

Women's Studies

THE DIRECTOR

Emily Culpepper (2007-08)

Jennifer Nelson (2008-09)

THE FACULTY COMMITTEE

Kelly Hankin, Johnston, Media Studies

Kathy Ogren, Johnston, History

Patricia L. Wasielewski, Women's Studies and Sociology

Kimberly Welch, Women's Studies, Latin American Studies

FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

There are also diverse faculty and administrators who work with Women's Studies by offering cross-listed courses, sponsoring internships or directed studies, and advising the program on projects.

THE PROGRAM

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program that brings together diverse sources of research, analysis, insight, and experience to examine women's concerns and gender issues. The rapid pace of change in current societies includes major shifts in the power, social circumstances, ideas, needs, and desires of women, men, and children. Women's Studies is multiracial and multicultural. Women's Studies courses may explore specific or wide-ranging areas, as well as historical background and controversial topics.

A Women's Studies major or minor can equip students to better understand and actively participate in social changes. This course of study can lead to many different paths including preparation for professional specialization in diverse fields (such as law, government, psychology, social work, education, medicine, the arts, religion, and business), public service work and activism, and a clearer comprehension of personal and global issues. Women's Studies is grounded in valuing knowledge from both analysis and experience. Women's Studies courses embody a commitment to shared approaches to learning.

THE MAJOR

We are an interdisciplinary program offering both courses carrying the WMST designation and cross-listed courses from many departments.

Requirements for the Major (48 credits)

I. Foundation (4 credits)
WMST 150 required.

II. Theory & Activism (8 credits)
At least one theory course and one activism course required.
Theory courses include: WMST 340, WMST 350, ECON 340, GOVT 317, PHIL 310, PSYC 320, SOAN 342, and others approved by the Director.
Activism courses include: WMST 140, WMST 230, WMST 427, Exploratory Internships (WMST 180, 280), Specialized Internships (WMST 380, 480), and others approved by the Director.

III. Methods
At least one 4-credit course must be a WMST methods course or other methods course appropriate to the focus of the Concentration Area, chosen in consultation with the student's WMST advisor.

IV. Concentration Area (24 credits)
Majors design a Concentration Area in consultation with their WMST advisor. Concentrations fall under one of three Areas:
(1) Diverse Constructions of Gender,
(2) Theorizing Gender, or
(3) Doing Gender

IV. Capstone (8 credits)
WMST 459 Senior Seminar:
all majors enroll in the fall of their senior year, for 4-credits.
WMST Senior Project:
all majors complete an Independent Senior Project (WMST 470) or WMST

499 Honors Research Project in the spring of their senior year, for 4-credits.

THE MINOR

The minor consists of 24 credits. Students are required to take WMST 150 as a core interdisciplinary course. Students may shape the minor to enhance their major program and can do so in consultation with the director or other members of the Faculty Advisory Committee.

Registration Information

Each semester at registration, then later at check-in, the Women's Studies Program provides a current list of WMST and Cross-listed courses for the coming term. Because the Women's Studies Program is growing and new courses (including Johnston courses and special topics courses in various departments) are likely to be added, this list always will have the most current course offerings. Current WMST course listings are available in Larsen Hall 207 and from the director, and are distributed to every faculty advisor. They also are posted on the Women's Studies bulletin board next to Larsen 220.

Directed Study and Internships

Students can design a course of Directed Study, WMST 170, 270, 370, and 470, with the director or with other WMST faculty members in consultation with the director, whose signature is required on the Individualized Study form. Internships—both Exploratory (WMST 180, 280) and Specialized (WMST 380, 480)—offer the opportunity for learning more about particular employment and community service settings. Internships can also be student-initiated and negotiated with the director.

Internships are available each Fall and Spring semester:

WMST 180.01 San Bernardino Sexual Assault Services (4).

WMST 180.02 Battered Women's Shelter (2-4). Training to become a volunteer for Option House Shelter for battered women and their children.

WMST 180.03 Women's Center (2-4). Activities on staff of the campus

Women's Center. Specific focus negotiated with student facilitators of the Women's Center and WMST faculty advisor to the center.

WMST 180.04-.09 Student proposed (2-4).

Cross-listed Courses

These courses are described by their own departments. Check the appropriate departmental listings for full descriptions and prerequisites, if any. They are regularly applicable to Women's Studies and may be counted automatically toward the minor. These courses concentrate entirely or significantly on women's or gender issues.

