## Women's and Gender Studies-1

## Women's and Gender Studies

Faculty: Friedman, Director; Core Faculty: Gray, Hopps, Landreau, Nicolosi; Affiliated Faculty: Adler, Allyn, Archer, Bennett, Biggs, Boughn, Carney, Chazelle, Compte, Dickinson, Fair, Fichner-Rathus, Figueroa, Graham, Gross, Hall, Howe, Naples, Nicolosi, Ortiz, Paces, Paul, Roberts, Robertson, Rodriquez, Rosman-Askot, Ryan, Shao, Steele, Tarter

The Women's and Gender Studies major is interdisciplinary, offering over 90 courses in 15 programs and departments. Women's and Gender Studies courses enable students to understand changing social patterns and the effects of institutions and culture on behavior. Courses explore how gender shapes social roles and identities as well as the function of race, class, and sexuality in the experience of gender within and across cultures. The major prepares students for a variety of professional and graduate schools as well as positions in corporations, government agencies, and service industries.

## Requirements for the Major (10 course units)

- 4 Core Courses:

WGS 200/Women, Culture and Society: WGS 200 is an entry-level course that introduces students to the discipline of women's studies. (This requirement may be waived for students who have taken two or more WGS courses before becoming a major).
WGS 325/Feminist Theories
WGS 399/Field Study in Women's Studies
WGS 495/Senior Seminar

- 6 course units of additional WGS courses:

One of these courses must consider gender in a global perspectives (either 200 or 300 level).

Choose one of the following to fulfill this requirement:
WGS 260 (same as AAS 280) /Africana Women in Historical Perspective
WGS 360, LIT 334/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women
WGS 375/Transnational Feminisms
WGS 376 (same as LIT 316)/Global Women Writers
WGS 380 (same as HON 338)/Gender and Democracy
WGS 381 (same as ANT 311)/Women and Migration
AAS 335 (same as LIT 335)/Carribean Women Writers

- Five courses of the $\mathbf{1 0}$ in the major must be at a $\mathbf{3 0 0}$ level or above.


## Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for women's and gender studies. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses:

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these "critical content courses": WGS 200/Women Culture and Society (C).
- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0, in Women’s and Gender Studies courses and overall.


## Women's and Gender Studies Major Learning Goals

At the end of their program of study, Women's and Gender Studies majors should be able to:

- Gain an understanding of gender as a central category of analysis that compels constant inquiry into the production and legitimation of knowledge
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development and contemporary scope of women's studies as a discipline and current research on sexuality and gender
- Become fluent in feminist theories and their application across disciplines, as well as develop skills in feminist research methodology
- Analyze historical and contemporary systems of privilege and oppression, with special attention to the ways gender intersects with race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, and nationality
- Gain a critical awareness of the instability of identity categories
- Understand how all fields of knowledge are partial, situated, and have a political nature
- Apply feminist theories and current research to transcultural and transnational analysis of gender, systemic oppression, and women's resistance and agency
- Analyze how the media and other social institutions exert a shaping force on gender, and how, conversely, gender imperatives shape individuals, families, communities, and nations
- Demonstrate a grasp of the significance of women’s historical and contemporary contributions to culture and society
- Apply classroom learning to personal life, the workplace, the community, and political and civil institutions, with opportunities to study and participate in community-based learning, action-based research, political activism, and other social justice initiatives


## Women's and Gender Studies Major Course Sequence

## First Year

FSP First Seminar
WRI 102/Academic Writing (if required)
WGS 200/Woman, Culture, and Society
Two WGS options (by advisement)
Liberal Learning courses
Electives

## Second Year

Gender in Global Perspective-Choose one:
WGS 260 (same as AAS 280)/Africana Women in Historical Perspective
WGS 360 (same as LIT 334)/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women
WGS 375/Transnational Feminisms
WGS 376 (same as LIT 316)/Global Women Writers
WGS 380 (same as HON 338)/Gender and Democracy
WGS 381 (same as ANT 311)/Women and Migration
AAS 335 (same as LIT 335)/Carribean Women Writers

