

Women's and Gender Studies

Faculty: Friedman, *Coordinator:* Adler, Allyn, Archer, Bennett, Biggs, Boughn, Carney, Chazelle, Compte, Dawley, Dickinson, Duffy, Fair, Fichner-Rathus, Figueroa, Fink, Graham, Gray, Gross, Hall, Howe, Kapur, Kenen, Knobler, Landreau, Lengyel, Naples, Nicolosi, Ortiz, Paces, Paul, Peterson, Preti, Robboy, Roberts, Robertson, Rosman-Askot, Ryan, Shanklin, Shao, Steele, Tarter, Waterhouse

The women's and gender studies major is interdisciplinary, offering 66 courses in 15 programs and departments. Women's and gender studies courses enable students to understand changing social patterns and the effects of institutions and culture on behavior. Courses explore how gender shapes social roles and identities as well as the function of race, class, and sexuality in the experience of gender within and across cultures. The major prepares students for a variety of professional and graduate schools as well as positions in corporations, government agencies, and service industries.

Requirements for the Major

Women's and gender studies courses include WGST and courses from other departments. The women's and gender studies major requires 36 credits: 15 credits of required WGST courses (200, 201, 350, 497, 498), and 21 credits of women's and gender studies options. For the women's and gender studies options, nine credits must be connected to a single topic or theme, approved by the program coordinator. Students must select 12 additional women's and gender studies credits. Six credits of the women's and gender studies options must be cross-cultural in focus. Students may also pursue independent study and internships for credit.

Required Courses: Total 15

WGS	200/Women Culture and Society	4
WGST	201/Gender and Popular Culture	3
WGS	350/Feminist Theory	4
WGST	497/Feminism in the Workplace: Field Study in Women's and Gender Studies	3
WGST	498/Senior Seminar: Methods and Theory	3

Women's and Gender Studies Options: Total 21

Theme or Topic Constellation:	9
Coordinator's approval required.	

Women's and Gender Studies Courses: 12

See full list at the end of this section.

Cross-Cultural Requirement:

Of the 21 women's and gender studies options, at least two courses must fulfill the cross-cultural requirement and be drawn from the following:

WGS	280/Africana Women in Historical Perspectives (same as AAS 280)	3
WGST	316/Global Women Writers	3
WGST	330/Global Feminisms	3
WGST	334/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women (same as ENGL 334)	3
WGST	337/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848 – Present (same as HIST 337 and HONR 337)	3
WGST	338/Gender & Democracy (same as HONR 338)	3
WGST	371/Gendered Sociology (same as SOCL 371 and HONR 371)	3
ENGL	428/Major Writers: Julia Alvarez	3
*HIST	455/Tutorial: Women in the Middle East	3
*HIST	455/Tutorial: Women and Family in Eastern Asia	3
HIST	455/Tutorial: The Social History of African Women	3
HONR	212/Sex, Class, and Race: America in the 20th Century	3
HONR	214/20th-Century International Women's Literature	3
POLS	312/Politics of Minorities and Women	3
*PSYC	390/Women of Color	3
SOCL	303/Women in World Perspective	3

* Instructor's permission or other prerequisites apply.

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for women's and gender studies. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses:

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these "critical content courses": WGS 200/Women Culture and Society (C).
- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0, in women's and gender studies courses and overall.

Requirements for the Minor

The women's and gender studies minor requires WGS 200 plus 15 credits of women's and gender studies courses. You may take as many WGS/WGST courses as you like, but you may take only six credits from any single department outside of the Women's and Gender Studies program. Students may also pursue independent study and an internship for credit.

After completion of the required course, Women, Culture, and Society, there is no other required sequence in the program. Students will choose 15 credits from courses listed below, but no more than six credits can be taken in any one discipline.

Women in Learning and Leadership

Women in Learning and Leadership (WILL) is a curricular and co-curricular, certificate-bearing program designed to develop leadership skills and experience. WILL provides active learning opportunities that empower women as leaders and fosters a deeper understanding of women's roles and contributions to society.

