is a wide-ranging interdisciplinary course designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking about questions

relating to gender. 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.

WGS Courses and Diversification Requirements

Courses in the Women's and Gender Studies Program may count toward students' collegiate diversification requirements in either social sciences or humanities.

WGS 111 (Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies) plus one other WGS course would count for either the social sciences requirement or the humanities requirement, based on the combination of courses. Pairings and their designations are as follows:

- WGS 111 and WGS 121: Human Sexualities (Social Sciences)
- WGS 111 and WGS 221: Gender and Film (Humanities)
- WGS 111 and WGS 330: Feminist Theory (Social Sciences)
- WGS 111 and WGS 331: Feminist Methodology (Social Sciences)

Requirements for the Major

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

1. Introductory requirement: .5 unit

WGS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

2. Mid-level requirements: 1 unit

WGS 330 Feminist Theory

WGS 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

WGS 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:

1. Designing and planning the Senior Colloquium (WGS 481) in the fall.
2. 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 bibliography will be a five-page essay introducing the bibliography and discussing the state of the field as well as areas that warrant further research.
3. Passing the Senior Colloquium (WGS 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 WGS 330 (Feminist Theory) or WGS 331 (Feminist Methodologies)
2. WGS 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.

Transfer Credit Policy

The Program in Women's and Gender Studies typically accepts transfer credits from other colleges and universities for courses that meet College requirements for transfer credit. We especially encourage students to take courses that are not regularly offered in our curriculum. We do not permit students to earn transfer credits through online evaluation or two-week special courses offered during winter breaks. All transfer credit must be approved by the program director.

Women's and Gender Studies

WGS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Credit: 0.5

This course will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in recent scholarship are arising. It will provide students with critical frameworks for thinking about the social construction of gender at the personal and institutional levels. Emphasis will be placed on diverse women's significant contributions to knowledge and culture; to other areas of gender studies, including men's studies, family studies, and the study of sexuality; and to the intersections of various forms of oppression both within and outside of the U.S. The course will include both scholarly as well as personal texts, visual as well as written text. Offered every semester.

WGS 121 Human Sexualities

Credit: 0.5

This course is designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking and writing about issues related to sexual orientation. The course will take a broad view, examining sexuality from legal, psychological, biological, cultural, ethical, philosophical, and phenomenological frameworks. We will look at the emerging fields of the history of sexuality and queer theory, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in modern cultural studies are arising. No prerequisite. Offered every other year.

WGS 221 Gender and Film

Credit: 0.5

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. 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. Offered every other year.

WGS 232 Topics in Masculinity

Credit: 0.5

Through focus on a specific topic, this course will explore how men's lives are shaped by and shape the gendered social order. Macro and micro perspectives will guide discussions focusing on how men behave in particular contexts and how they perceive themselves, other men, and women in diverse situations. Specific topics investigating the production of masculinities will take into account the interplay among the cultural, interpersonal, and individual layers of social life while considering how men's efforts are enabled or constrained by key socially relevant characteristics (primarily age, race/ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation) through investigations, for instance, of particular sites (e.g., playgrounds, work space, home, schools, athletic venues, prisons). The topic for 2012-13 will be fraternities.

WGS 242 Transnational Feminisms

Credit: 0.5

This course examines the impact of globalization on feminist discourses that describe the cross-cultural experiences of women. Transnational feminist theories and methodologies destabilize Western feminisms, challenging notions of subjectivity and place and their connections to experiences of race, class, and gender. The course builds on four key concepts: development, democratization, cultural change, and colonialism. Because transnational feminisms are represented by the development of women's global movements, the course will consider examples of women's global networks and the ways in which they destabilized concepts like citizenship and rights. We will also examine how transnational feminisms have influenced women's productions in the fields of literature and art. Key questions include: How does the history of global feminisms affect local women's movements? What specific issues have galvanized women's movements across national and regional borders? How do feminism and critiques of colonialism and imperialism intersect? What role might feminist agendas play in addressing current global concerns? How do transnational feminisms build and sustain communities and connections to further their agendas? Prerequisite: WGS 111 or permission of the instructor. Offered every other year.

Instructor: Clara Roman-Odio

WGS 330 Feminist Theory

Credit: 0.5

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: WGS 111, any approved departmental course, or permission of instructor. Offered every year.

WGS 331 Gender, Power, and Knowledge: Research Practices

Credit: 0.5

This class will examine feminist critiques of dominant methodologies and theories of knowledge creation in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. It will focus on the following questions: How do we know something? Who gets to decide what counts as knowledge? Who is the knower? In answering these questions this class will explore how power is exercised in the production of knowledge, how the norms of objectivity and universalism perpetuate dominance and exclusion, why women and other minority groups are often seen as lacking epistemic authority, and what it means to have knowledge produced from a feminist standpoint. Participants in the class will learn a variety of methods and use these methods in a group research project. In addition, we will discuss various ethical issues that feminist researchers often encounter and what responsibilities feminist researchers have to the broader political community. Prerequisite: WGS 111, any approved departmental course, or permission of the instructor. Offered every year.

