

Women's Studies

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Women's Studies
109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2077
Web site: www.mnsu.edu/dept/womenst/

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Courses in women's studies consider the roles and accomplishments of women in the past and the social, psychological, political, economic, and cultural forces influencing their present and future condition. The women's studies curriculum addresses systems of oppression as they affect women: sexism, racism, classism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, ageism, ableism, sizeism and heterosexism. The program shares the aim of extending human knowledge by examining traditional disciplines from a women's studies perspective and by pioneering research into new areas.

The department supports a variety of social and educational opportunities, including student organizations, forums, workshops, and research projects. Students are encouraged to take leadership roles in the development of special programs and to become actively involved with community women's organizations and with related campus groups.

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Admission requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.

- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 (C).

Contact the department for application procedures.

WOMEN'S STUDIES BA (33 credits):

Required for Major (Core, 15 credits):

- WOST 110 Intro to Women's Studies (3)
- WOST 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (3)
- WOST 310 Perspectives on Feminist Thought (3)
- WOST 320 Undergraduate Seminar (3)
- WOST 430 Feminist Research and Scholarship (3)

Required for Major (Program Electives, 18 credits):

Choose 18 credits from the following and from Interdisciplinary Courses listed at the end of this section:

- WOST 120 Violence and Gender (3)
- WOST 230 Assertiveness and Self Esteem (2-3)
- WOST 240 Rural Studies (3)
- WOST 251 Coming of Age: Gender & Culture (3)
- WOST 260 Selected Topics (1-4)
- WOST 265 Women & Spirituality (1)
- WOST 277 Individual Study (1-6)
- WOST 290 Workshop (1-4)
- WOST 445 Women and Aging (3)
- WOST 455 Women, Sex & Identity (3)
- WOST 460 Selected Topics (1-4)
- WOST 465 Women & Spirituality (1)
- WOST 477 Individual Study (1-6)
- WOST 490 Workshop (1-4)
- WOST 497 Internship: Teaching (1-6)
- WOST 498 Internship: Community (1-6)

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY:

Language (8)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

WOMEN'S STUDIES BS (33 credits):

Required for Major (Core, 18 credits):

- WOST 110 Intro to Women's Studies (3)
- WOST 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (3)
- WOST 310 Perspectives on Feminist Thought (3)
- WOST 320 Undergraduate Seminar (3)
- WOST 430 Feminist Research and Scholarship (3)

Three credits of internship required.

WOST 497 Internship: Teaching (1-6) OR

WOST 498 Internship: Community (1-6)

Required for Major (Program Electives, 15 credits):

Choose 15 credits from the following and from Interdisciplinary courses listed at the end of this section:

- WOST 120 Violence and Gender (3)
- WOST 230 Assertiveness and Self Esteem (2-3)
- WOST 240 Rural Studies (3)
- WOST 251 Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (3)
- WOST 260 Selected Topics (1-4)
- WOST 265 Women & Spirituality (1)
- WOST 277 Individual Study (1-6)
- WOST 290 Workshop (1-4)
- WOST 445 Women and Aging (3)
- WOST 455 Women, Sex & Identity (3)
- WOST 460 Selected Topics (1-4)
- WOST 465 Women & Spirituality (1)
- WOST 477 Individual Study (1-6)
- WOST 490 Workshop (1-4)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

WOMEN'S STUDIES MINOR (21 credits):

Required for Minor (12 credits):

- WOST 110 Intro to Women's Studies (3) OR
- WOST 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (3) AND
- WOST 310 Perspectives on Feminist Thought (3)
- WOST 320 Undergraduate Seminar (3)
- WOST 430 Feminist Research and Scholarship (3)

Required for Minor (Electives, 9 credits):

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|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| WOST 120 | WOST 230 | WOST 240 | WOST 251 |
| WOST 260 | WOST 265 | WOST 290 | WOST 445 |
| WOST 455 | WOST 460 | WOST 465 | WOST 490 |

