

# THE STUDY OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

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Rosemary Hennessy

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Elora Shehabuddin

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Thad Logan

## **DEGREES OFFERED: BA AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE**

The undergraduate major, honors track undergraduate major, and the graduate certificate program take an interdisciplinary approach in their exploration of women's experiences and the role that ideas about sexual differences have played in human societies. Areas of inquiry include women's participation in social and cultural production; the construction of gender roles and sexuality; the relationship between ideas about gender and concepts inherent in other social, political, and legal structures; and the implications of feminist theory for philosophical and epistemological traditions. Students acquire an understanding of how adopting gender as a significant category of analysis challenges existing disciplines. They also gain proficiency in the methods used to study and compare cultural constructions of gender and sexuality, and they become familiar with the ongoing fundamental debates in women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND GENDER

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements in this publication. Students majoring in the study of women, gender, and sexuality must complete:

- 36 semester hours of departmental course work (30 hours if this is a second major)
- SWGS 101 *Introduction to the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality*, or SWGS 201 *Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies*
- SWGS 345 *History of Feminism* or at least one approved theory course
- SWGS 496 *Engaged Research Practicum* and SWGS 497 *Engaged Research Seminar*
- At least one approved non-Western studies course
- At least one approved critical race studies course

For students who pursue the Honors Program, the following two courses must be taken in place of SWGS 496 and SWGS 497, in addition to all other requirements listed above:

- SWGS 498 *Honors Research in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality* (F)
- SWGS 499 *Honors Research in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality* (S)

Of the remaining required courses, no more than four courses may be from a single department. All students must work out their individual courses of study with their faculty advisors. Each student's course of study must be approved by the director. Course requirement tracking forms are available in the SWGS office for declared SWGS majors.

### NEW SWGS MAJOR

In fall 2008 a new SWGS major will be available to undergraduates. The aim of the new major is to involve students directly in the feminist effort to integrate theory and practice both in the introductory required course and in the SWGS 496 *Engaged Research Practicum* and SWGS 497 *Engaged Research Seminar* that connect research to on-site work in a public service agency or organization outside the university.

The number of required credit hours (36) and all course requirements in the new major will remain the same as the former major, with the exception of the courses SWGS 498 and SWGS 499, which will now be required only of students choosing the Honors Program. Students pursuing the new general course of study will take SWGS 496 *Engaged Research Practicum* and SWGS 497 *Engaged Research Seminar* in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality in their junior or senior year.

The *Engaged Research Practicum* and *Seminar* are open to nonmajors. Permission of the instructor is required as well as some background in the study of women, gender, or sexuality.

### THE SWGS HONORS TRACK

Students wishing to pursue the Honors Program will complete a thesis. The process of preparing the thesis begins in the late spring of the junior year.

In that spring semester, the student chooses an advisor from the SWGS faculty, and with that advisor, produces a proposal for a research project. The proposal must be approved by the SWGS major advisor by the last day of the exam period in the spring of the junior year.

In the fall of the senior year, students enroll in SWGS 498, for directed research supervised by a CSWGS faculty affiliate and in regular consultation with their advisors.

In the spring of the senior year, students enroll in SWGS 499 and work closely with their advisors as they complete the thesis. Honors students present their projects in a public event at the end of the semester.

## SWGS COURSES

The following courses are among those that can be used to fulfill requirements for the major. As course offerings may vary from year to year, students are urged to consult with their faculty advisors or with the director at the beginning of each semester.

Please note that not all courses listed below will be offered every academic year. For a current list of courses that will be offered in fall 2009 and spring 2010, please visit the CSWGS website at [cswgs.rice.edu](http://cswgs.rice.edu).

### I. Courses that Satisfy the Core Requirements

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SWGS 101 *Introduction to the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality*

SWGS 201 *Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies*

SWGS 496 *Engaged Research Practicum*

SWGS 497 *Engaged Research Seminar*

SWGS 498 *Honors Research in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (F)*

SWGS 499 *Honors Research in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (S)*

### II. Courses that Satisfy the Non-Western Studies Requirement

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SWGS 240 *Gender and Politicized Religion*