Requirements for WILL

Students accepted into WILL are required to complete 13 credits of women's and gender studies courses, in addition to 15 hours/semester of co-curricular activities. When appropriate, WILL-only sections of WGST courses are offered. Thirteen credits include two courses designed specifically for the WILL curricula that are open only to students accepted into the WILL program: Introduction to Women in Leadership and Senior Seminar: Women in Leadership and Social Change. Other required courses include: Women, Culture, and Society; Feminist Theory; and a WILL Internship.

COURSES (updated as of 10/19/03)

WGS 200/Women, Culture, and Society 4 cr. (every semester)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender

This is a course about the field of women's studies and how scholars and students in it analyze women, gender, and feminist theories. To understand how the study of women, and then gender, became a field of research and teaching known as women's studies, students need to know how women came to be a category of analysis. This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to do this. This introductory course encourages students to rethink and reevaluate much of what they have experienced and learned and to gain the critical vocabulary and analytic skills to question the gendered world in which we live. This is a writing intensive course.

WGS 210/Women and Health: Power, Politics, and Change 4 cr. (annually)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender

This course concerns the domain of women's bodies. Students will examine how social constructs impact upon the health of women. As a result of this exploration, students will deepen their ability to care for themselves and for others, to use and understand power and empowerment, and to advocate and to be an activist for themselves and for others

WGS 220/Gender and Popular Culture 4 cr. (every semester)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender, Western

This course will explore the relationship between popular culture and gender. It will examine how the media constructs gender and how those constructions become cultural norms and mores. Students will investigate how gender is defined and replicated by the media. They will learn to critically analyze the effects of popular culture in their own lives.

WGS 230/Gendered Technoculture: Feminism, Gender and Technology 4 cr. (every semester)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender, Western

This course examines the nature and role of technologies of representation and their relationship to gender issues, focusing on how to use different media to represent Western notions of gender. Students will be introduced to current technologies like electronic communications, desktop publishing, video production, and multimedia

WGS 240/Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Studies 4 cr.

(every semester)

This course will survey the growing field of gay and lesbian studies, giving particular attention to literature and its role in contributing to debates about identity, community, and social change. Fiction, poetry, and essays by Audre Lorde, Oscar Wilde, Jeanette Winterson, Langston Hughes, and Toni Morrison will be considered next to music by The Indigo Girls, photographs by Mapplethorpe, and movies like Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Women*

WGS 250/Politics of Sexuality 4cr.

(every semester)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender, Western

This course takes a close look at debates over sexuality and gender. We take up questions surrounding such contemporary issues as the AIDS dilemma, pro-sex and anti-pornography feminists, the apparent connections between violence and sexuality, and the negotiation of personal and political power.

WGS 260/Africana Women in Historical 4 cr.

Perspective

(every semester)

(same as AAS 280/Africana Women in Historical Perspective)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences—Content, Gender, Non-Western

A global and cross-cultural survey of the lives and contributions of women of Africana ancestry. Emphasis will be placed upon the shared elements of African culture that, when impacted by colonialism and/or the Atlantic slave trade, resulted in similar types of resistance to oppression and analogous cultural expression among the women of four locales: Africa, South America and the Caribbean, and Europe.

Theoretical methodologies, historical narrative, literature, demographic data, material culture, representations of self, and representations by others will be explored to illuminate/explain the: history, cultural artifacts, cultural retentions and, self concept.

WGS 275/Global Women Writers 4 cr.

(every semester)

(same as LIT 216/Global Women Writers)

Perspectives on the World: Gender, Literature, Non-Western

This course looks at texts by women writing in non-Western cultures and genres as a way of examining the nature and role of women in systems of colonization and imperialism. Analysis of novels and essays will focus on the problems and possibilities of indigenous, colonized, and post-Colonial women writing within these systems

WGST 296/Eat/Drink, Man/Woman: A Gendered 3 cr.