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Two WGS Options (by advisement)
Liberal Learning courses
Electives

## Third Year

WGS 325/Feminist Theories
WGS Option (by advisement)
Liberal Learning courses
Electives

## Fourth Year

WGS 399/Field Study in Women's Studies
(WGS 495/Senior Seminar
Liberal Learning courses
Electives

Women's and Gender Studies majors whose first major is Elementary, Early Childhood, or Special Education must also complete the requirements for the Women's and Gender Studies major.
When planning their academic program, students should consult with their advisers in both departments. These plans should take into account requirements for the major, liberal learning, professional courses, and state certification. Students are encouraged to consult program planners available on the Women's and Gender Studies and School of Education websites.

## Requirements for the Minor

The minor consists of five courses as follows:
WGS 200/Women, Culture, and Society (may be waived at discretion of program director)
Four more WGS courses or courses from list of options below.

## Women in Learning and Leadership

Women in Learning and Leadership (W.I.L.L.) is a curricular and co-curricular, certificate-bearing program designed to develop leadership skills and provide leadership experiences. W.I.L.L. offers active learning opportunities that empower women as leaders and fosters a deeper understanding of women's roles and contributions to society. Successful completion of W.I.L.L. results in a Women's and Gender Studies minor.

## Requirements for W.I.L.L.

Five Courses

- WGS 200/Women, Culture, and Society (W.I.L.L. section): An introductory level course that introduces students to the discipline of women's studies. In the W.I.L.L. section there will be special emphasis on women and leadership.
- Gender in Global Perspectives (either 200 or 300 level)—A requirement that may be fulfilled by courses that examine feminist issues and theories in a global context. Choose one from the following:
WGS 260 (Same as AAS 280)/Africana Women in Historical Perspective WGS 360 (Same as LIT 334)/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women WGS 375/Transnational Feminisms
WGS 376 (Same as LIT 316)/Global Women Writers
WGS 380 (Same as HON 338)/Gender and Democracy
WGS 381 (Same as ANT 311)/Women and Migration


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AAS 335 (Same as LIT 335)/Carribean Women Writers
WGS 325/Feminist Theories
WGS 399/Field Study in Women's Studies
WGS 495/Women's Leadership and Social Change

## COURSES

## WGS 200/Women, Culture, and Society

## 1 course unit

(every semester)
The preliminary course to the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies. It will provide students with an introduction to the literature and the historical evolution of the discipline, as well as an understanding of how scholars and students in the field analyze women, gender, and feminist theories. It will use an interdisciplinary approach to do this. This introductory course encourages students to rethink and reevaluate much of what they have experienced and learned and to gain the critical vocabulary and analytic skills to question the gendered world in which they live.

WGS 210/Women and Health: Power, Politics, and Change
1 course unit (annually)
This course concerns the domain of women's bodies and the on-going struggle for sovereignty therein. Students will examine how in addition to pathophysiology, women's health is impacted by social constructs, specifically history, politics, economics, and research. As a result of this exploration, students will enhance their ability to care for themselves and for others, to use and understand power and empowerment of self and others, and to advocate and to be an activist for themselves and for others.

WGS 211/British and American Women Writers
1 course unit (same as LIT 211)
(occasionally)
A careful exploration of literary and gender studies focusing specifically on British and American women writers from the $17^{\text {th }}$ century to the present. Looking specifically at the intricacies of gendered expression in England and America, this interdisciplinary study delves into the lives and writings of women by looking at the wide spectrum of literary styles and genres they employed. These include the autobiographical traditions, as evidenced in such primary documents as diaries, Indian captivity narratives, and spiritual memoirs; the ever-expanding corpus of fiction including short stories, novellas, and novels; and the diverse range that is exhibited in women’s essays, drama, and poetry. Ultimately, this course addresses the historical, literary, and cultural influences that shaped women's lives and writings in this remarkable body of literature.