WGS 481 Senior Colloquium

Credit: 0.5

This 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/WGS 330 or 331 or permission of instructor. Offered every spring.

WGS 493 Individual Study

Credit: 0.25-0.5

Individual study enables students to examine an area not typically covered by courses regularly offered in the program. Typically, such students are juniors or seniors who have sufficient research and writing skills to work very independently. The course can be arranged with a faculty member in any department but must conform to the usual requirements for credit in the program: gender is a central focus, and the course draws on feminist theory and/or feminist methodologies. The amount of work should be similar to that in any other 400-level course. To enroll, a student should first contact a faculty member and, in consultation with that professor, develop a proposal. The proposal, which must be approved by the program director, should provide: a brief description of the course/project (including any previous classes that qualify the student), a preliminary bibliography or reading list, an assessment component (what will be

graded and when), and major topical areas to be covered during the semester. The student and faculty member should plan to meet approximately one hour per week or the equivalent, at the discretion of the instructor. Proposals should be planned well in advance, preferably the semester before the proposed project.

WGS 497 Senior Honors

Credit: 0.5

The major who wishes to participate in the honors program must have an overall GPA of 3.33 and a GPA of 3.5 in the major. The candidate in honors will complete all requirements for the major, the Senior Exercise, and 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 semester. After approval, the senior honors project will be undertaken in consultation with a project advisor.

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WGS 498 Senior Honors

Credit: 0.5

See the course description for WGS 497.

Additional courses that meet the requirements for this major/concentration

AMST 108: Introduction to American Studies
ANTH 346: Women In Latin-American Culture
ANTH 350: Human Sexuality and Culture
ARHS 375: Topics in Renaissance and Baroque Art
BIOL 103: Biology in Science Fiction
BIOL 104: Biology of Female Sexuality
CLAS 130: Classical Mythology
ECON 378: Economics of Women and Work
ENGL 210: Proper Ladies and Women Writers

ENGL 240: Early Eighteenth-Century Literature
ENGL 254: Literary Women: Nineteenth-Century British Literature
ENGL 265: Introduction to Postcolonial Literature
ENGL 270: American Fiction
ENGL 280: American Literary Modernism
ENGL 281: Fictions in Black
ENGL 288: Introduction to African-American Literature
ENGL 313: Land, Body, Place in Literature and Film
ENGL 316: Postcolonial Poetry
ENGL 320: Shakespeare
ENGL 339: The Restoration on Stage and Screen
ENGL 369: Canadian Literature and Culture
ENGL 372: The Gilded Age
ENGL 378: Race in the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination
ENGL 381: Another America: Narratives of the Hemisphere
ENGL 382: The Jazz Age
ENGL 386: Toni Morrison
ENGL 388: Studies in Twentieth-Century African-American Literature
ENGL 414: Literature and Sexuality: Surrealism
ENGL 419: Hard-Boiled Crime Fiction and Film Noir
ENGL 453: Jane Austen
ENGL 461: Virginia Woolf
GERM 323: German Women Writers
GERM 365: Politics and Gender in German Cinema
HIST 132: Modern Europe
HIST 208: U.S. Women's History
HIST 232: Modern European Women's History
HIST 236: Gender, Race, and Class in Modern Germany
HIST 341: African Women in Film and Fiction
HIST 370: Women and Gender in the Modern Middle East
HIST 373: Women of the Atlantic World
HIST 452: Women, Gender, and State in China
MUSC 303: Music and Gender
PSCI 380: Gender and Politics
PSYC 327: Cross-Cultural Psychology
PSYC 346: Psychology of Women
PSYC 425: Research Methods to Study Gender
PSYC 443: Psychology of Eating Disorders
RLST 103: First Year Seminar: Encountering Religion: Women and Religion
RLST 328: Women in Christianity
RLST 329: Christian Mysticism
RUSS 354: Masterpieces of Russian Nineteenth-Century Literature
SOCY 225: Notions of Family
SOCY 231: Issues of Gender and Power
SOCY 232: Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions
SOCY 241: Sociology of Gender

SOCY 250: Systems of Stratification

SOCY 421: Gender Stratification

SOCY 423: Women, Health, and Medicine

SOCY 425: Gender and the Welfare State

SOCY 463: Intersectional Theory

SPAN 371: Gender, Identity, and Power in Women's Literature