History of Food

(annually)

(same as HIST 296/Eat/Drink, Man/Woman: A Gendered History of Food)

An introduction to the history of food consumption and preparation in the Western world, and its place in defining gender roles; food as part of religious ceremony; development of table manners; the politics of breast-feeding; the changing of kitchen roles; and the history of eating disorders.

WGS 301/Women in America 4cr.

(annually)

(same as HIS 385/Women in America)

Perspectives on the World: Gender, Western, History

This course explores the diverse ways in which women have lived, worked, and contributed to U.S. history. It examines the general experiences of women and their political, social, cultural, and familial relationships, as well as the "great women" of U.S. history.

WGS 305/Looking at Women: Representation, 4 cr.

Feminisms, and Film

(every semester)

(same as AAH 343 and COM 343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminisms, and Film)

This course will explore the enormous impact feminism has had on film theory, criticism, and production. Various feminist approaches to the study and production of "cinematic apparatus" will be explored including structuralism, issues of representation, spectatorship, questions of ethnicity and hybrid sexualities. Screenings and the readings will cover a wide range of positions and strategies as we investigate Hollywood and independent films as well as new media forms.

WGS 310/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848 – Present 4cr.

(occasionally)

(same as HIS 324 and HON 337/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848 – Present)

Perspectives on the World: Gender, History, Honors

This course will focus on women's history in Eastern Europe in order to understand how the dual forces of nationalism and communism were largely constructed around gendered concerns such as reproduction, family structure, and access to power

WGST 311/Women and Migration **3 cr.**

(occasionally)

(same as ANTH311 Women and Migration)

This course examines the role of women in migration both past and present. It takes a global approach, investigating the lives of women from many different societies. It also takes a comparative approach, exploring the similarities and differences of female international migrants from different cultural and class backgrounds.

WGS 320/Men and Masculinities: Literary Perspectives **4 cr.**

(every semester)

(same as LIT 315/Men and Masculinities: Literary Perspectives)

Perspectives on the World: Gender, Literature

This course examines modern literary representations of masculinity. The course readings consist primarily of works of narrative fiction and poetry, although we will also be reading some analytical essays as well. Some of the problems we will be looking at include: the construction of modern male identities, the complex diversity of men's lives, and the problematics of men's relationships.

WGS 325/Feminist Theories **4 cr.**

(every semester)

Prerequisite: at least one WGS/WGST course

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender, Western

The diversity of thinking among feminists is often obscured by the flat media image of feminism that is presented to the public eye. In this seminar course we will explore the diverse ways in which feminist theorists conceptualize women's status in society, systems of inequality and the category of "woman" itself. Students will gain an understanding of evolving ideas and debates in feminist theory, relate those to feminist practices, and develop their own theoretical abilities. The course will address the social construction of gender, the relation between feminist theory and activism, and how feminists have responded to issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality in current feminist thinking, as well as the classic feminist texts. At the end of this course, successful students will be able to identify major feminist theories and their work, as well as understand the significance and application of that work

WGS 340/Gay & Lesbian History **4 cr.**

(occasionally)

Perspectives on the world: Social Sciences-Content, Gender, History

(same as HIS 397/Gay & Lesbian History)

This course examines the experiences of gay men and lesbians in a historical content. Students will explore the ways in which gay men and lesbians have existed and survived during various historical periods and various geographical areas. Course content may change and students will be able to take different sections of the course for credit. One section of the course may focus on gay and lesbian history in twentieth century America while another may examine gay and lesbian history in antiquity. Course subtitles will identify the content.

WGS 360/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women **4 cr.**

(annually)

(same as LIT 334/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women)

A comparative study of Latina and Latin-American women's literature in English. Open to a wide range of literary traditions, nations, time periods, and genres including those specific to non-Western and post-Colonial cultures. Focus varies by semester. Works by Isabel Allende, Julia Alvarez, Gloria Anzaldua, Ana Castillo, Sandra Cisneros, Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz, Laura Esquivel, Rosario Ferre, Cristina Garcia, Judith Ortiz Cofer, Elena Poniatowska, and others.