## WGS 220/Gender and Popular Culture

1 course unit (every semester)
A critical examination of the messages and "knowledge" that popular culture employs, disseminates, and constructs about men and women, masculinity and femininity. Takes its objects of study from a wide range of sources including advertisements, magazines, television, film, cyberspace, hip hop, and sports. Be ready to watch TV, go to the movies, and listen to music as a scholar of gender.

WGS 223/Eat/Drink, Man/Woman: A Gendered History of Food (same as HIS 396)
(annually)
An introduction to the history of food consumption and preparation in the Western world and its place in defining gender roles; food as part of religious ceremony; development of table manners; the politics of breast-feeding; the changing of kitchen roles; and the history of eating disorders.

WGS 230/Gendered Technoculture: Feminism,
1 course unit Gender, and Technology
(occasionally)
What is the relationship between gender and technology? How is technology informed by gender? How is something as difficult to define as "technology" categorized as male and/or female in our minds? How do our perceptions of technology change by the user of said technology? Why do we imbue inanimate objects with gendered characteristics? How do new technologies alter or influence our ideas about gender and about what is "gender appropriate?" These are some of the questions we will explore in this course. Using feminist theories and methodologies, we will investigate the ways in which our technological world is gendered, and how to apply this theory to analyze and critique our high-tech world.

## WGS 240/Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Studies

## 1 course unit

(annually)
Providing an introduction to a quickly evolving field of study, this course explores gay and lesbian identity, culture, and politics from many disciplinary points of view. A single course might explore a wide range of subjects, such as Walt Whitman's poetry, the history of lesbian bar culture, the politics of gay marriage, visibility on TV, and Heather Has Two Mommies.

## WGS 250/Politics of Sexuality

1 course unit (every semester)
The political nature of personal life is a central critical concept of women's and gender studies. Politics of Sexuality introduces students to implications of this concept through the study of contested topics concerning sexuality, such as gendered sexual socialization, sexual violence, family structures, poverty and welfare, sexual identities, transgenderism, commodification, risky sexual behaviors, AIDS, sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution, and the traffic in women. Students learn how social norms, political currents, economic practices, and state policies construct their lived realities, governing choices they may have considered natural, private, and individual. They learn to articulate what is at stake in these issues from a variety of standpoints as preparation for making their own informed judgments.

## WGS 260/Africana Women in Historical Perspective

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WGS 301/Women in America
1 course unit
(same as HIS 385)
(annually)
Examines the history of women in the United States from the colonial era to the present.
Explores the diverse ways in which women have lived, worked, and contributed to the history of the U.S. While we will be looking at some of the "great women" of American history, the course will focus more on the aspects of the general experiences of women and their political, social, cultural, and familial relationships. The course examines the experiences and contributions of women to the development and growth of America, which necessitates an examination of their subordinate position in American politics, culture, and society. The exploration of women's roles in the church, social movements, and social reproduction will enable students to describe and evaluate the institutions, movements, individuals, ideas, and values of the major eras of U.S. history.

WGS 305/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminisms, and Film
1 course unit (same as AAH 343 and COM 343)
(annually)
Explores the enormous impact feminism has had on film theory, criticism, and production. Various feminist approaches to the study and production of "cinematic apparatus" will be explored including structuralism, issues of representation, spectatorship, questions of ethnicity, and hybrid sexualities. Screenings and the readings will cover a wide range of positions and strategies as we investigate Hollywood and independent films as well as new media forms.

WGS 310/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848-Present
1 course unit
(same as HIS 324 and HON 337)
(occasionally)
Focuses on women's history in Eastern Europe in order to understand how the dual forces of nationalism and communism were largely constructed around gendered concerns such as reproduction, family structure, and access to power.

## WGS 314/Women's Autobiographies, Diaries, and Letters

1 course unit
(same as LIT 319)
(occasionally)
An examination of women's autobiographical literature throughout many different cultures and time periods. Drawing from a wide spectrum of primary and manuscript sources, we will study such representative works as 17th century Puritan women's Indian captivity narratives, 18th century cross-dressed women's Revolutionary War memoirs, 19th century slave narratives, Victorian maidservants' journals, women's pioneer diaries of westward migration and expansion, and 20th century women's "fictional autobiographies." The reading of these sources will be accompanied by rigorous research of secondary texts incorporating the study of gender, history, and culture in relation to the primary works. Ultimately, we will explore the contemporary and rising field of autobiographical literary criticism, applying many theoretical perspectives to this ever-expanding corpus of women's literature and life-writing across the ages.

