

Gender and Women's Studies

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

Chair: Maria Bevacqua

Susan Freeman, Cheryl Radeloff, Jocelyn Fenton Stitt

The Department of Gender and Women's Studies familiarizes students with interdisciplinary feminist perspectives through coursework, internships, research, and activism. Students learn to examine the historical, social, psychological, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of gender, while gaining a more complex understanding of the construction of gender and its intersection with other categories of difference, power, and inequality. By understanding how interlocking systems of oppression function locally and internationally, students will be better situated to apply their critical thinking skills as they work toward social justice in a global society.

The department supports a variety of opportunities for personal and professional development, including a student club and honor society, community and teaching internships, workshops and conferences, and cultural events. Students are encouraged to take leadership roles in the development of special programs and to become actively involved with community and campus-based activist groups, applying feminist theory to the practice of empowering women and creating social change.

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.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

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

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES BA, BS

Required for Major (Core, 20 credits)

GWS	110	Introduction to Gender (4)
GWS	220	Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
GWS	310	Feminist Thought (4)
GWS	330	Feminist Research and Action (4)
GWS	340	Undergraduate Seminar (4)

Required for BS

GWS	497	Internship: Teaching (1-6) OR
GWS	498	Internship: Community (1-6)

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY - Language (8 credits)

Required for Major, electives, 9 credits (BS) or 13 credits (BA)

ANTH	433	ART	419	BIOL	102	CORR	444
ENG	402	ETHN	470	ETHN	480	GWS	120W
GWS	225	GWS	251	GWS	260	GWS	277
GWS	290	GWS	440	GWS	460	GWS	490
GWS	497	GWS	498	HIST	487	HLTH	400
LAW	235	PHIL	445	PSYC	460	SOWK	420
SOWK	427	SOC	307	SOC	409		

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES MINOR

Required for Minor (16 credits)

GWS	110	Introduction to Gender (4) OR
GWS	220	Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4) AND
GWS	310	Feminist Thought (4)
GWS	330	Feminist Research and Action (4)
GWS	340	Undergraduate Seminar (4)

Required for Minor (Electives, 5 credits)

ANTH	433	ART	419	BIOL	102	CORR	444
ENG	402	ETHN	470	ETHN	480	HIST	487
HLTH	400	LAW	235	PHIL	445	PSYC	460
SOWK	420	SOWK	427	SOC	307	SOC	409
GWS	120W	GWS	225	GWS	251	GWS	260
GWS	277	GWS	290	GWS	440	GWS	460
GWS	490	GWS	497	GWS	498		

Gender and Women's Studies Program Interdisciplinary Courses

ANTH	433	Anthropology of Gender (3)
ART	419	Gender in Art (3)
BIOL	102	Biology of Women (3)
CORR	444	Women in the Criminal Justice System (3)
ENG	402	General in Literature (2-4)
ETHN	470	Women of Color (3)
ETHN	480	Social Justice in Ethnicity & Gender (3)
HIST	487	United States Women's History (4)
HLTH	400	Women's Health (3)
LAW	235	Women in Law Enforcement (3)
PHIL	445	Feminist Philosophy (3)
POL	424	Women and Politics (3)
PSYC	460	Psychology of Women (3)
SOWK	420	Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK	427	Social Work and Domestic Violence (3)
SOC	307	Sex and Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC	409	Family Violence (3)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GWS 110 (4) Introduction to Gender

This course familiarizes students with the field of Gender and Women's Studies. It focuses on major questions and approaches to understanding gender alongside race, class, and sexuality, among other identity categories.

Fall, Spring, Summer
Diverse Culture - Purple
GE-5, GE-7

GWS 110W (4) Introduction to Gender

This course familiarizes students with the field of Gender and Women's Studies. It focuses on major questions and approaches to understanding gender alongside race, class, and sexuality, among other identity categories.

Fall, Spring, Summer
Diverse Culture - Purple
GE-1C, GE-5, GE-7

GWS 120 (4) Violence and Gender

We will examine the gendered systemic, and institutional nature of violence. We will seek to understand and prevent gender-based violence: sexual assault and harassment, intimate partner abuse, and hate crimes. We will think critically about gender, oppression, and privilege.

Fall, Spring, Summer
Diverse Cultures - Purple
GE-9

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

GWS 120W (4) Violence and Gender

We will examine the gendered systemic, and institutional nature of violence. We will seek to understand and prevent gender-based violence: sexual assault and harassment, intimate partner abuse, and hate crimes. We will think critically about gender, oppression, and privilege.

Fall, Spring, Summer
Diverse Cultures - Purple
GE-1C, GE-9

GWS 220 (4) Global Perspectives on Women and Change

This course will examine women's lives and activism, past and present, throughout the world. We will explore and evaluate individual and collective efforts to achieve social justice in the context of interlocking systems of oppression.

Fall, Spring, Summer
Diverse Cultures - Purple
GE-8, GE-9

GWS 220W (4) Global Perspectives on Women and Change

This course will examine women's lives and activism, past and present, throughout the world. We will explore and evaluate individual and collective efforts to achieve social justice in the context of interlocking systems of oppression.

Fall, Spring, Summer
Diverse Cultures - Purple
GE-1C, GE-8, GE-9

GWS 225 (4) Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies

An introduction to the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and identities, including challenges to homophobia and heterosexism. We will explore social and historical constructions of LGBT identities as they vary across ethnic, class, and gender lines.

Fall, Spring
GE-5, GE-7

GWS 225W (4) Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies

An introduction to the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and identities, including challenges to homophobia and heterosexism. We will explore social and historical constructions of LGBT identities as they vary across ethnic, class, and gender lines.

Fall, Spring
GE-1C, GE-5, GE-7

GWS 251 (4) Coming of Age: Gender and Culture

This course explores the gendered coming-of-age experience in different time periods and cultures. Students will learn and apply tools from women's studies to analyze the impact of gender, race, class, and sexuality on childhood, adolescence and adulthood.

Fall, Spring
GE-6, GE-7

GWS 260 (1-4) Selected Topics

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

Variable

GWS 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.

Fall

GWS 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
Fall, Spring

GWS 290 (1-4) Workshop

Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.

Variable

GWS 310 (4) Feminist Thought

This course will introduce you to major theories of feminism as well as key issues in contemporary feminist thought. Students will have an opportunity to advance their own feminist thinking through engagement with a diversity of theoretical perspectives on gender.

Fall

GWS 330 (4) Feminist Research and Action

This course examines fundamentals of feminist research and the relationship between theory and practice. Students will engage philosophical and methodological questions about the production of knowledge; learn concrete research skills; and complete individual research/action projects.

Spring

GWS 340 (4) Undergraduate Seminar

Advanced topics in women's and gender studies.

Pre: GWS 110 or GWS 220 or consent

Spring

GWS 440 (3) Feminist Pedagogy

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

GWS 455 (3) Politics of Sexuality

This course explores the interconnections between sex, gender, and sexuality, with special attention to how institutions and communities shape experience and identity.

GWS 460 (1-4) Selected Topics

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

Variable

GWS 477 (1-6) Individual Study

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

Pre: Must be department major/minor

Fall, Spring

GWS 490 (1-4) Workshop

Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.

Variable

GWS 497 (1-6) Internship: Teaching

Students assist a faculty member in teaching GWS 110 or GWS 220.

(Complete course handbook available from: cynthia.veldhuisen@mnsu.edu)

Pre: GWS 110 or GWS 220 and consent.

GWS 498 (1-6) Internship: Community

The Women's Studies internship provides students with the opportunity to gain experience within an on-campus, off-campus private, public or community organization. This internship provides a means for pursuing an interest in a field of work, or within a particular organization; gaining work and/or activist experience and practical skills; making appropriate contacts which might be useful in establishing a future career.