The Program for the Study of Women and Gender

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Degrees Offered: B.A.

This undergraduate major takes an interdisciplinary approach in its 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 and gender studies.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in the Study of Women and Gender

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 17–19). Students majoring in the study of women and gender must complete:

• 36 semester hours of departmental course work (30 hours if this is a second major)
• WGST 101 Introduction to the Study of Women and Gender
• 1 capstone course
• At least 1 approved comparative course
• At least 1 approved theory course

Of the 8 remaining required courses, no more than 4 course may be from a single department. All students must work out their individual courses of study with their faculty advisers, and each student’s course of study must be approved by the director of the major.

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 advisers or with the director at the beginning of each semester.
I. Courses That Satisfy the Core Requirements

WGST 101 Introduction to the Study of Women and Gender
WGST 201 Introduction to Lesbian and Gay Studies
WGST 499 Capstone Seminar: Independent Research in the Study of Women and Gender

II. Courses That Satisfy the Comparative or Cross-Cultural Requirement

WGST 249 Women Writers from 1400–1900
WGST 342 Women in Greece and Rome
WGST 350 Gender and Symbolism
WGST 352 Feminism and Nationalism
WGST 354 Survey: Chicano/a Poetry
WGST 357 Buddhism and the Female Filmmakers
WGST 453 Topics in African American Literature
WGST 454 German Women Authors
WGST 455 Women and Gender in Islamic Societies
WGST 458 Buddhist Meditation Theory: Women and Men

III. Courses That Satisfy the Theory Requirement

WGST 407 Introduction to Feminist Literary Theory and Criticism
WGST 430 Studies in Literary Criticism: Queer Theory
WGST 460 Feminist Social Thought
WGST 480 Feminist Literary Theory

IV. Other Courses

WGST 214 Introduction to Women’s History
WGST 215 Women and Gender in Modern England
WGST 233 The Female Body in Contemporary Culture
WGST 234 A History of Women in America
WGST 300 Medieval Literature: Gender and Power in Old English Literature
WGST 301 Arthurian Literature
WGST 305 Chaucer
WGST 311 Society and the Sexes in Modern France
WGST 314 Introduction to Women’s History
WGST 324 Sociology of Gender
WGST 325 Sociology of the Family
WGST 326 Sexuality and the Social Order
WGST 327 20th-Century Women Writers: Sex, Gender, and Modernism
WGST 331 Psychology of Gender
WGST 332 Self, Sex, and Society in Ancient Greece
WGST 335 The Lifecycle: A Biocultural View
WGST 336 History as a Cultural Myth
WGST 337 Feminist Issues: Witches, Saints, Soldiers, and Shrews: Women’s Voices in the Renaissance
WGST 338 Gender and Society in Early Modern Europe
WGST 402 Feminist Issues: Gender and Immigration
WGST 405 Victorian Studies: Austen Only
WGST 406 Seminar: Christine De Pizan in 15th-Century England
WGST 407 Introduction to Feminist Literary Theory and Criticism
WGST 411 Masculinity and Literature on American Culture
WGST 412 Women and Women’s Voices in French Literature
WGST 415 Conceptions of Family and Gender in Jewish History
WGST 416 History of Men in Britain, 1750–Present
WGST 417 Women in the American South
WGST 419 Sex and Group Identity, from Biblical Times to the Modern United States
WGST 420 Women and Gender in 19th-Century Europe
WGST 421 Seminar: Shakespeare and Difference
WGST 430 Studies in Literary Criticism: Queer Theory
WGST 433 Theories in Modernity/Post-Modernity

WGST 439 Women and Gender in Renaissance Italy
WGST 440 Women in Music
WGST 441 Hildegard of Bingen
WGST 461 Gender, War, and Representation in Modern France and England
WGST 483 Feminist Issues
WGST 496 Applied Women’s and Gender Studies
WGST 497 Directed Reading in the Study of Women and Gender
WGST 498 Independent Study

See WGST (pages 514–520) in the Courses of Instruction section.