WGST 360/Gender and Public Policy **3 cr.**

(annually)

Prerequisite: WGS 200/WGST200 or permission on instructor

This course seeks to clarify the relationship between state power and gender relations through an examination of major policy issues related to gender inequality, including: welfare policy, labor politics, reproductive rights, sexual violence, and domestic violence.

WGS 365/Womanist Thought **4 cr.**

(annually)

(same as AAS 375/Womanist Thought)

Prerequisite: WGS 260/WGS 280/WGST280/AAS 280/AFAM280/ or WGS 375/WGST330, or by permission of the instructor

This course traces the evolution of feminist consciousness among African women. Students will trace the thoughts, social and political activism and ideologies generated by women of African ancestry from the early 19th Century free black "feminist abolitionists" to the black nationalist critics of the late 20th century. 20th Century "Womanist," "Feminist," "Critical Race Feminist," and "Black Feminist" ideologies will be emphasized through course readings and assignments that explore the emergence and perpetuation of an African women's feminist consciousness.

WGS 375/Global Feminisms 4 cr.
(every semester)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender, Non-Western

What does "feminism" mean cross-culturally, and how have local movements and international organizations addressed gendered oppression around the world? Within the framework of global agenda for women's human rights and social justice set by the Beijing Platform of 1995, this course explores how the analysis of gender applies to defining and addressing social issues. The focus of the course will vary from year to year so that, each semester, we can explore a specific issue in depth. This course may be repeated for credit, as topic changes.

WGS 380/Gender & Democracy 4 cr.
(annually)

(same as HON 338/ Gender & Democracy)

Perspectives on the World: Social Science, Gender, Non-Western, Honors

The course aims to articulate the live political and social issues relevant to the geographical areas under consideration, analyze those issues through a gendered lens, understanding their political and historical context, and consider possible solutions based on research and scholarship.

WGS 325/Feminist Theories 4 cr.
(every semester)

Prerequisite: at least one WGS/WGST course

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender, Western

The diversity of thinking among feminists is often obscured by the flat media image of feminism that is presented to the public eye. In this seminar course we will explore the diverse ways in which feminist theorists conceptualize women's status in society, systems of inequality and the category of "woman" itself. Students will gain an understanding of evolving ideas and debates in feminist theory, relate those to feminist practices, and develop their own theoretical abilities. The course will address the social construction of gender, the relation between feminist theory and activism, and how feminists have responded to issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality in current feminist thinking, as well as the classic feminist texts. At the end of this course, successful students will be able to identify major feminist theories and their work, as well as understand the significance and application of that work

WGS 391/Independent Study in Women's and Gender Studies variable cr.

Independent study credit is available; see women's and gender studies coordinator for approval.

**WGS 399/Feminism in the Workplace:
Field Study in Women's and Gender Studies** 4 cr.
(every semester)

Prerequisite: at least two WGS/WGST courses

What does it mean to be feminist on the job? Students placed in the corporate, governmental, and nonprofit sectors will meet to analyze the organizational structures, institutional objectives, and daily life of the workplace. While each student will develop a research project tailored to her/his placement, class discussions will be based on common readings on feminist ethics, feminist social research, and the gendered politics of the workplace.

WGS 470/Topics in Women's and Gender Studies variable cr.
(occasionally)

This course focuses on a different aspect of women's and gender studies each semester offered.

WGS 495/Senior Seminar: Methods and Theory 4 cr.
(annually)

Prerequisite: WGS 325/WGST350

In this seminar students will produce a research paper (25 pages) applying feminist theories and methodologies. Students will choose a research topic and develop their own projects using the methodology best suited to their specific needs. In addition, they will share their work with other students, providing analysis and critiques of one another's papers in progress. There will be common readings and students will also choose readings from required texts pertinent to their projects and present these readings to the class.

