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 Courses

GWS 1200 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 1210 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 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 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.

GWS 4917 DIS Tchg Assoc | (1-2 credits)
Directed Independent Study | Teaching Associate

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