

# Women's Studies Program

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The Women's Studies Program offers the Women's and Gender Studies minor to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of gender issues and the position of women in society. The program encourages a historically grounded comparative, global feminist perspective. All courses are informed by theories of the social construction of gender and address issues of diversity including race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, nationality, age, and/or ability. The program emphasizes an interactive learning process and promotes scholarly research. **Students may minor in one of two tracks: Women's Studies or Gender Studies.**

Upon selecting the Women's and Gender Studies minor, students should complete a Minor Information Form and obtain advising through the program director.

## General Requirements

All students considering a minor in Women's and Gender Studies should take WMST 2100 as part of General Education requirements. All minors (both tracks) must also take WMST 4500 (completion of WMST 2100 and junior/senior standing required) plus 12 additional hours within an interdisciplinary structure as described below.

### Women's Studies Track

The Women's Studies track focuses on women's lives, thoughts, and social positions. The track consists of courses taught from a feminist perspective, within historical and contemporary contexts, incorporating multinational, multicultural, and multiracial points of view.

In addition to WMST 2100 and 4500, minors taking the Women's Studies track must complete one additional program (WMST) course plus 9 hours of electives from the full list below. Students may take no more than 3 hours per major field/department.

### Gender Studies Track

The Gender Studies track consists of courses that take a feminist approach to offer students knowledge and experience that facilitate intelligent and informed choice and communication regarding the socially constructed meaning of gender and gender issues within our multicultural, globalized society.

In addition to WMST 2100 and 4500, minors taking the Gender Studies track must complete either SOC 3400 or ANTH

3750 and 6 hours of electives from the following courses: ANTH 3710 ("Language and Gender" only); ANTH 3750 (if not taken for above requirement); CDFS/SOC 4140; CDFS 4340; COMM 3225; COMM 4800 ("Gayspeak, Communication, and Film" only); EMC/JOUR 4800 ("Race and Gender in the Mass Media" only); ENGL 3885; SOC 3400 (if not taken for above requirement); WMST 4213 ("Gender and Horror"); plus 3 hours from the full list of courses below.

### Program

WMST 2100 Introduction to Women's Studies  
(required for all minors)

*Students should choose WMST 2100 as part of the General Education requirement under Social/Behavioral Sciences.*

WMST 2500 Women and Leadership  
WMST 3000 Women's Leadership Conference Practicum A  
WMST 3001 Women's Leadership Conference Practicum B  
WMST 3500 Women in the Media  
WMST 3900 Women in Transnational Perspective  
WMST 4200 Symposium in Women's Studies (series)  
WMST 4500 Feminist Theory (required for all minors)  
WMST 4900 Independent Study

### Departmental

Not all sections of a given course will earn Women's and Gender Studies credit; see online schedule for each term's approved offerings.

ANTH 3710 Topics in Anthropology (approved topics only)  
ANTH 3750 Race, Class, and Gender  
ART 4000 (approved topics only)  
ART 4910 Women in Art  
CDFS 4140 Violence in the Family  
CDFS 4340 The Contemporary Family  
CJA 3700 Women, Crime, and Justice Administration  
COMM 3225 Gender Communication  
COMM 4800 Special Topics in Communication (approved topics only)  
ENGL 2020 Themes in Literature and Culture (approved topics only)  
ENGL 3720 Early Women Writers  
ENGL 3725 Nineteenth-Century Women Writers  
ENGL 3730 Women Writers of the Twentieth Century  
ENGL 3735 Black Women as Writers  
ENGL 3880 Women and Film  
ENGL 3885 Gender in Film  
ENGL 4900 Selected Topics in Literature and Language  
(approved topics only)  
ENGL 4950 Special Topics in Contemporary Literature  
(approved topics only)  
FREN 3130 Twentieth-Century Women Writers in French  
HIST 1020 Survey Western Civilization II (approved topics only)  
HIST 3030 Topics in African American History (approved topics only)  
HIST 4770 Women in America to 1890  
HIST 4780 Women in America Since 1890  
HIST 4790 Women in Europe Since 1700  
HIST 4810 History of Women in the Third World  
HLTH 4390 Women's Health  
HUM 2610 Foreign Literature in Translation (approved topics only)  
HUM 3950 Women in the Middle Ages  
JOUR/EMC 4800 Seminar in Media Issues (approved topics only)  
PHIL 4800 Readings in Philosophy: Feminist Epistemology  
PS 3000 The Political Status of Women in the World  
PS 3010 Women and the Law  
PSY 4620 Psychology of Women  
SOC 3400 Gender and Society  
SOC 4030 Topics in Aging Studies (approved topics only)  
SOC 4150 Topics in Sociology (approved topics only)  
SW 3050 Women and Poverty  
THEA 3870 Women in Theatre