WGS 496/Women's Leadership and Social Change 4 cr.
(annually)

Prerequisite: WGS 200/WGST200 and WGS 325/WGST350

This course will be the culmination of the W.I.L.L. Program in which students will expand and enhance their leadership skills using acquired strategies and tactics to influence social, political, or economic change.

Women's and Gender Studies Course Options (for course descriptions see department listings):

AAS 280/Africana Women in Historical Perspective (same as WGS 280)	4
AAS 375/Womanist Thought (same as WGS 375)	4
ANTH 310/Women and Migration (same as WGST 310)	3
ART343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminism, and Film (same as WGST 343)	3
ART 345/Topic: Women Artists in History	3
COMM 343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminism, and Film (same as WGST 343)	3
ECON 325/Women, Gender, and Work	3
ENGL 233/Women Writers	3
ENGL 240/Cultural Representations of Gender	3
LIT 315/Men and Masculinities (same as WGS 315)	4
ENGL 316/Global Women Writers (same as WGST 316)	3
ENGL 333/Topics in Women Writers	3
ENGL 334/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women (same as WGST 334)	3
ENGL 345/Studies: The Witch in Literature	3
ENGL 345/Studies: American Feminist Literature: The 1960s–1980s	3
ENGL 345/Studies: Women's Autobiographies	3
ENGL 345/Studies: Childbirth in Women's Literature	3
ENGL 345/Studies: Language, Gender, and Culture	3
ENGL 345/Studies: Study of Medieval and Renaissance Women Writers	3
ENGL 345/Studies: Gay and Lesbian Literature (same as WGST 325)	3
ENGL 345/Studies: Shakespeare and His Sisters	3
ENGL 345/Studies: Black Women Writers	3
ENGL 427/Major Writers: Emily Dickinson	3
ENGL 427/Major Writers: Jane Austen	3
ENGL 428/Major Writers: Toni Morrison	3
ENGL 428/Major Writers: Julia Alvarez	3
HIST 217/Medieval Women	3
HIST 295/History of Western Sexuality	3
HIST 296/Eat/Drink, Man/Woman: A Gendered History of Food (same as WGST 296)	3
HIST 337/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848 – Present (same as WGST 337)	3
HIST 385/Women in America same as WGST 385)	3
HIST 398/Topic: Gender and Modern European History	3
HIST 455/Tutorial: History of the European Family	3
HIST 455/Tutorial: The Social History of African Women	3
HIST 455/Tutorial: Medieval Women Writers	3
HIST 455/Tutorial: Women in the Middle East	3
HONR 210/Women in Art and Literature	3
HONR 212/Sex, Class, and Race: America in the 20th Century	3
HONR 214/20th-Century International Women's Literature	3
HONR 335/Women, Law, and Society	3
HONR 337/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848 – Present (same as WGST 337)	3
HONR 338/Gender & Democracy (same as WGST 338)	3

HONR	371/Gendered Sociology (same as WGST 371)	3
LAWJ	230/Women in the Criminal Justice System	3
LAWJ	255/Legal Problems in the Domestic Setting	3
MGMT	435/Women in Management	3
PHIL	375/Equality, Ethics, and the Law	3
POLS	215/Gender and Politics	3
POLS	312/Politics of Minorities and Women	3
PSYC	250/Psychology of Personal Relationships	3
PSYC	317/Psychology of Gender	3
PSYC	350/Psychology of Women	3
PSYC	390/Topic: Women of Color	3
PSYC	390/Women in the Family	3
SOCL	303/Women in World Perspective	3
SOCL	334/Gender and American Society	3
SOCL	335/Courtship, Marriage, and the Family	3
SOCL	371/Gendered Sociology (same as WGST 371)	3
SPAN	337/ Women's Literature of Spain and Latin America (in Spanish)	3
SPAN	338/Women's Literature of Spain and Latin America (in English)	3