WGS 317/The Witch in Literature
1 course unit
(same as LIT 317)
(occasionally)
The witch has been a figure in literary history since the beginning of time. Who is she, and what does she embody? Who creates her, and to what end? This course will explore the sociohistorical constructions of this figure and trace her through a wide spectrum of literary texts, including legal and historical treatises, fairy tales, short stories, drama, film, children's literature, poetry, and even cartoons. Ultimately, we will analyze the literary cultures which have persisted in creating, recreating, and reviving this timeless, powerful, and equally feared character throughout the ages.

## WGS 318/Women and the Legislative Process Part I

1 course unit
(occasionally)
Explores contemporary and historical roles, impacts, and interactions of women as legislators, constituents, and professional or citizen lobbyists in state and national legislative bodies. Particular emphasis will be placed on analyzing and understanding the unique contributions, issues, and challenges women experience when active in legislative areas. Students will be provided with opportunities for direct contact with local women legislators, lobbyists, and citizen/community organizers in both classroom and legislative settings.

## WGS 319/Women and the Legislative Process Part II

1 course unit (occasionally)
Prerequisite: WGS 318
Provides on-site experience in the ways in which laws are made and the roles citizens can have in the process. Students will work with state legislators for a minimum of eight hours a week and meet weekly in the classroom with an academic instructor.

## WGS 320/Men and Masculinities: Literary Perspectives

1 course unit
(same as LIT 315)
(every semester)
Focuses on representations of men and masculinity in literary texts, although we may also look at film, video, television, advertising, and music. Some of the issues we will be thinking about include: the construction of modern male identities, the diversity of men's lives, the complex dynamics of men's relationships, and questions of power and social justice within the contemporary gender order.

## WGS 325/Feminist Theories

1 course unit (every semester)
Prerequisite: At least one WGS course
Explores the diverse ways in which feminist theorists conceptualize women's status in society, systems of inequality, and the category of "woman" itself. Students will gain an understanding of evolving ideas and debates in feminist theory, relate those to feminist practices, and develop their own theoretical abilities. The course will address the social construction of gender, the relation between feminist theory and activism, and how feminists have responded to issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality in current feminist thinking, as well as the classic feminist texts.

WGS 327/European Social History Since 1789
1 course unit
(same as HIS 327)
(occasionally)
An examination of the social changes that have occurred in Europe since the French Revolution. Topics include the history of families, gender roles, class divisions, racial ideologies, religion, work and leisure.

## WGS 330/Gender and Public Policy

1 course unit
(occasionally)
Prerequisite: WGS 200 or permission on instructor
This course seeks to clarify the relationship between state power and gender relations through an examination of major policy issues related to gender inequality, including: welfare policy, labor politics, reproductive rights, sexual violence, and domestic violence.

## WGS 340/Gay and Lesbian History

1 course unit
(same as HIS 397)
(annually)
This course looks at the history of gay men and lesbians. It also considers the unique ways in which gays and lesbians have contributed to the history and culture of their region and national identity while maintaining a diverse subculture. The course explores the different historical and social roles of gays and lesbians and how they survived under oppressions that ranged from the denial of civic and civil rights to execution. At the completion of this course, students will have expanded the traditional historical narrative by recognizing the presence and agency of gays and lesbians.

WGS 341/Gay and Lesbian Literature
1 course unit (same as LIT 313)
(occasionally)
Gay and Lesbian Literature primarily reflects on "literary" texts (novels, poems, and plays), considering the aesthetics, politics, and history of gay and lesbian literary production and consumption. With recent advances in cultural studies and queer studies, this course will also embrace works that are sometimes situated outside of traditional definitions of "literary" (children's books, movies, and pulp fiction), with an examination of the course theme from a variety of literary methodologies, such as reader response criticism and discourse analysis.

