

Women's Studies

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Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary academic program designed to acquaint students with current scholarship and theory on women, gender, and feminism. Each semester a wide variety of courses in humanities and social science departments as well as in Women's Studies offers students the opportunity for cultural and cross-cultural studies of the effects of representations and assumptions about gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality on our lives. Courses generally of interest to Women's Studies students and eligible for major credit are listed below; in addition, a separate flyer listing each semester's eligible courses is available through the Women's Studies office (757) 221-2457 and on the Women's Studies web page (www.wm.edu/womensstudies). Students may declare an interdisciplinary major or a minor in Women's Studies.

The Women's Studies major prepares students who wish to gain a strong interdisciplinary perspective in advance of employment and/or graduate or professional study leading to careers in a wide variety of fields including law, education, politics, business, social action, the arts, medicine and so on. Graduates of Women's Studies programs nationwide report reasons for choosing this field of study that range from lifelong interest in feminism, to discovering new intellectual challenges, to providing themselves with the confidence and freedom to "do whatever you choose to do."

The following guidelines have been reviewed and approved by the Women's Studies Curriculum Committee, the Women's Studies Executive Committee and the Committee for Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Requirements for Major

Required Credit Hours: 32 (see below)

Major Computing Requirement: WMST 375 (Feminist Research Methods), or any of the Computer Science courses designed for this requirement, or by petitioning Women's Studies to substitute a course offered to meet the requirement by another department. Computing proficiency credits are not counted in the major's 32 hours or QPA, unless you are using WMST 375 to fulfill the requirement.

Major Writing Requirement: WMST 405

Core Requirements:

Because the program's curriculum offers a wide variety of choices, each major or minor is asked to work closely with a Women's Studies advisor to select related courses in a content area reflecting a specific interest in Women's Studies. For example, students might seek out courses in anthropology, Black Studies, English, history, literary and cultural studies, psychology, sociology and so on, that help them consider issues relating to their interests in women's roles in a variety of cultures and in women's history, health, creativity, etc. In other words, majors are asked to select courses according to an organized plan that allows them to build expertise in a subject from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

An interdisciplinary major in Women's Studies requires a minimum of 32 credit hours. No more than 10 credits of introductory courses, excluding WMST 205, and 6 credits of independent study may count toward the major. All students must complete at least 32 credit hours distributed across four groups of courses, all meeting approved Women's Studies criteria, as follows:

- a) Three "core" courses. Take 10 credits including both:
 - WMST 205, Introduction to Women's Studies (4 credits)
 - WMST 405, Feminist Theory (3 credits)
 And at least 3 credits among the following approved by the student's Women's Studies advisor:
 - Independent Study (WMST 480, 1-3 credits)**
 - Interdisciplinary Honors (WMST 495, 496, 3 credits each)**

Internship (WMST 498, 1-4 credits)

Feminist Research Methods (WMST 375, 3 credits)
Senior Seminar (WMST 490 or other)

- b) At least 9 credits in approved courses selected from humanities disciplines (list available from major advisor and on the WMST webpage: www.wm.edu/womensstudies)
- c) At least 9 credits in approved courses selected from social science disciplines (list available from major advisor and on the WMST webpage: www.wm.edu/womensstudies)
Note: WMST 390A courses fulfill the program humanities requirement; WMST 390B courses fulfill the program social science requirement ("Topics in WMST"); WMST 490 (Senior Seminar) courses may count either as humanities or as social science, determination of which should be made in consultation with the student's advisor.
- d) Approved electives, selected from any department or interdisciplinary program.

Major declaration forms are available in the Women's Studies office and on the Women's Studies webpage: www.wm.edu/womensstudies and, upon completion, are filed with the Office of the Registrar and with the student's advisor.

Requirements for Minor

Required Credit Hours: 19

Core requirements: All students must complete WMST 205, at least 6 credits in approved courses selected from humanities disciplines (list available from major advisor and on the WMST webpage: www.wm.edu/womensstudies), at least 6 credits in approved courses selected from social science disciplines (list available from major advisor and on the WMST webpage: [/www.wm.edu/womensstudies](http://www.wm.edu/womensstudies)), and approved electives. Minor declaration forms are available in the Women's Studies office and, upon completion, are filed with the Registrar's Office and with the student's advisor.

