

# GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES BA, BS AND MINORS

## Gender and Women's Studies

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

Chair: Shannon J. Miller

Faculty: Maria Bevacqua, Laura Harrison, Ana Perez

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.

Accelerated Combined Degree (BA/BS and MA/MS). Students interested in receiving both their undergraduate and graduate degrees in GWS at Minnesota State Mankato, may apply to the Department for admission into the Accelerated Graduate Program. Interested majors may apply upon the completion of 60 credits if they have a minimum GPA of 3.0. If accepted, students will work with an advisor to design an accelerated program in which up to 12 credits of 500-level courses can be applied to both their undergraduate and graduate programs. If accepted, students must maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA overall and a 3.0 in the major to continue in the program. Interested students should contact the Department for more information.

### Academic Map/Degree Plan at [www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All](http://www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All)

#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

**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.

**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/NC basis.

#### GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES BA

Degree completion = 120 credits

##### Major Common Core

|     |     |                                  |
|-----|-----|----------------------------------|
| GWS | 110 | Introduction to Gender (4)       |
| GWS | 220 | Sex and Gender Worldwide (4)     |
| GWS | 310 | Feminist Thought (4)             |
| GWS | 330 | Feminist Research and Action (4) |
| GWS | 340 | Undergraduate Seminar (4)        |

##### Major Restricted Electives

(choose a minimum of 13 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   | 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)  |
| LAWVE | 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)   |
| 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

Degree completion = 120 credits

##### Major Common Core

|   |     |                                  |
|---|-----|----------------------------------|
| GWS   | 110 | Introduction to Gender (4)       |
| GWS   | 220 | Sex and Gender Worldwide (4)     |
| GWS   | 310 | Feminist Thought (4)             |
| GWS   | 330 | Feminist Research and Action (4) |
| GWS   | 340 | Undergraduate Seminar (4)        |
| <i>Internship</i> (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)                               |

## GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES CONTINUED

|      |      |  |
|------|------|--|
| GWS  | 260  | Selected Topics (1-4)                        |
| 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)                          |
| 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  | Sex and Gender Worldwide (4)     |
| GWS | 220W | Sex and Gender Worldwide (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  | 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)  |
| LAWE | 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)            |

### SEXUALITY STUDIES MINOR

The Sexuality Studies minor is an interdisciplinary course of study designed to complement any major. The objective of the curriculum is to develop a critical framework for understanding social justice by examining how sexual practices, expressions, identities, and representations are shaped by social, anthropological, historical, psychological, legal, sociological, and political contexts. Under the coordination of the Department of Gender and Women's Studies, the minor focuses on issues of social ethics and sexuality, including the impact of cultural inequality on sexual well-being and sexual health.

#### Minor Core

|                                       |     |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---|
| GWS                                   | 225 | Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4) |
| GWS                                   | 230 | Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)                               |
| GWS                                   | 455 | Politics of Sexuality (3)   |
| PSYC                                  | 205 | Psychology of Sexual Health (3)                                     |
| SOC                                   | 209 | Sociology of Human Sexualities (3)                                  |
| (choose one of the following courses) |     |   |
| ANTH                                  | 269 | Anthropology of Sex (3)   |
| ANTH                                  | 340 | Language and Power (4)  |
| SOC                                   | 307 | Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (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) Sex and Gender Worldwide

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) Sex and Gender Worldwide**

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

### **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 Cultures - 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 Cultures - 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 Cultures - 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 277 (1-6) Individual Study**

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

Prerequisite: 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 330W (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

WI

### **GWS 340 (4) Undergraduate Seminar**

Advanced topics in women's and gender studies.

Prerequisite: GWS 110 or GWS 220 or consent

Spring

### **GWS 411 (4) Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy**

Students will learn about the legal, cultural, and political factors that contribute to sexual assault and gendered violence. This course will combine hands-on training in activism from course instructors and community members in the field of sexual assault advocacy, as well as a background in theories of gender and sexual assault. Sexual assault advocates provide confidential services to victims of sexual violence, including hospital and legal advocacy, crisis counseling, and emotional support. Students who satisfactorily complete 40 hours of training will be certified as sexual assault advocates at the end of the semester.

On Demand: Fall, 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.

Prerequisite: 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))

Prerequisite: 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.