WGS 360/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women
1 course unit (same as LIT 334)
(annually)
A comparative study of Latina and Latin-American women's literature in English. The course is open to a wide range of literary traditions, nations, time periods, and genres including those specific to non-Western and post-Colonial cultures. The focus varies by semester. It may include works by Isabel Allende, Julia Alverez, Gloria Anzaldua, Ana Castillo, Sandra Cisneros, Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz, Laura Esquivel, Rosario Ferre, Cristina Garcia, Judith Ortiz Cofer, Elena Poniatowska, and others.

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WGS 365/Womanist Thought
1 course unit
(same as AAS 375)
(annually)
Prerequisite: WGS 260/AAS/280, WGS 375, or by permission of the instructor
Traces the evolution of feminist consciousness among Africana women. Students will trace the thoughts, social and political activism, and ideologies generated by women of African ancestry from the early 19th century free black "feminist abolitionists" to contemporary times.
"Womanist," "Feminist," "Critical Race Feminist," and "Black Feminist" ideologies will be emphasized through course readings and assignments that explore the emergence and perpetuation of an Africana women's feminist consciousness.

WGS 375/Transnational Feminisms
1 course unit (every semester)
"Transnational feminisms" refers to the growing network of movements and organizations working on behalf of women at many levels of civil and state society, from grassroots organizing to global governance, together with a growing body of writing and research on women's status, gender oppression, and priorities for change across the world. This course's purpose is to prepare students, as world citizens, to participate in this network by exposing them not only to issues and movements but also to the conceptual, methodological, and affective challenges of building solidarity across a vast range of differences-differences in identity, locale, worldview, focus, strategy, and standpoint in relation to global systems of power. This course may be repeated for credit, as topic changes.

## WGS 376/Global Women Writers

1 course unit
(same as LIT 316)
(every semester)
Explores various literatures from around the world, encouraging students to examine the politics of gender, culture, and nation as well as the intersections of those systems of power. The explorations will cover a large range of topics, from arranged marriages to women in war in a variety of geographical areas around the world, particularly focusing on non-Western literatures. Common themes include feminist politics, post and neo/colonialisms, reproductive rights, translation, globalization, and activism.

WGS 380/Gender and Democracy
1 course unit
(same as HON 338)
(annually)
Scholars and policy makers alike have acknowledged the centrality of gender in debates about the meaning of democracy in our changing world. Men's and women's access to political power and economic opportunity, and the role of reproduction in citizenship, are among the manifold topics that highlight the complexity of what we call "democracy." The course will take up these issues in several key locations.

## WGS 381/Women and Migration

1 course unit
(same as ANT 311)
(occasionally)
Prerequisite: SOC 101, ANT 110, or WGS 200
Examines the role of women in migration both past and present. It takes a global approach, investigating the lives of women from many different societies. It also takes a comparative approach, exploring the similarities and differences of female international migrants from different cultural and class backgrounds.

WGS 391/Independent Study in Women's and Gender Studies variable course units Independent study credit is available; see women's and gender studies director for approval.

## WGS 399/Feminism in the Workplace: Field Study in Women's and Gender Studies

1 course unit
(every semester)
Prerequisite: At least two WGS courses
This internship course is a chance for students to consolidate and enrich their undergraduate learning while building the transition to life beyond college. A WGS education trains students to think critically and act strategically on issues of social inequity, particularly relating to gender and sexuality. Graduates enter a wide variety of careers. Feminism in the Workplace, therefore, focuses not on the nature and demands of particular worksites, but on work itself and organizational practices that arise from feminist theory and scholarship. The course is designed for students of junior or senior standing who are WGS majors or minors, as well as for W.I.L.L. students.

WGS 470/Topics in Women's and Gender Studies
variable course units (annually)
Focuses on a special topic in Women's and Gender Studies. This course may be repeated for credit, as topic changes.