Description of Courses

150W. Freshman Seminar.

Fall and Spring (4,4) Staff.

Writing intensive. Topics vary. Check with Women's Studies or the registration bulletin for topic descriptions. Normally open to first-year students only.

151W. Freshman Seminar: Gender in Non-Western Cultures.

(GER 4B) Fall, Spring (4) Ozyegin, Staff.

An examination of practices and conceptualizations of gender and their social and cultural consequences in selected non-Western societies. Normally open to first-year students only. (Cross listed with SOCL 151W)

205. Introduction to Women's Studies.

(GER 4C) Spring (4) Burns, Currans, Ozyegin, Putzi, Raitt, Staff.

An interdisciplinary exploration of sex and gender differences; race and class-based differences and divisions among women; feminist epistemologies and practices. Topics include feminist histories, gender development, body images/representations, "women's work," activism/subversions. Seminar format and weekly forum.

221, 222. U.S. Women's History, 1600 to the Present.

(GER 4A) Fall, Spring (3,3) Meyer, Wulf.

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the main themes and issues of the field as it has developed in the past two decades. Primary themes throughout this course include: work, sexual/gender norms and values, women's networks and politics, and how each of these has changed over time and differed for women from diverse cultures/communities. The course divides at 1870. Fulfills the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with HIST 221, 222).

275W. University Seminar*Fall and Spring (4) Staff.*

A reading-, writing-, and discussion-intensive seminar. Topics vary by semester and by instructor. Restricted to transfer students and co-enrolled students. Students receiving a grade of "C-" or better in the seminar will have satisfied the lower-division writing requirement. This course does not fulfill the freshman seminar requirement.

290. Topics in Women's Studies.*Fall, Spring (3,4). Staff.*

A study of a topic in some aspect of feminist scholarship. May be repeated for credit if topic varies.

304. Gender in Society.*Fall or Spring (3,3) Bickham Mendez, Slevin.*

This course explores different theoretical approaches to gender and its intersections with other sources of inequality such as race, class and age. Possible topics include: gender and sexuality, masculinities, gender and the body, and inequalities in the workplace and home. Fulfills the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with SOCL 304)

306. Women, Gender and Culture.*Spring (3) Kerns. Prerequisite: ANTH 202.*

An examination of ethnographic research on women and the cultural construction of gender. Emphasis is given to non-Western cultures, with some attention to the contemporary United States. Fulfills the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with ANTH 306)

312. Comparative Sociology.*(GER 4B) Fall and Spring (3,3) Ozyegin.*

This course explores non-Western societies, including a critical examination of the way in which non-Western cultures have been interpreted in the West. Topics include gender, class, and race-based stratification; family systems; industrialization; urbanization; international migration; globalization; national cultures as "imagined communities." Fulfills the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with SOCL 312)

314. Women and Love in Chinese Culture Literature. (In Translation)*(GER 4B, 5) Spring (3) Tang.*

This course examines the practice of love or gender relationships in pre-modern China with an emphasis on the presentation of women in literary texts. Readings vary in genres and are analyzed within their own cultural, historical and philosophical context. Taught in English. (Cross listed with CHIN 316)

315. Women in Antiquity.*(GER 4A) Fall or Spring (3) Spaeth.*

A study, through analysis of dramatic, historical and artistic sources, of the role of women in Greece and Rome. The role of women in the home, in politics and in religion will be discussed, as will the sexual mores involving both heterosexual women and lesbians. Fulfills the Humanities requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with CLCV 315)

317. Women in Islam.*(GER 4B) Fall or Spring (3) Sonn.*

A study of changing status and role of women in Muslim society. The course focuses on the relationship between religion and culture as they shape the lives and options of women in traditional society, in the modern period and in the contemporary Islamic experience. Fulfills the Humanities requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with RELG 317)

