Gender and Women's Studies

Gender and Women's 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 and university engagement and social action.

Note: The Gender and Women's Studies minor is especially complementary to majors in Social Work, 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 gender and women's studies.

Programs

- Gender and Women's Studies *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

Gender and Women's Studies *minor*

Required Credits: 21
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED CORE COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- GWS 1100 Introduction to Gender Studies (3 credits)
- GWS 2220 Women's Issues (3 credits)
  or GWS 2223 Men's Issues (3 credits)
- GWS 2600 Women and Diversity: Crossing Boundaries of Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality (3 credits)
- GWS 3220 Gender Politics (3 credits)
  or GWS 3330 International Gender Issues (3 credits)
- GWS 3850 Sex, Gender and Power: Theories and Practice (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT 6 SEMESTER CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ENGL 3607 Film Topics (3 credits)
- GWS 3100 Topics in Gender and Women's Studies (3 credits)
- HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- INST 3888 Indigenous Women Writers (3 credits)
- PHIL 2260 Women and Philosophy (3 credits)
- PSY 2200 Human Sexuality (3 credits)
- SOC 3270 Intersections of Sexuality and Gender (3 credits)
- SOWK 3030 Family Violence (3 credits)
- SOWK 3110 Parent-Child Relations in Contemporary Family Forms (3 credits)

Gender and Women's Studies Courses

GWS 1100 Introduction to Gender Studies (3 credits)
This course offers an introduction to Gender Studies, an interdisciplinary academic field that explores critical questions about the meaning of gender in society. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions and debates in Gender Studies scholarship, both historical and contemporary. Gender scholarship critically analyzes themes of gendered performance and power in a range of social spheres, such as philosophy, economics, history, religion, politics and health. Liberal Education Goals 7 & 9.

GWS 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.

GWS 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 Areas 5 & 7.

GWS 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.

GWS 3100 Topics in Gender and Women's Studies (3 credits)
This course will engage students in a cross-discipline examination of sexual violence in the United States and globally. Topics explored include "date rape",misogyny, misandry, domestic violence, sex work and trafficking. The current theory and practice directed at ending sexual violence will also be reviewed.

GWS 3220 Gender Politics (3 credits)
This course will include 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. Prerequisite: GWS 1100. Liberal Education Goal Areas 7 & 9.

GWS 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. This course can be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: GWS 1100. Liberal Education Goal Area 8.

GWS 3850 Sex, Gender and Power: Theories and Practice (3 credits)
How, and from where, does gender emerge? What are the implications when the workings of power are played out in existing societal systems and relational understandings of gender? Students will examine feminist theories, liberal, socialist, radical, multicultural, postcolonial, ecofeminist; as well as Queer theory. This exploration of theory will introduce students to one of the most exciting and dynamic areas of contemporary inquiry, while preparing them for engagement in social movement, community and social transformation, and social justice. Prerequisite: GWS 1100.

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