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WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Women's and Gender Studies asks fundamental questions about human existence: Are women and men born or made? Do those categories adequately express gender identity and how do we understand femininities and masculinities throughout history? How does intersectionality – racial, ethnic, class, sexual identity—affect the experience of gender? What structures and social forces are involved in shaping our ideas about gender? An interdisciplinary program that invites students to take classes in anthropology, sociology, history, literature, politics and other disciplines, Women's and Gender Studies challenges students to question what is “natural” about gender identities and roles in society; to examine the origins of such views and how they have changed over time; and to analyze how race and class intersect with sexualities and gender to construct modern society and popular culture. The program focuses on uncovering the contributions women have made to society through history and how they have envisioned social justice and the common good. True to its roots in social movements that fought for equality, Women's and Gender Studies seeks to understand how systems of oppression function and how different groups respond to and resist injustice at home and abroad. To that end, the program teaches students to think deeply, to read critically, to write clearly, and to speak convincingly. Furthermore, Women's and Gender Studies prepares students to be agents of change who take community responsibility and social justice seriously, offering them multiple opportunities to engage in service learning and similar projects. Thus the program fulfills its mission of educating the whole person for the complexities of a globalizing world.

Women's and Gender Studies courses are interdisciplinary in nature, cross-listed with a range of departments including but not limited to anthropology, biology, communication, English, ethnic studies, history, performing arts, politics, psychology, sociology, Spanish, theology and religious studies.

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Curriculum Women's and Gender Studies

LEARNING OUTCOMES

When students have completed a minor or major in the Women's and Gender Studies Program, they will be able to:

- **IDENTIFY** and understand assumptions and arguments about gender, race, class, and sexuality in scholarly, popular, public, and interpersonal discourses.
- **EVALUATE** diverse theories of feminism and debates about gender.
- **DIFFERENTIATE** among complex and diverse points of view regarding gender, race, class, and sexuality in a variety of academic fields.
- **WRITE** clear and well-reasoned prose employing appropriate methods of research in the field.
- **ENGAGE** in Social Justice Praxis, including intellectual or social advocacy locally or globally.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The major requires 12 courses. Four are core courses in Women's and Gender Studies: one lower-division (**WGS 1**) and three upper-division (**WGS 100, WGS 177, and WGS 190**). Eight are upper-division electives cross-listed with Women's and Gender Studies. **WGS** majors and minors satisfy degree requirements through an interdisciplinary combination of **WGS** core courses and courses on gender in a variety of departments and programs. Majors have two options: a) a concentration in either social sciences or humanities, with the majority of courses in one of those disciplines; or b) a balanced distribution of courses, four and four, in social sciences and humanities. Students must take at least two courses each from social sciences and humanities. At least one course must focus on gender issues from transnational perspectives or ethnically and racially diverse U.S. communities. One cross-listed January Term course may be petitioned for credit. Women's and Gender Studies students may also design a double or split major with another discipline, with the approval of the director of Women's and Gender Studies and the chair of the other department.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

The minor requires six classes: three core courses (**WGS 1, 100, 177**), and three upper-division electives cross-listed with Women's and Gender Studies. No more than two courses may be in a single discipline; one must focus on non-Western, Third World, or minority U.S. women.

SPLIT MAJORS

Split majors combine work in Women's and Gender Studies and another academic department or program. A split major must be approved by the chairs or directors of both departments. This major ordinarily comprises nine upper-division courses (six in one field and three in another), in addition to the lower-division prerequisites in **WGS** (i.e., **WGS 1**) and the other department. All split majors in **WGS** must complete the four core courses (**WGS 1, WGS 100, WGS 177, WGS 190**).

C O U R S E S

CORE COURSES

1 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

An introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. The course provides a broad perspective on research in gender in a variety of disciplines (including sociology, psychology, politics, philosophy, history, and literature). Topics include the historically changing representations of women; the history of the women's movement in the United States; globalization; contemporary feminisms, sexualities, ecology, and the intersection of gender, race, and class. A goal of the course is for each student to develop a critical perspective on the meaning of gender in our society. *This course satisfies the Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding requirement and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum.*

100 Research Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies

An exploration of a theme or problem area in the field of Women's and Gender Studies. Past topics have included: women and work; gender and science; women and religion, gender and popular culture; transnational perspectives on gender; U.S. cultural representations of gender; women and the media; masculinities; the history of sexuality. The course combines seminar discussions of texts that represent a variety of methodologies and disciplines with research papers. Research topics are designed by individual students in consultation with the instructor. *Prerequisite: WGS 1 or permission of instructor.*