331. Feminist Theory and Contemporary Theatre.*(GER 7) Fall or Spring (3) Wolf.*

Readings in contemporary feminist theory (psychoanalytic, materialist, Brechtian, and others) as these pertain to the body onstage, character construction, playwriting, and audience reception. Course also investigates feminist performance art, scripts, and revisionings of the dramatic canon. Fulfills the Humanities requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with THEA 331)

355. Sport and Gender.*Fall and Spring (3,3) Hall.*

A study of women's involvement in sport, the meaning of this participation and the social ramifications of women's inclusion in and exclusion from sport. Fulfills the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with KINE 355)

375. Feminist Research Methods.*Spring (4) Putzi, Staff.*

An interdisciplinary course designed to acquaint students with the prevalent conceptual models and research methods used in feminist scholarship. Students will develop research projects based on the methodologies studied, and will present their findings at the end of the course. Fulfills either the Social Science or the Humanities requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor, and the major computing proficiency requirement for the Women's Studies major.

380. Rhymes with Witch: Sexual Politics in Contemporary Culture.*Spring (3) Gray.*

This course investigates contemporary sexual politics including: representations of "Woman" and what women have been doing about them; postmodern "gender bending" in theory and practice; relationships among identity constructs such as gender, race, and sexuality; what happens when women aren't "nice." Fulfills either the Social Science or the Humanities requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor.

390. Topics in Women's Studies.*Fall, Spring (1-4) Staff.*

An in-depth study of a topic in some aspect of feminist scholarship. Check with Women's Studies for topic descriptions.

390A. Topics in Women's Studies, Humanities.*Fall, Spring (1-4) Staff.*

An in-depth study of a topic in some aspect of feminist scholarship. Check with Women's Studies or the registration bulletin for topic descriptions. May be repeated for credit. Fulfills the Humanities requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor.

390B. Topics in Women's Studies, Social Sciences.*Fall, Spring (1-4) Staff.*

An in-depth study of a topic in some aspect of feminist scholarship. Check with Women's Studies or the registration bulletin for topic descriptions. May be repeated for credit. Fulfills the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor.

405. Feminist Theory.*(GER 7) Fall (3) Gray.*

An in-depth examination of contemporary feminist theories in relation to various disciplines of the humanities and social sciences as they interface with complexities of difference raised by issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality. Fulfills either the Humanities or the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies minor.

414. Major African American Women Writers.*Spring (3) McLendon, Braxton, Pinson.*

This course studies the fiction and non-fiction of major African American women writers such as Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and Gloria Naylor. Some attention to black feminist/wom-

anist and vernacular theoretical issues through selected critical readings. Fulfills the Humanities requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with ENGL 414A)

416. Literature and the Formation of Sexual Identity.

Spring (3) Heacox.

A study of the homosexual tradition and the formation of sexual identity in 19th and 20th century British and American literature. Authors include: Oscar Wilde, E.M. Forster, Willa Cather, Thomas Mann, Christopher Isherwood, Sigmund Freud and Michel Foucault. Fulfills the Humanities requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with ENGL 416A)

420. Women and Popular Culture.

Fall (4) Putzi.

A multidisciplinary examination of historical and contemporary representations of women in—and their engagement with—American popular culture, paying particular attention to the intersections between gender, race, class, and/or sexuality. Primary texts include popular fiction, television shows, and music. We will attempt to understand the complex cultural processes at work in the popular construction(s) of gender using theoretical frameworks informed by the politics of feminism. The purpose of this course, then, is not to glorify or denigrate popular culture or its treatment of women; rather, it is to acquire analytical tools that will allow us to read, critique, and consume popular culture in a constructive, thoughtful fashion. Fulfills either the Humanities or the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor.

430. Comparative Studies in Gender and Work.

(GER 4B) Fall or Spring (3) Ozyegin, Bickham Mendez. Recommended for juniors and seniors.

A multidisciplinary examination of work and gender in the global economy. Topics include: constructing gender at work; occupational segregation by gender, race, and ethnicity; national and transnational labor migration; immigrants' work in the United States; and movements towards gender equality. Fulfills the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Cross listed with SOCL 430)

480. Independent Study.

Fall and Spring (1-3,1-3) Staff.