WGS 495/Senior Seminar: Methods and Theory

## 1 course unit

(annually)
Prerequisite: WGS 325
This course is the capstone course for the Women's and Gender Studies major. Students are expected to use the expertise gained from their previous WGS courses to research and write their senior theses. Drawing on the methodologies and theories learned in previously taken courses, students work in a small focused seminar that emphasizes not only their own work, but also critiquing the work of their peers. Students will produce a research paper ( $25+$ pages) applying feminist theories and methodologies. In addition, they will share their work with other students, providing analysis and critiques of one another's papers in progress.

WGS 496/Women's Leadership and Social Change
1 course unit (annually)
Prerequisites: WGS 200 and 325
In this W.I.L.L. capstone seminar course, students will experience the interfaces between empirical knowledge and social policies through selecting, organizing, and implementing a class activism project. This course is the culmination of the W.I.L.L. program in which students will expand and enhance their leadership skills using acquired strategies and tactics to influence social, political, or economic change.

## Women's and Gender Studies course options <br> (for course descriptions see department listings):

AAH 343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminism, and Film (same as WGS 305)
AAH 370/Topic: Women Artists
AAS 280/Africana Women in Historical Perspective (same as WGS 260)
AAS 375/Womanist Thought (same as WGS 365)
AAS 376/African American Women's History (same as WGS 361 and some instances of HIS 365/Topics)
ANT 311/Women and Migration (same as WGS 381)

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COM 343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminism, and Film (same as WGS 305)
ECO 325/Women, Gender, and Work
HIS 314/Medieval Women
HIS 316/Topic: Gender and Modern European History
HIS 324/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848-Present (same as WGS 310)
HIS 327/European Social History Since 1789 (same as WGS 327)
HIS 365/Topics: African American Women’s History (same as WGS 361 and AAS 376)
HIS 385/Women in America (same as WGS 301)
HIS 395/History of Western Sexuality
HIS 396/A Gendered History of Food
HIS 397/Gay and Lesbian History (same as WGS 340)
HIS $\quad 455 /$ Readings Seminar in History: History of the European Family
HIS 455/Readings Seminar in History: The Social History of African Women
HIS 455/Readings Seminar in History: Medieval Women Writers
HIS 455/Readings Seminar in History: Women in the Middle East
HON 332/Gender and National Identity in Latin America
HON 337/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848-Present (same as WGS 310)
HON 338/Gender and Democracy (same as WGS 380)
HON 362/Goodwives and Witches: Women in Colonial America
LIT 211/British and American Women Writers (same as WGS 211)
LIT 313/Gay and Lesbian Literature (same as WGS 341)
LIT 315/Men and Masculinities (same as WGS 320)
LIT 316/Global Women Writers (same as WGS 376)
LIT 317/The Witch in Literature (same as WGS 317)
LIT 319/Women's Autobiographies, Diaries, and Letters (same as WGS 314)
LIT 334/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women (same as WGS 360)
LIT 335/Caribbean Women Writers (same as AAS 335)
LIT 370/Studies: American Feminist Literature: The 1960s-1980s
LIT 370/Studies: Childbirth in Women’s Literature
LIT 370/Studies: Language, Gender, and Culture
LIT 370/Studies: Study of Medieval and Renaissance Women Writers
LIT 370/Studies: Shakespeare and His Sisters
LIT 370/Studies: Black Women Writers
LIT 395/Topics in Women Writers
LIT 427/Major Writers Before 1900: Emily Dickinson
LIT 427/Major Writers Before 1900: Jane Austen
LIT 428/Major Writers After 1900: Toni Morrison
LIT 428/Major Writers After 1900: Julia Alvarez
LWJ 255/Legal Problems in the Domestic Setting
LWJ 256/Women in the Criminal Justice System
PHL 375/Law and Ethics
POL 215/Gender and Politics
PSY 218/ Psychology of Power, Oppression and Privilege
PSY 350/Psychology of Women
PSY 353/Psychology of Gender
PSY 356/Psychology of Personal Relationships
SOC 303/Women in World Perspective
SOC 334/Gender and American Society
SOC 335/Courtship, Marriage, and the Family