## Courses in Women's Studies [WMST]

**2100 Introduction to Women's Studies.** Three credits. Designed to inform and enlighten students about the lives and history of diverse women and the social construction of gender. Areas of study may include work, the family, health, sexuality, violence in women's lives, images of women, and feminist activism. **Required for all Women's and Gender Studies minors.**

**2500 Women and Leadership.** Three credits. An exploration of the concepts of leadership and followership through historical, contemporary, and personal perspectives as they apply to women. Provides an opportunity to examine, evaluate, and enhance personal leadership skills. WMST 2100 is recommended as a prerequisite but not required.

**3000 Women's Leadership Conference Practicum A.** Three credits. Prerequisites: WMST 2100 and permission of instructor. WMST 2500 recommended but not required. Theory and concepts of women's leadership through participation in major women's conference. Provides an opportunity to engage in creative planning, decision-making, and collaborative and experiential learning and to assume significant responsibility for conference related to women's issues. No more than 6 hours of practicum and independent study may count toward the Women's and Gender Studies minor.

**3001 Women's Leadership Conference Practicum B.** Three credits. Prerequisites: WMST 2100, 3000, and permission of instructor. WMST 2500 recommended but not required. Theory and concepts of women's leadership through participation in major women's conference. Provides an opportunity to engage in creative planning, decision-making, and collaborative and experiential learning and to assume significant responsibility for conference related to women's issues. No more than 6 hours of practicum and independent study may count toward the Women's and Gender Studies minor.

**3500 Women in the Media.** Three credits. Prerequisites: WMST 2100 and 1000- and 2000-level English requirements or permission of instructor. Women in popular/mass media. Emphases include images of women in the media; women as producers and consumers of media; the intersections of gender, race, and class in the media; comparative global images and issues; and feminist approaches to media study.

**3900 Women in Transnational Perspective.** Three credits. Prerequisites: WMST 2100 and ENGL 1020 or ANTH 2010. Introduces the most relevant issues affecting women globally. Focused survey of the experiences of women around the world. Exposes students to transnational examples and critical ways of thinking about poverty, violence, and resistance. Seeks to further understanding of the global dimensions of gender, race, class, and sexuality.

**4201- Symposium in Women's Studies.** Three credits. Prerequisite:

**4213** WMST 2100 or permission of instructor. Additional prerequisites may apply to individual courses within the series. A variable-content course highlighting contributions of women to various fields and disciplines and exploring special problems which may be encountered by women. Specific courses include:

**4201 Women and Spirituality**

**4202 Lesbian Studies**

**4204 Women and Television**

**4205 Women and Science**

**4206 Women and the Holocaust**

**4207 Women and the Social Construction of Illness**

**4209 Desire in History and Literature**

**4210 Ecofeminism**

**4211 Asian-American Women's Literature and Culture**

**4212 Multicultural Women's Voices**

**4213 Gender and Horror**

**4500 Feminist Theory.** Three credits. Prerequisites: WMST 2100 and junior standing or permission of instructor. Major voices, texts, and ideas in the field of feminist theory from the early seventeenth century through the present within the contexts of a variety of critical discourses and emergent critical fields. Intended as a capstone for the minor. **Required for all Women's and Gender Studies minors.**

**4900 Independent Study.** Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A variable-content course examining a topic within the study of women and gender not covered in depth in other Women's and Gender Studies courses. Student develops project, conducts research, and confers regularly with the instructor. Student must submit a formal project proposal to be approved by the Women's Studies Program's Independent Studies Committee at least one semester prior to enrolling for WMST 4900 (Not offered during Summer terms. Please consult the Women's Studies Web site for more information.) **May be taken for credit no more than twice.**