SWGS 250 *International Political Economy of Gender*

SWGS 283 *Women in the Modern Islamic World*

SWGS 315 *Gender and Islam*

SWGS 340 *Gender and Politicized Religion (enriched version)*

SWGS 399 *Women in Chinese Literature*

SWGS 422 *Gender and Global Economic Justice*

SWGS 455 *Women, Gender and Sexuality in Medieval Islamic Societies*

### III. Courses that Satisfy the Critical Race Studies Requirement

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SWGS 234 *U.S. Women's History I: Colonial Beginnings to the Civil War*

SWGS 235 *U.S. Women's History II: Civil War to the Present*

SWGS 370 *Survey of African American Literature*

SWGS 387 *Cultural Studies*

SWGS 415 *Sociolinguistics*

SWGS 453 *Topics in African American Literature: Black Women Writers*

### IV. Courses that Satisfy the Theory Requirement

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SWGS 345 *History of Feminism*

SWGS 380 *Feminist Theory North and South*

SWGS 383 *Feminist Social Thought*

SWGS 391 *Producing Feminist Knowledge: Methodology and Visual Culture*

SWGS 395 *Feminist Knowledges*

SWGS 430 *Queer Theory*

SWGS 480 *Feminist Literary Theory*

**V. Other Courses**

SWGS 130 *Mapping German Culture: Women and National Socialism*

SWGS 205 *Language and Society*

SWGS 225 *Women in Greece & Rome*

SWGS 273 *Medicine and Media*

SWGS 300 *Medieval Women Writers*

SWGS 305 *Chaucer*

SWGS 306 *Human Sexuality*

SWGS 307 *Sexuality and Christianity*

SWGS 323 *The Knowing Body: Buddhism, Gender and the Social World*

SWGS 324 *Sociology of Gender*

SWGS 325 *Sociology of the Family*

SWGS 327 *20th-Century Women Writers*

SWGS 329 *The American West and Its Others*

SWGS 330 *Mapping German Culture: Courtship, Love, and Marriage in the Age of Chivalry*

SWGS 331 *Psychology of Gender*

SWGS 332 *Self, Sex, and Society in Ancient Greece*

SWGS 333 *Masculinities*

SWGS 334 *Madonnas and Divas: Images of and from Italian Women*

SWGS 335 *The Lifecycle: A Biocultural View*

SWGS 344 *Mothers/Daughters in Film and Literature*

SWGS 348 *Subjectivity in Modern and Postmodern Art and Thought*

SWGS 349 *Women Writers: 1400-1900*

SWGS 350 *Gender and Symbolism*

SWGS 354 *Chicano/a Literature*

SWGS 358 *Mapping German Culture: European Women Filmmakers*

SWGS 361 *New German Film: Hitler's Cinematic Children*

SWGS 365 *Gender, Subjectivity, and the History of Photography*

SWGS 367 *Southwest Narrative: Writing from Below*

SWGS 368 *Mythologies*

SWGS 369 *Seminar on Beauty and Fragmentation in Modern Art*

SWGS 372 *Survey of Victorian Fiction*

SWGS 378 *Literature of the Americas*

SWGS 389 *Youth Studies*

SWGS 390 *Hispanic Cinema*

SWGS 400 *Constructing Identities in Modern Fiction*

SWGS 405 *Austen Only*

SWGS 410 *The Literary and Historical Image of the Medieval Woman*

SWGS 412 *Women and Women's Voices in French Literature*

SWGS 420 *Women, Sex and Rights in Europe*

SWGS 424 *Women in France*

SWGS 434 *Seeing Sex in European Art, 1400–1700*

SWGS 440 *Women in Music*

SWGS 444 *Family Inequality*

SWGS 449 *Cultures of Sexuality*

SWGS 462 *20th–21st-Century American Studies*

SWGS 465 *Gender and Health*

SWGS 466 *Latin American Women's Culture*

SWGS 470 *Sex, Sanctity, and Psychoanalysis*

SWGS 485 *Gender and Hollywood Cinema in the 1950s*

SWGS 492 *Gender Histories of Modern China*

SWGS 495 *Independent Study*

## **CONCENTRATION IN POVERTY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND HUMAN CAPABILITIES IN THE SWGS MAJOR**

Within the major in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, students can pursue a concentration in Poverty, Social Justice, and Human Capabilities (PJC). The concentration allows students to focus their course of study on the relation of gender and sexuality to poverty and human well-being and to develop an analytic framework for addressing these issues.