ECON 340 Economics of Race and Gender

ENGL 138 Literature by U.S. Women of Color

ENGL 139 Chicana/o Literature

ENGL 217 Images of Women in Literature

GOVT 305 Sex, Power, and Politics

GOVT 317 Feminist Political Theory

HIST 326 Primary Witness in Women's History

JNST Feminist Film Activism

JNST Forbidden Love: Literatures of Lesbian Desire

JNST Gay, Lesbian, and Queer Cinemas

LAST 101 Introduction to Latin American Studies

LAST 140 Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in Latin America

LAST 230 Black Women Writers of the Americas

PHIL 310 Philosophy and Feminism

PSYC 320 Psychology of Gender

REL 131 Religions of America

REL 245 Lesbians, Gays, and Religious Controversies

REL 251 Women, Sexuality, and Western Religion

REL 351 Women and Buddhism

REST 232 Representing Race and Ethnicity in Film

SOAN 335 Sociology of the Family

SOAN 342 Gender and Sexuality

Negotiable Courses

Occasionally additional courses and individualized studies from other departments also may be counted as Women's Studies courses.

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Such a course would include significant attention to women's or gender issues and offer the opportunity for focusing a research paper or project on such issues.

In a negotiable course, students must clarify with the instructor (at the beginning of the semester) their plans to have their work credited toward the major or minor. Students also should discuss their intentions to focus research papers or projects on women's studies issues. Negotiable courses must be approved by the director of Women's Studies for credit toward the WMST major or minor.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (WMST)

120 Women's Issues. Fall (4).

Introductory survey of issues important to women and that affect women's lives, including positions in family and society, politics and economics, women's health, belief systems, etc. Topics change depending on the instructor, but will introduce students to women's studies in a broad-based and interdisciplinary fashion. Offered as needed. NU and EV only.

130 Sexuality Education, Birth Control, Abortion: Current Struggles. Spring (4).

Women's knowledge of their bodies, esp. concerning sexuality and reproduction, is a primary issue for women's well-being. This course focuses on current controversies over sexuality education, birth control, abortion, and related issues. NU and EV only.

140 Feminist Campus Activism. Spring (4).

This course serves as an introduction to a wide variety of readings about feminist campus activism. We will talk about what it means to be an activist, what feminism means to each of us, and how to combine activism and feminism. The second part of the class will be spent executing your feminist activist project. Offered in alternate years. NU and EV only.

150 Introduction to Women's Studies. Fall (4).

An interdisciplinary approach to introduce students to the area of Women's Studies. This might be the first time you have considered what it would mean to think about women as a general group and to look into what that might mean for understanding knowledge produced by them and about them. NU and EV only.

165, 265, 365 Special Topics in Women's Studies.

Fall (2–4), Spring (2–4), May Term (2–3). Topics of current interest in women's studies. May be repeated for a maximum of 8 degree credits given a different topic. Offered every Spring and other semesters as needed.

210 African American Women's History. Fall (4).

Offers an introduction to African American women's history, exploring the most recently published scholarship on a range of nineteenth- and twentieth-century topics, from the historical symbolism of Africa to the meaning of work, health, community movements, and sexuality in the history women of African descent in the United States. Offered in alternate years. NU and EV only.

220 Comparative Feminism. Fall (4).

Compares feminism in the United States during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with feminism on a global scale. The non-United States segment of the course will focus on countries with active indigenous feminist movements. Is there a global movement for women's rights? Are women's rights also human rights? What parallels can we draw between the movement in the U.S. and indigenous movements happening outside of the U.S.? Do all women's rights activists call themselves feminist? NU and EV only.

227 Women in Society. Fall (4) or Spring (4).

Application of a sociological perspective to the study of women. Review of current information about women's positions in U.S.

society with special attention to differences in class, race and ethnicity, and political ideology. Theories of power, discrimination, self-concept, and social action as applied to women's experiences. Prerequisite: WMST 150 or SOAN 100 or 102. Offered as needed.

230 Feminist Community Engagement. Fall (4).

Explores the connections between theory and practice with academic readings on activism and community building and student experiences as interns or community activists with non-profit organizations. Possible topics for projects are sexual violence, battering, poverty among women, self defense, women and the law, reproductive rights, or women's health issues. Offered in alternate years. NU and EV only.

232 History of Sexuality in the United States. Spring (4).

Explores the understandings of sexuality from the colonial period to present, charting both the development of sexuality as a concept and the explosion of discussion about it. Topics include prostitution, rape, birth control, abortion, courting rituals, sexual revolution, women's liberation, sexual identity, and campaigns for lesbian and gay rights. Offered in alternate years. NU and EV only.