Women's Studies Program Interdisciplinary Courses

- ANTH 431 Applied Cultural Research (3)
- ANTH 433 Anthropology of Gender (3)
- ANTH 485 Selected Topics (1-3)
- ART 419 Gender in Art (3)
- BIOL 102 Biological Perspectives: Biology of Women (3)
- CORR 444 Women in the Criminal Justice System (3)
- ENG 215 Topics (1-3)
- ENG 495 Special Study: Sex and Language (3)
- ETHN 401 Applied Cultural Research (3)
- ETHN 470 Women of Color (3)
- ETHN 480 Social Justice in Ethnicity & Gender (3)
- HIST 155 History of the Family in America (3)
- HIST 487 United States Women's History (4)
- HLTH 400 Women's Health (3)
- LAW 235 Women in Law Enforcement (3)
- PHIL 450 Special Topics (3)
- POL 484 Women and Politics (3)
- PSYC 460 Psychology of Women (3)
- SOWK 420 Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
- SOC 307 Sex and Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
- SOC 409 Family Violence (3)
- SOC 485 Women, Crime, and Social Control (2-6)

POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. A GPA of 2.0 is required, and a grade of "C" or better must be earned in all Women's Studies courses.

P/N Grading Policy. With the exception of workshops and internships, only two classes may be taken on a P/N basis.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WOST 110 (3) Introduction to Women's Studies

Focus is on the social construction of gender, race, class, and sexual identity. Gaps between reality and stereotypes are examined. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with Women's Studies scholarship and provide the tools to connect what one learns to one's life and to further academic study.

F, S
GE-5, 7 CD-Core

WOST 120 (3) Violence and Gender

Students will examine the gendered and systematic nature of violence. Special attention will be given to the ways in which violence against women is perpetuated through interpersonal relationships and through institutions such as schools, the judicial system, welfare policies. The effects of internalized oppressions, such as internalized sexism, racism, and homophobia will be discussed. Emphasis on feminist analysis and building skills for educating ourselves and others about constructing non-violent cultures.

F, S
GE-1C, 9

WOST 220 (3) Global Perspectives on Women and Change

Focus is on women activists in past and current social change movements in the U.S. and world; strategies and tactics which have been used to create social, political and economic change; the self as an agent of change in terms of personal empowerment and group activism; all in the context of interlocking systems of oppression.

F, S
GE-8, 9 CD-Core

WOST 230 (2-3) Assertiveness & Self Esteem

Increase awareness of human rights, including contemporary arguments about women's and children's rights; sharpen interpersonal and public communication skills as tools for building self-esteem; heighten self-confidence; develop/enhance group communication/activism skills.

S

WOST 240 (3) Rural Studies

Students will explore some of the major variables that impact the lives of rural populations. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the diversity in experiences and history in both national and international rural communities, as well as on understanding which public policies can maximize the success of rural environments.

Variable
GE-5

WOST 251 (3) Coming of Age: Gender and Culture

Students will become aware of diverse experiences of coming of age and will reflect on their own experiences. Diversity of experiences presented will include: race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic class, ability/disability and nationality.

S
GE-6, 7 CD-Core

WOST 260 (1-4) Selected Topics

Offered according to student demand and instructor availability/expertise, topics courses provide curriculum enrichment on an ongoing basis.

Variable

WOST 265 (1) Women and Spirituality

Workshop brings together people of diverse spiritual traditions and creates an atmosphere where ideas about traditions and spiritual growth can be shared.

F

WOST 277 (1-6) Individual Study

Concentrated study and research in areas of student's special interests/expertise under supervision of a faculty member.

Pre: Women's Studies major/minor F, S

WOST 290 (1-4) Workshop

Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.
Variable

WOST 295 (1) Women and Spirituality

Workshop brings together people of diverse spiritual traditions and creates an atmosphere where ideas about traditions and spiritual growth can be shared.

WOST 310 (3) Perspectives on Feminist Thought

Examine major theories of feminism and salient issues in women's movements of the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

F

WOST 320 (3) Undergraduate Seminar

Advanced topics in feminist theory and activism.
Pre: WOST 110 or 220 or consent S

WOST 430 (3) Feminist Research & Scholarship

This course explores fields of feminist research and scholarship that emerged in the 20th century with emphasis on contemporary debates about feminist methodologies. Focus will be on the relation between feminist critiques and research being done by feminist scholars in the social sciences and humanities. Students conduct original research.

Pre: WOST 110 or 220, or consent S

WOST 440 (3) Feminist Pedagogy

We explore key philosophical and methodological issues in feminist teaching with an emphasis on application of the material.

WOST 445 (3) Women and Aging

Exploration of the forces of ageism in women's lives with goal of naming and deconstructing interacting systems of oppression. Focus on work, health, sexuality, relationships and on policy issues affecting women across the life