The concentration consists of three courses (of the 10 or 12 required in the SWGS major):

- PJHC/SOCI 280 *Introduction to Poverty, Justice, Capabilities*
- and two approved electives with substantive gender focus chosen from the PJC course offerings. These elective courses also may be approved to fulfill SWGS requirements for critical race and non-Western studies.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THE STUDY OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY**

The graduate certificate program in the study of women, gender, and sexuality is designed to provide interdisciplinary training in women, gender, and sexuality studies to students pursuing a PhD degree at Rice University. Students who have been admitted into a PhD program are eligible to apply to the SWGS graduate certificate program. The SWGS graduate certificate is not a free-standing degree program; in addition to fulfilling the SWGS requirements outlined below, candidates will be required to successfully complete the PhD program in which they have been admitted in order to receive the graduate certificate in SWGS. Further information is available on request from the SWGS office. For PhD requirements, see the relevant department. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees in this publication.

The program awards graduate fellowship stipends, within the limits of available funds, to enrolled certificate students during the prospectus-writing semester. Although timelines vary depending on the student's home department, this semester normally occurs during the semester following the completion of coursework and after passing the qualifying examinations in the PhD program. Graduate students who enroll in the certificate program in fall 2008 and in subsequent semesters will be asked to submit a dissertation proposal (or a 500-word statement with a proposal to follow later) that includes some indication of the ways women, gender, and/or sexuality feature in their project in order for a stipend to be disbursed during the "prospectus semester." CSWGS will ask for this proposal or statement after the student completes qualifying exams. Graduate certificate students are eligible to work as teaching assistants for an SWGS undergraduate core or cross-listed course, or in some cases, to teach a course of their own upon approval of the steering committee.

For the graduate certificate in SWGS, candidates must complete:

- Nine credit hours of courses in SWGS, including two core courses (SWGS 501 and SWGS 502) and one cross-listed elective course (see list of approved courses below)
- Three noncredit hours for participation in annual colloquium

SWGS certificate students are strongly encouraged to include a member of the CSWGS faculty on their dissertation committee and to consult regularly with the faculty member as they pursue their dissertation work.

The following courses are those that can be used to fulfill requirements for the graduate certificate. In most cases, students will be able to complete these requirements within the normal time limits for coursework in their PhD programs. All students must work out their individual courses of study with the CSWGS director and the graduate advisor in their home departments. Each student's course of study must be approved by the CSWGS director. Please note that not all courses listed below will be offered every academic year. For a current list of courses that will be offered in fall 2009 and spring 2010, please visit the CSWGS website at [cswgs.rice.edu](http://cswgs.rice.edu).

**I. Courses that Satisfy the Core Requirements**

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SWGS 501 *Feminist Debates*

SWGS 502 *Gender, the Disciplines, and Interdisciplinarity*

**II. Courses that Satisfy the Cross-listed Elective Course Requirement**

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SWGS 503 *Directed Reading*

SWGS 517 *Medieval Women Writers*

SWGS 520 *Shakespeare and Difference*

SWGS 522 *Feminist Economics*

SWGS 525 *Self, Sex, and Society in Ancient Greece*

SWGS 534 *Seeing Sex in European Art, 1400–1700*

SWGS 542 *Victorian Fiction*

SWGS 545 *Women and Gender: Europe and Beyond*

SWGS 546 *20th-Century British Literature*

SWGS 556 *Seminar in Language Variation*

SWGS 577 *Buddhism, Gender, Society*

SWGS 580 *Sex, Sanctity, and Psychoanalysis*

SWGS 581 *Cultural Studies*

SWGS 583 *Reading Material*

SWGS 584 *Thinking Sex Under Neoliberalism*

SWGS 585 *Postcolonialism and Beyond*

**III. Annual Colloquium Requirement**

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Graduate certificate students will participate in a colloquium involving a series of speakers over the course of a year, to be offered annually at Rice and organized by the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (CSWGS). Colloquium attendance by graduate certificate students constitutes an official requirement for the certificate. Normally, students are expected to attend colloquia over a minimum of 4 semesters, and attendance beyond that is highly encouraged. Colloquium topics will be determined by the CSWGS steering committee with a view to highlighting emerging knowledge in gender, sexuality, and women's studies. The colloquium provides graduate students with the opportunity to engage in sustained intellectual exchange with leading scholars and to participate in producing cutting-edge work in the field.