

Program in Women's Studies

THE WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJOR

The major in Women's Studies offers students a flexible and focused concentration in the study of women and/or gender across many disciplines. Students pursuing the major take three *required* Women's Studies courses plus two *core* and five *elective** courses selected from the Women's Studies course list published each semester. Of the five electives representing three different departments required as part of the major, students choose three to **cluster into a topic area**, which will provide the framework for the culminating project in the senior year. The Director of Women's Studies advises on topic areas, approves course clusters, and meets with all students undertaking senior projects. With the Director's approval, a Women's Studies internship for academic credit may count as one of the electives. All 10 courses must be taken for a letter grade.

1. **WS 72 *Introduction to Women's Studies***

Historic and emergent development in the field of Women's Studies, with emphasis on the impact of race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Perspectives and methodologies are drawn from a variety of disciplines. Spring semester.

2. Two courses which explore the foundational arguments in feminist approaches to the discipline, covering a diversity of perspectives, including attention to international research on women and gender. Courses currently available in this category:

Anth. 185 / WS 195	<i>Globalization & Feminism</i>
Comparative Rel.	<i>Feminist Theologies</i>
Education 165	<i>Educating Women & Girls</i>
English 177	<i>Feminist Literature and Theory</i>
Philosophy 48	<i>Feminist Philosophy</i>
Sociology 30	<i>Sex & Gender in Society</i>
WS 191	<i>Introduction to Queer Studies</i>

3. Five Elective Courses in Women's Studies, from at least three different departments. Three of these electives must be clustered into a **specific topic area** in the study of women and/or gender, towards developing the focus of the senior project. Students define their own topic areas, with the advice and approval of the director of the program.

4. **WS 190 *Doing Feminist Research***

Practices and methods of feminist, interdisciplinary research in a cross-cultural framework. How feminist inquiry rethinks disciplinary assumptions and categories; what counts as knowledge; relation between subjects and objects of study; international issues in feminist analysis. To be taken in preparation for the senior project. With approval of the instructor, open to non-majors and non-minors (including graduate students) engaged in extensive research on women and/or gender in other programs or departments. Fall semester.

5. **WS 193 *Senior Project***

A one-semester independent project culminating in a substantial interdisciplinary research paper or other creative or activist work with a written component, which explores and tests traditional and contemporary thinking about women and/or gender. Two faculty members from different departments advise student projects. Includes a series of group meetings throughout the academic year. One credit. Fall or spring semester.

* Please note: Students taking electives for credit towards the Women's Studies major or minor are expected to do their major papers or projects on a topic appropriate to or focusing on women and/or gender.

Program in Women's Studies

THE WOMEN'S STUDIES MINOR

Students pursuing the minor in Women's Studies take a total of six courses, including three *interdisciplinary* courses offered by Women's Studies (WS72, WS190, and WS193). In addition, students choose three *electives** (from at least two different departments) that study women and/or gender in specific contexts. The director of Women's Studies advises on course selection to fit each student's interests and to establish a basis for the culminating project in the senior year. The minor allows a focus on women and/or gender to complement a major concentration in a discipline or program and provides an interdisciplinary framework for the independent work of the project. All courses must be taken for a letter grade.

REQUIRED COURSES FOR THE WOMEN'S STUDIES MINOR

WS 72 Introduction to Women's Studies

Historic and emergent development in the field of Women's Studies, with emphasis on the impact of race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Perspectives and methodologies are drawn from a variety of disciplines. Spring semester.

WS 190 Doing Feminist Research

Practices and methods of feminist, interdisciplinary research in a cross-cultural framework. How feminist inquiry rethinks disciplinary assumptions and categories; what counts as knowledge; relation among subjects and objects of study; international issues in feminist analysis. To be taken in preparation for the senior project. With approval of the instructor, open to non-majors and non-minors (including graduate students) engaged in extensive research on women and/or gender in other programs or departments. Fall Semester.

WS 193 Senior Project

A substantial interdisciplinary research paper or other creative project, such as film, presentation, or performance (with a written component) which explores and tests traditional and contemporary thinking about women. Required of all seniors completing the major or minor. Fall/Spring semester.

*** Please note: Students taking electives for credit towards the Women's Studies major or minor are expected to do their major papers or projects on a topic appropriate to or focusing on women and/or gender.**