235 History of Women in the United States: Twentieth Century. Spring (4).

Examines recent research on the private and public lives of women from 1880 to the present with attention to the differences among women of varied regional, racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Covers significant themes in women's history, including work inside and outside the household, reform movements, immigration, sexuality, and feminism. Offered in alternate years. NU and EV only.

245 Mothers and Daughters in American Popular Culture. Fall (4).

Examines how the question of the representation of motherhood and the mother/daughter relationship is influenced

by American popular culture since 1945. Analyzes how cultural concepts of motherhood and the mother/daughter bond reflect issues regarding ethnicity, class, sexuality, and generational differences. Offered as needed. NU and EV only.

249 Chickflicks: Women Filmmakers. Spring (4).

Focuses on the rich tradition of women directors who have made their marks on film history and audiences. Students will focus on the films of a number of prominent female directors from a range of historical time periods, cinema traditions, and national film industries. NU and EV only.

250 Women and Popular Protest in Latin America. Spring (4).

Explores how contemporary Latin American women activists influence the political, social, and economic forces within their respective nations through mass mobilization and guerrilla movements. Offered as needed. NU and EV only.

253 Third Wave Feminism. Spring (4).

Students will read the writings of the contemporary feminist movement referred to as the Third Wave. We will discuss whether the Third Wave can be distinguished from the Second Wave movement. Theoretical material, media (films and TV shows), and personal testimony of feminist action will be included. Offered as needed. NU and EV only.

255 City of Women. Spring (4).

Analyzes the historical and literary discourse on the socioeconomic and cultural aspects of urban migration and settlement for working-class women to and within the United States. Investigates the impact of warfare, economic adversity, and political upheaval on Latin American women's migration to the United States. Offered as needed. NU and EV only.

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256 Women and Witchcraft in America. Fall (4).

Examines the significance of gender, class, sexuality, and ethnicity in the history of witchcraft in America, from the colonial period to the present. Studies how the constructions of gender and sexuality shape the history of witchcraft in America. NU and EV only.

320 Mediating Cultures: Latina Literature. Fall (4).

Exploration of the notion of utopia and borderlands in literature by Latina writers. Students read a variety of contemporary authors with attention to the theoretical and literary forms in which they found expression. Offered in alternate years.

325 Women, Writing, and Resistance. Fall (4).

Analyzes how women's nonfiction writing challenges racism, sexism, and imperialism while offering a unique feminist critique of globalization and the "New World Order." Investigates these issues through a critical reading of classic and contemporary works by women activists in the United States, Africa, and Latin America. Offered as needed. NU and EV only.

330 Feminist Research Methods. Fall (4).

Students learn how feminist scholars rethink analytic paradigms and create new theoretical models to guide their work. Examination of how knowledge is constructed and deployed, how interdisciplinary feminist perspectives inform research methods, what the practical implications are of those methods, and how feminist analysis redefines traditional categories and disciplinary concepts. Prerequisite: sophomore status or above. Offered in alternate years. NU only.

340 Contemporary Feminist Theory. Spring (4).

Survey of recent theoretical approaches in feminism exploring causes of women's oppression and strategies for liberation.

Includes theory by liberals, socialist feminists, radical feminists, and by women of color. Examination of issues of sex and gender together with racial, cultural, and economic factors. Themes and titles vary. Offered in alternate years. NU and EV only.

350 Feminist Ethics. Spring (4).

Examination of women as moral agents and the question of whether women approach ethics in a different voice. Themes vary. Prerequisite, one of the following: WMST 130, 150, 330 or permission. Offered as needed.

427 Women in Collective Action. Fall (4) or Spring (4).

Study of contemporary and historical examples of women affecting change in society. Examination of theories of social movements and change as applied to women's efforts politically and culturally to transform the social order. Examples drawn from the United States and other countries. Prerequisites: WMST 150, WMST 227, or permission. Offered as needed.

459 Senior Seminar. Fall (2-4).

Students synthesize and reflect on their interdisciplinary women's studies learning. All students design and develop a research paper or project. Those who are women's studies majors do so in consultation also with their women's studies advisor, and plan for a Directed Study to complete their paper or project in spring. Prerequisites: WMST 150, two 200-level courses (WMST or Cross-listed), one 300-400-level course (WMST or Cross-listed), and senior standing, or permission.