For majors who have completed most of their requirements and who have secured approval of the instructor(s) concerned. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits.

490. Senior Seminar.

Fall or Spring (3-4)

In-depth study of a specialized topic relevant to Women's Studies. Work in this course will reflect senior-level research. Check with Women's Studies or the registration bulletin for topic descriptions. May be repeated for credit.

492. Women and the Law.

Fall or Spring (3,3) Grover.

This course will focus on the status and treatment of women in and under the law. It will be organized around the themes of women and work, women and the family, and women and health. Foundations for discussion will include readings of cases, legislation, historical and social science materials and jurisprudential work. . Fulfills the Social Science requirement for the Women's Studies major/minor. (Students must return to campus in time to attend when Law School classes start, usually one full week before undergraduate classes.) (Cross listed with PUBP 600 02 and LAW 492 01)

†495-496. Honors.

Fall, Spring (3,3) Staff.

Students admitted to Honors study in Women's Studies will be enrolled in this course during both semesters of their senior year. Each candidate will be responsible for: (a) formulating a program of study in consultation with a faculty advisor; (b) submis-

sion by April 15 of an Honors essay; (c) satisfactory performance in an oral examination on the subject of the Honors essay. For College provisions governing the Admission to Honors, see catalog section titled Honors and Special Programs.

498. Internship.

Fall and Spring (1-4)

Graded pass/fail. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits.

Additional Courses Eligible for Major or Minor

Following is a sample listing of courses that have been counted toward the major or minor. Not all of these courses are offered every semester, and additional courses may qualify for Women's Studies credit. Check the Women's Studies flyer or web page or consult a program advisor for a list of each semester's approved courses. (Note: Courses in which topics vary should be selected according to the relevance of the topics offered that semester; sample titles are given. Students may request permission from Women's Studies to count a particular course not listed in the flyer if the course's relevance to the student's program of study can be demonstrated.)

- Freshman Seminars: in topics related to Women's Studies (most disciplines; check schedule)
- American Studies 470: Topics (e.g., Multiculturalism in America; Masculinity in America)
- Anthropology 370: Evolutionary Perspectives on Gender
- Black Studies 205: Introduction to Black Studies
- Chinese 312: Special Issues in Chinese Poetic Tradition (e.g., Women in Classical Poetry)
- English 465: Special Topics in English (e.g., Love and the Novel; Lesbian Fictions)
- English 475: Senior Seminar in English (e.g., Woolf; The Brontës; 20th Century American Women Writers)
- French 355: 20th-Century French Women in Literature and Cinema
- German 405: 20th-Century German Women Writers
- Government 360: The American Welfare State
- Government 390, 391: Topics (e.g., Varieties of Feminist Ideology)
- Government 406: Studies in Political Philosophy
- Government 472: The Courts, Constitutional Politics and Social Change
- Hispanic Studies 484: Gender Issues in Hispanic Culture
- History 211, 212: Topics (e.g., Southern Women)
- History 490, 491: Topics (e.g., Black Women in the Americas; Gender and the Civil War)
- International Studies 390: Topics
- Kinesiology 460: Topics in Kinesiology (e.g., Sport, Body and Culture)
- Literary and Cultural Studies 201, 301, 351, 401; topics vary
- Music 365: Topics in Music (e.g., Music and Gender)
- Psychology 373: Human Sexuality
- Religion 208: Topics in Religion (e.g., Women in the Christian Tradition)
- Religion 306: Sexuality, Women and Family in Judaism
- Religion 308: Topics in Religion (e.g., History of Adam and Eve; Women and Their Bible; Theologies of Liberation)
- Russian 308: Topics (e.g., Women in Russian Literature)
- Russian 309: Topics (e.g., Women in Russian Film)
- Sociology 332: Marriage and the Family.
- Sociology 313: Globalization and International Development
- Sociology 364: Sociology of Work
- Sociology 432: Sociology of Sexualities.
- Sociology 440: Special Topics (e.g., Race, Gender and Health; Gender and Sexuality in Cross Cultural Perspective)
- Theatre 461: Topics (e.g., African American Theatre History; New American Plays by Women)