WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Women’s and Gender Studies focuses on issues of identity and systems of power, through reflection on personal, social and historical realities.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Specifically, women’s and gender studies connects theory to self-awareness and social responsibility. Whereas historically, the voices of women and other minorities (including feminist men) have been muted, women’s and gender studies puts these voices at the center of the curriculum.

WGS Sample ELECTIVE COURSES:

Examples of Arts and Humanities that count towards a Women’s and Gender Studies major/minor:

• Christian Feminism
• Black Feminist Thought
• 20th-21st Century Dance History and Criticism
• Sexual Ethics
• Women, Gender and Sexuality in U.S. History
• Africana Womanism: Origins, Legacies

Examples of Social Sciences courses that count towards a Women’s and Gender Studies major/minor:

• Gender Communication
• Gender, Conflict and Peace
• Human Sexuality
• Psychology of Gender
• Sociology of Gender
• Intergroup Dialogue

MAJORS

Women’s And Gender Studies

The Women’s and Gender Studies major consists of 32 credits. All students must take 16 credits of core courses:
• WGS 160 – Women in a Global Society
• WGS 200 – Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
• WGS 350 – Feminist Visions of Justice: Feminist Theory and Methodology
• WGS 494 – Keystone Seminar

The remaining 16 credits are to be a balance of electives from Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences (at least one course from each division), which must be chosen in consultation with the WGS director.

MINORS

Women’s And Gender Studies

The Women’s and Gender Studies minor consists of 20 credits. All students take WGS 200 – Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies and choose two out of the three following core courses:

• WGS 160 – Women in a Global Society
• WGS 350 – Feminist Visions of Justice: Theory and Methodology
• WGS 494 – Keystone Seminar

The remaining 8 credits are to be a balance of electives from Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences (at least one course from each division), which must be chosen in consultation with the WGS director.
COURSES

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

WGS 160 - Women in a Global Society
This course seeks to investigate the broad spectrum of women's movements that thrive across the developing world. Particular emphasis is on globalization and development as well as women's interaction with neo-liberal economics. Third World feminist and womanist theories will be examined. Students will also encounter the impact that culture and politics play on women in the developing world. Cross-listed with Pol 160.

Credits Awarded: 4
Terms Offered: Once a Year
Attributes: Global Learning International (GLI), Social Science 1 (SS1)

WGS 195 - Women's & Gender Studies Topic
A course offered in response to student and instructor interest. Topics are not generally covered in the regular course listings. Course may be taken multiple times if topics are different.

Credits Awarded: 1-4
Terms Offered: As Needed

WGS 200 - Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
In this course, students will explore and assess their own assumptions about gender, and examine the effects of sexism on all people. We will study historical and contemporary texts by diverse authors. At the heart of feminist pedagogy, students are encouraged to teach and learn from one another. Students will be challenged to grow and support communal growth in shaping a world free of power-divisions based on gender, race, class, citizenship, and country of origin.

Credits Awarded: 4
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring
Attribute: Global Learning Domestic (GLD)

WGS 295 - Special Studies
A course offered in response to student and instructor interest. Topics are not generally covered in the regular course listings. Course may be taken multiple times if topics are different.

Credits Awarded: 2-4
Terms Offered: As Needed

WGS 350 - Feminist Visions of Justice: Theory and Methodology
This course looks at feminist visions of justice, including ideas that impact students' lives, the larger communities in which we live, as well as in the world. Students examine their own theories and study those of feminist scholars, practitioners and activists. Emphasis is placed on contemporary issues and practices.

Credits Awarded: 4
Terms Offered: Fall
Attributes: Global Learning Domestic (GLD), Social Science 2 (SS2)
WGS 395 - Special Studies
A course offered in response to student and instructor interest. Topics are not generally covered in the regular course listings. Course may be taken multiple times if topics are different.
Credits Awarded: 1-4
Terms Offered: As Needed

WGS 490 - Independent Projects
An in-depth independent study of women’s and gender issues or other topics analyzed from a feminist perspective or a project designed to bring about systemic change.
Credits Awarded: 1-4
Terms Offered: As Needed

WGS 494 - Keystone Seminar
A course designed to examine feminist perspectives in practice and support projects on women's and gender issues.
Credits Awarded: 4
Terms Offered: Spring

WGS 496 - Internship Program in Women's and Gender Studies
An internship in women's and gender studies with the Philadelphia Center, Washington Semester, Chicago Semester, or a placement in West Michigan approved by the director of women's and gender studies. Placement is coupled with a feminist analysis of the internship site and the student’s experience.
Credits Awarded: 1-4
Terms Offered: As Needed

FACULTY & STAFF

André, Dr. María
Professor of Spanish (1994)
Ph.D., SUNY University at Albany, 1995
B.A., Universidad del Salvador, 1982

Beard, Dr. Virginia
Associate Professor of Political Science (2007)
Ph.D., Michigan State University, 2006
MPA, Michigan State University, 2005
B.A., Calvin University, 2000

Bredow, Dr. Carrie
Associate Professor of Psychology (2012)
Ph.D., University of Texas Austin, 2012
M.A., University of Texas Austin, 2008
B.S., Central Michigan University, 2005

Dandavati, Dr. Annie
Professor of Political Science (1992)
Ph.D., University of Denver, 1992
M.A., Jawaharlal Nehru University, 1987
B.A., Jesus & Mary College, 1985

Farmer, Matthew
Associate Professor of Dance, Department Chair (2000)
MFA, University of Michigan, 2007
B.A., Hope College, 2004
Japinga, Rev. Dr. Lynn  
Professor of Religion (1988)  
Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary, 1992  
M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1984  
B.A., Hope College, 1981

Johnston, Dr. Deirdre  
Interim Associate Dean for Global Education, Professor of Communication (1994)  
Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1988  
M.A., University of Texas Austin, 1985  
B.A., Drake University, 1983

Kornfield, Dr. Sarah  
Associate Professor of Communication (2015)  
Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, 2012  
M.A., Texas A&M Univ College Sta*, 2009  
B.A., Wheaton College, 2007

Petit, Dr. Jeanne  
Professor of History, Department Chair (2000)  
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, 2000  
M.A., University of Notre Dame, 1993  
B.A., Knox College, 1992

Salah, Dr. Christiana  
Assistant Professor of English (2017)  
Ph.D., University of Connecticut, 2016  
M.A., University of Connecticut, 2010  
MFA, Emerson College, 2005  
B.A., Colby College, 2003

Swanson, Dr. Debra  
Professor of Sociology, Department Chair (1989)  
Ph.D., Catholic University of America, 1995  
M.A., Catholic University of America, 1988  
B.A., Hope College, 1983