



# 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*

Note: No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.25 in this minor is required for graduation. At least 12 of the credits have to be taken at Bemidji State University.

Required Credits: 21

Required GPA: 2.25

## I REQUIRED CORE COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- GWS 1200 Men's Issues (3 credits)
- GWS 1210 Women's Issues (3 credits)
- GWS 3850 Sex, Gender and Power: Theories and Practice (3 credits)

## II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Select 2 of the following 2000 level courses:

- ANTH 2610 Women around the World (3 credits)
- PSY 2200 Human Sexuality (3 credits)
- SOC 2240 Men, Women, and Society: A Sociological Interpretation (3 credits)

Complete the following courses:

- COMM 3150 Gender Communication (3 credits)
- SOC 3270 Intersectionality (3 credits)

## 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