126 Engaging Communities

This course will examine issues in gender and social justice through community engagement. Students will be asked to address a "real world" understanding of topics ranging from violence to electoral politics, poverty to environmental sustainability, and many others, through service-learning in behalf of community partners whose work addresses a range of related social issues. This course will satisfy requirements for the major and minor in Women's and Gender Studies and is open to all students. Experience in **WGS 1: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies** is encouraged but not required. *Prerequisites: English 4 or WGS 1. This course satisfies the Common Good and the Community Engagement requirements of the Core Curriculum.*

177 Feminist and Gender Theories

This seminar provides a series of inquiries into the diverse theoretical frameworks of contemporary feminism. Critical race theory, cultural studies, post-structuralism, Marxist and postcolonial theories, gender difference and queer theories, sexualities studies, ecofeminism, and contemporary identity politics are a few of the directions in discussion and research. *Prerequisite: Limited to Juniors and Seniors Only.*

190 Senior Research Thesis

Critical examination of theories and issues in contemporary Women's and Gender Studies methodologies. Directed readings, research, and writing of a final senior paper or project under the supervision and approval of instructor.

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing; WGS 1; WGS 100 and 177. Open to minors upon approval of director and instructor of the course. (In the case of a split or double major, Women's and Gender Studies 190 may be taken in conjunction with thesis work in the other discipline. In the case of a minor, WGS 190 may be taken in conjunction with thesis work in the major.) This course satisfies the Writing in the Disciplines requirement of the Core Curriculum.

REGULARLY OFFERED CROSS-LISTED ELECTIVES

88 Biology of Women

Biology of Women is an introduction to the structure, physiology and genetics of women across the life span. The first half of the course will explore the genetic, hormonal and developmental basis of gender. We will study physiology and development from conception, through puberty, pregnancy and aging. The latter part of the course will deal with specific health concerns of women and focus on predominantly or uniquely gender-related illnesses and their physiologic basis. The laboratory is intended to demonstrate the varied processes of science and the scientific method using women's biology as the basic subject material. Open to men and women. *Laboratory fee \$185. This course satisfies the Scientific Understanding requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as Biology 88)*

140 Gender Politics A/B (1.25)

A study of the social, economic, political and legal status of women in contemporary America and in other countries. The course examines the dynamic changes taking place in the relationship between women and men. Topics include the history of women's liberation movements, contemporary battles on workplace equality, parental leave, equal pay, reproductive justice, etc. Includes Community-Based Research (the equivalent of a lab). (.25 credit). *Offered in alternate years. This course satisfies the Community Engagement requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as Politics 140)*

106 Women in Sports

This course will analyze the relationship between gender and sport from multiple perspectives. Emphasis will be placed on exploring the changing roles in sports for women, as well as how past and current beliefs regarding gender equity, health, and women's role in society shape the experiences of women in sports in our society today. Topics will include: the history of women in sport, structural constraints facing women in sport, race and ethnicity, women's health issues, sexuality and homophobia as they pertain to sport, the role of the media, the sporting body, Title IX and career opportunities for women, and the future of sports for women in our society. *Prerequisite: Kinesiology 10 and 15 (or for non-majors, permission of the instructor). Satisfies the American Diversity requirement and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as Kinesiology 106)*

111 Kinship, Marriage and Family

For more than a century anthropological research has focused on households, kinship relations, childhood and families across cultures and through time. The anthropological record shows us that concepts such as "marriage," "childhood" and "family" have been understood in radically different ways, and this course provides students with a historical and theoretical perspective on the anthropological study of kinship as it relates to different issues connected to the state of marriage, family and childhood throughout the world. *May be repeated for credit as content varies.*

111-1 Sociology of Families

Families are one of our most basic social institutions. They provide the primary social and physical contexts within which we become fully human. This course begins by exploring the idea of "the traditional family" and continues by examining historical trends and empirical data about American family life over the past century; including divorce patterns, fertility rates, women entering the workforce, and marriage. The class focuses on diversity and change, particularly the ways that social trends and social categories influence family structures. *(Cross-listed as Sociology 111)*

115 Theories of Justice

The course examines different theories of justice based on concepts such as "fairness," "equal treatment," and "getting one's due." These alternative theories are then applied to contemporary controversies concerning economic, racial, sexual and environmental justice and to current debates about such issues as immigration, euthanasia, abortion, and capital punishment. *This course satisfies the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as Politics 115)*

Curriculum Women's and Gender Studies

116 Global Migration

Addresses the dynamics of contemporary migration and the way it is changing cultures, societies, politics, and families. The course introduces theories of assimilation, transnationalism, and multiculturalism and examines contemporary patterns of international migration flows. Among the topics covered are feminization of migration, labor migration, citizenship, human trafficking, refugee crises, and politics of asylum. *This course satisfies the Global Perspectives requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as Sociology 116)*

