Women's Studies Gender Studies

Women's Studies Gender Studies examines the gendered diversity of human experience. It uses the lens of gender to explore stratification, colonization, power relationships and cultural stereotypes, and it encourages a sense of empowerment through an examination of commonality and diversity. Through an interdisciplinary program of courses, students will explore the role of gender and its practical implications for their basic life experiences. Students will extend their learning beyond the classroom through community engagement and social action, and they will have an opportunity to explore how their future careers are gendered and how their perceptions affect career expectations.

Note: The Women's Studies minor is especially complementary to majors in Social Work, Applied Psychology, Sociology, English, Humanities, Criminal Justice, Health, and Political Science. It is also useful in preparation for diverse professional environments such as business, education, law, and medicine and for graduate study in women's studies.

Programs

- Women's Studies Gender Studies Minor *minor*

Career Directions

See "Note" in description.

Preparation

Recommended High School Courses

Women's Studies

Gender Studies

Areas of Interest

Anti-Discrimination

Community Service

Ending Gender Violence

Ending Poverty

Environmental Concerns

Gender Equity

Grassroots Activism

Peace and Justice

Politics and Social Change

Women's Studies Gender Studies Minor *minor*

Required Credits: 21
Required GPA: 2.00

I REQUIRED CORE COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- WSGS 2220 Women's Issues (3 credits)
  *or*WSGS 2223 Men's Issues (3 credits)
- WSGS 2600 Women and Diversity: Crossing Boundaries of Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality (3 credits)
- WSGS 3220 Gender Politics (3 credits)
  *or*WSGS 3330 International Gender Issues (3 credits)
- WSGS 3850 Feminist Theories and Practice (3 credits)
- SOC 3270 Intersections of Sexuality and Gender (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT 6 SEMESTER CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ENGL 3607 Film Topics (3 credits)
- HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- PHIL 2260 Women and Philosophy (3 credits)
- PSY 2200 Human Sexuality (3 credits)
- SOWK 3030 Family Violence (3 credits)
- SOWK 3110 Parent-Child Relations in Contemporary Family Forms (3 credits)
- WSGS 3100 Topics in Women's Studies Gender Studies (3 credits)

Courses

WSGS 2220 Women's Issues (3 credits)
An overview of women's studies as an academic discipline, including an examination of the causes and consequences of sexism and gender discrimination. Geared toward developing personal awareness of women's reality in a patriarchal society. Topics include gendered language; stereotypical images; media representations of women; gender violence; and women's roles in relationships, the home, the workplace, and politics. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7

WSGS 2223 Men's Issues (3 credits)
An exploration of the theoretical and social construction of masculinities. Hegemonic masculinity is examined in an attempt to understand the challenges it has created for men, women, and children. Students engage in reading, writing, and conversations about how gender and masculinity shape and impact relationships, family, work, education, and society. Personal beliefs and values related to masculinity are also addressed. Liberal Education Goal Area 7.

WSGS 2600 Women and Diversity: Crossing Boundaries of Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality (3 credits)
An integrated study of the complexity and diversity of historical and contemporary realities of women across culture, race, class, age, ethnicity, and sexual identity with an emphasis on the ways these are inextricably intertwined and rooted in the structure of social institutions. Moves from a personal awareness of women's issues toward a social, political, economic, and cross-cultural analysis. Students will examine their own lives and values and those of others regarding privelege, power, prejudice, and discrimination. Prerequisite: WSGS 2220 or WSGS 2223. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7

WSGS 3100 Topics in Women's Studies Gender Studies (3 credits)
Diverse topics encompass an international range of gendered experiences and may include sources from literature, law, history, myth/religion, psychology, sociology, philosophy, theology, and the visual arts. Topics may include: myths and spirituality; mother, daughter, self; writing women's lives; art, erotica, and pornography in American Culture; reproductive freedom; Indigenous women's issues; sexualities and difference in America. May be taken for credit under different subtitles.

WSGS 3220 Gender Politics (3 credits)
An examination of the capacity of political thought and action among women and men. Students explore how women and men approach the public sphere, and their identification with particular parties in the United States. Political issues are further examined by looking at the ways in which men and women understand political thinking and how they evaluate issues and candidates. In an attempt to go beyond conventional understandings of political engagement and leadership, students will discuss what it means to engage in contested forms of political interpretation, how the public and private sphere is politicized, and how a discussion of politics is intimately related to politics of the body. (Might not be offered every year)

WSGS 3330 International Gender Issues (3 credits)
An examination of gender issues from an international perspective, with particular emphasis on both distinguishing national practices and analyzing connections between these practices. This course explores the cultural construction and representation of gender, and also focuses on the way in which gender contributes to economic and cultural inequality. Students use a comparative international framework to evaluate the relation between gender and global issues. (Might not be offered every year)

WSGS 3850 Feminist Theories and Practice (3 credits)
A critical examination of the main currents in contemporary feminist thought. Explores systems of ideas which explain the nature and causes of the position of women and men in society. The course includes a capstone experience involving student production of an original piece of work linking the student's discipline to a gender issue through the use of feminist theory and research. Prerequisite: WSGS 2600. Might not be offered every year.

All-University Courses

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY
1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY
1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE
1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE
1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR
1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION
1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP
1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH
1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS