

## Gender and Women's Studies

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

Chair: Maria Bevacqua

Laura Harrison, Shannon Miller, 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

#### Major Common Core

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)

#### Internship

(Choose 4 credits from the following)

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

#### Major Restricted Electives

(Choose a minimum of 9 credits from the following)

AIS	240	American Indian Women (3)
AIS	240W	American Indian Women (3)
ANTH	432	Kinship, Marriage and Family (3)
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	Gender in Literature (2-4)
ETHN	470	Women of Color (3)
GWS	120	Violence and Gender (4)
GWS	120W	Violence and Gender (4)

GWS	225	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS	225W	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS	230	Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)
GWS	251	Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
GWS	251W	Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
GWS	260	Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS	265	Women and Spirituality (1)
GWS	277	Individual Study (1-6)
GWS	290	Workshop (1-4)
GWS	440	Feminist Pedagogy (3)
GWS	455	Politics of Sexuality (3)
GWS	460	Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS	477	Individual Study (1-6)
GWS	490	Workshop (1-4)
HIST	155	History of the Family in America (3)
HIST	408	History of Women in Preindustrial Europe (4)
HIST	487	United States Women's History (4)
HLTH	400	Women's Health (3)
LAWE	235	Women in Law Enforcement (3)
PHIL	445	Feminist Philosophy (3)
POL	424	Women & Politics (3)
PSYC	460W	Psychology of Women (3)
SOC	209	Sociology of Human Sexualities (3)
SOC	307	Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC	409	Family Violence (3)
SOC	420	Identity Work in Women's Reentry Experiences (3)
SOWK	420	Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK	427	Social Work and Domestic Violence (3)

#### Other Graduation Requirements

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

**Required Minor: Yes. Any.**

### GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES BS

#### Major Common Core

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)

#### Internship

(Choose 4 credits from the following)

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

#### Major Restricted Electives

(Choose a minimum of 9 credits from the following)

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AIS	240W	American Indian Women (3)
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CORR	444	Women in the Criminal Justice System (3)
ENG	402	Gender in Literature (2-4)
ETHN	470	Women of Color (3)
GWS	120	Violence and Gender (4)
GWS	120W	Violence and Gender (4)
GWS	225	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS	225W	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS	230	Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)
GWS	251	Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
GWS	251W	Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)

## GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

GWS	260	Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS	265	Women and Spirituality (1)
GWS	277	Individual Study (1-6)
GWS	290	Workshop (1-4)
GWS	440	Feminist Pedagogy (3)
GWS	455	Politics of Sexuality (3)
GWS	460	Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS	477	Individual Study (1-6)
GWS	490	Workshop (1-4)
HIST	155	History of the Family in America (3)
HIST	408	History of Women in Preindustrial Europe (4)
HIST	487	United States Women's History (4)
HLTH	400	Women's Health (3)
LAW	235	Women in Law Enforcement (3)
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PSYC	460W	Psychology of Women (3)
SOC	209	Sociology of Human Sexualities (3)
SOC	307	Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC	409	Family Violence (3)
SOC	420	Identity Work in Women's Reentry Experiences (3)
SOWK	420	Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK	427	Social Work and Domestic Violence (3)

**Required Minor: Yes. Any.**

### GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES MINOR

#### **Minor Core (16 credits)**

Minors choose between GWS 110, GWS 110W and GWS 220, GWS 220W. If both are taken, one can be applied toward electives.

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

#### **Minor Electives**

(Choose a minimum of 5 credits from the following).

AIS	240	American Indian Women (3)
AIS	240W	American Indian Women (3)
ANTH	432	Kinship, Marriage and Family (3)
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	Gender in Literature (2-4)
ETHN	470	Women of Color (3)
GWS	120	Violence and Gender (4)
GWS	120W	Violence and Gender (4)
GWS	225	Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS	225W	Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS	230	Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)
GWS	251	Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
GWS	251W	Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
GWS	260	Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS	265	Women and Spirituality (1)
GWS	277	Individual Study (1-6)
GWS	290	Workshop (1-4)
GWS	440	Feminist Pedagogy (3)
GWS	455	Politics of Sexuality (3)
GWS	460	Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS	477	Individual Study (1-6)
GWS	490	Workshop (1-4)
GWS	497	Internship: Teaching (1-6)
GWS	498	Internship: Community (1-6)
HIST	155	History of the Family in America (3)
HIST	408	History of Women in Preindustrial Europe (4)

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 & Politics (3)
PSYC	460	Psychology of Women (3)
SOC	209	Sociology of Human Sexualities (3)
SOC	307	Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC	409	Family Violence (3)
SOC	420	Identity Work in Women's Reentry Experiences (3)
SOWK	420	Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK	427	Social Work and Domestic 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

GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Culture - Purple

#### **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

WI, GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Culture - Purple

#### **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

GE-9

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### **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

WI, GE-9

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### **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

GE-8, GE-9

Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### **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

WI, GE-8, GE-9

Diverse Cultures - Purple

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## GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

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### **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

Diverse Cultures - Gold

### **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

WI, GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Culture - Gold

### **GWS 230 (4) Gender, Race, and Popular Culture**

Explores how popular culture shapes and mirrors our understandings of gender and sexuality and their intersections with race and class. Critically examines representations of gender and race in popular culture forms such as film, television, music, books, and the internet.

On-Demand

GE-2, GE-6

Diverse Cultures - Purple

### **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

Diverse Culture - Purple

### **GWS 251W (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 gender and women's studies to analyze the impact of gender, race, class, and sexuality on childhood, adolescence and adulthood.

Fall, Spring

WI, GE-6, GE-7

Diverse Culture - Purple

### **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](mailto:cynthia.veldhuisen@mnsu.edu))

Pre: GWS 110 or GWS 220 and consent.

### **GWS 498 (1-6) Internship: Community**

The Gender and 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.