119 Global Sociology

Examines the global nature of contemporary social, economic, political, and cultural change. Reviews the multidisciplinary theoretical approaches that analyze the origins, dynamics, and consequences of globalization. Provides students with an understanding of an array of issues that stem from global changes, including global inequality, third-world poverty, labor rights violations, natural resource constraints, and environmental problems. This course satisfies the Global Perspectives requirement of the Core Curriculum. *(Cross-listed as Sociology 119)*

120 Spanish Literature: Middle Ages to Eighteenth Century

Introduction and study of the major genres and writers from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, including *Cantar de mio Cid*, medieval ballads, early lyric and didactic poetry and readings in medieval prose and drama; selections from lyric and mystic Renaissance poetry; the picaresque novel. Golden Age prose and poetry, including Cervantes, Góngora, Lope de Vega and Calderón. *Offered in alternate years. This course satisfies the Artistic Understanding (Analysis) requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as World Languages and Culture 120)*

183 Dance History II

This course examines the emergence and development of modern dance in the 20th Century in the United States and Europe. The class will study the early roots of modern dance, the subsequent generations of modern dance choreographers, the post-modern movement and contemporary forms in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. We will study significant choreographers, performers and companies, paying close attention to the role women played in the history of modern dance. We will draw from social, cultural and feminist theories of dance to construct a historical understanding of modern dance. A lab fee is charged to cover the performances required for this class. This course is a requirement for Dance majors and minors. *Prerequisites: Perfa 1 and Perfa 182. (Cross-listed as Performing Arts 183)*

123 Sex and the Spirit

An exploration of a contested area in Christian thought today, setting traditional understandings in dialogue with contemporary concerns and critiques. How does our experience of ourselves as sexual beings open us to the experience of the holy; and, conversely, how might our desire for God be intimately related to our sexual desire and longings? These are the questions that will be the focus of our work. Not a course on sexual ethics, this course is an exploration of the complex interrelationship of sexual and spiritual desire as both are reflected upon in the Christian spiritual tradition and others. *Prerequisite: TRS 97 or 189. This course satisfies the Theological Understanding (Theological Explorations) requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as Theology and Religious Studies 123)*

125 Gender and Culture

While sex is biological, gender refers to the set of cultural expectations assigned to males and females. This course takes a four-field anthropological approach to understanding gender, investigating such topics as third and fourth gender diversity, gender among non-human primates, gender roles in prehistory and the sociolinguistics of gender usage. Special attention is paid to the ways in which gender articulates with other social practices and institutions such as class, kinship, religion and subsistence practices. *(Cross-listed as Anthropology 125)*

125-1 Gender and Society

While sex differences are biological, gender encompasses the traits that society assigns to and inculcates in males and females. This course studies the latter: the interplay between gender and society. It takes an inclusive perspective, with a focus on men and women in different cultural contexts defined by ethnic group membership, sexuality, and socioeconomic status. *(Cross-listed as Sociology 125)*

125-2 Women in the Christian Tradition

An introduction to the major themes and tensions that shape the study of women in the Christian tradition. *(Cross-listed as Theology and Religious Studies 125)*

139 History of Women in America

A survey of American women's history from 17th century colonial encounters to the present with an emphasis on ethnic and class diversity, shifting definitions and cultural representations of womanhood, and the efforts of women to define their own roles and extend their spheres of influence. *Offered in alternate years. This course satisfies the Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding requirement and the American Diversity requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as History 139)*

147 Psychology of Gender

A critical review of the theory and research on gender from the biological, psychological and sociological perspectives. The course explores the social construction of gender and how it impacts human development and social behavior. Throughout the course, the interaction between gender and the complexities of race, culture and sexual orientation is considered. *Prerequisite: Psych 1. (Cross-listed as Psychology 147)*

151 Women in Latin American History

An examination of the participation of women in struggles for social justice in Latin America, asking what has motivated women to abandon traditional roles and how they have shaped debates about human rights, democracy, feminism, ecology, and socialism in selected Latin American countries. *This course satisfies the Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding requirement, the Global Perspectives requirement, and the Common Good requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as History 151)*

153 American Ethnic Writers and Oral Traditions

Study of the literary or oral imaginative achievement of an American ethnic or cultural group such as Native Americans, Asian Americans, American Jews, specific Black cultural groups, Hispanic Americans or Chicano communities. *This course satisfies the Artistic Understanding (Analysis) requirement and the American Diversity requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as English 153)*

173 Women Writers

Intensive study of some aspect of literature by women. Examples of possible topics are: 19th-Century British Novelists; Contemporary Women Poets; and American and Canadian Short Story Writers. May be repeated for credit as content varies. *This course satisfies the Artistic Understanding (Analysis) requirement of the Core Curriculum. (Cross-listed as English 173)*

In addition, new courses are approved on a term-to-term basis. Examples of such electives include English 154 Studies in African-American Literature or 141 Studies in Medieval Literature.