

## Women's Studies

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
 Department of Women's Studies  
 109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2077  
 Web site: [www.mnsu.edu/womenst/](http://www.mnsu.edu/womenst/)

Chair: Maria Bevacqua

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The Department of Women's Studies exposes students to 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 in 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.

### WOMEN'S STUDIES BA (33 credits):

Required for Major (Core, 15 credits):

WOST 110	Intro to Women's Studies (3)
WOST 220	Global Perspectives on Women and Change (3)
WOST 310	Feminist Thought (3)
WOST 330	Feminist Research and Action (3)
WOST 340	Undergraduate Seminar (3)

Required for Major (Program Electives, 18 credits):

Choose 18 credits from the following and from Interdisciplinary Courses listed at the end of this section:

WOST 120W	Violence and Gender (3)
WOST 251	Coming of Age: Gender & Culture (3)
WOST 260	Selected Topics (1-4)
WOST 265	Women & Spirituality (1)
WOST 277	Individual Study (1-6)
WOST 290	Workshop (1-4)
WOST 440	Feminist Pedagogy (3)
WOST 455	Politics of Sexuality (3)
WOST 460	Selected Topics (1-4)
WOST 477	Individual Study (1-6)
WOST 490	Workshop (1-4)
WOST 497	Internship: Teaching (1-6)
WOST 498	Internship: Community (1-6)

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY:  
 Language (8)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

### WOMEN'S STUDIES BS (33 credits):

Required for Major (Core, 18 credits):

WOST 110	Intro to Women's Studies (3)
WOST 220	Global Perspectives on Women and Change (3)
WOST 310	Feminist Thought (3)

WOST 330 Feminist Research and Action (3)

WOST 340 Undergraduate Seminar (3)

Three credits of internship required.

WOST 497 Internship: Teaching (1-6) OR

WOST 498 Internship: Community (1-6)

Required for Major (Program Electives, 15 credits):

Choose 15 credits from the following and from Interdisciplinary courses listed at the end of this section:

WOST 120W	Violence and Gender (3)
WOST 251	Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (3)
WOST 260	Selected Topics (1-4)
WOST 265	Women & Spirituality (1)
WOST 277	Individual Study (1-6)
WOST 290	Workshop (1-4)
WOST 440	Feminist Pedagogy (3)
WOST 455	Politics of Sexuality (3)
WOST 460	Selected Topics (1-4)
WOST 477	Individual Study (1-6)
WOST 490	Workshop (1-4)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

### WOMEN'S STUDIES MINOR (21 credits):

Required for Minor (12 credits):

WOST 110	Intro to Women's Studies (3)	OR
WOST 220	Global Perspectives on Women and Change (3)	AND
WOST 310	Feminist Thought (3)	
WOST 330	Feminist Research and Action (3)	
WOST 340	Undergraduate Seminar (3)	

Required for Minor (Electives, 9 credits):

WOST 120W	WOST 251	WOST 260	WOST 265
WOST 290	WOST 440	WOST 455	WOST 460
WOST 490			

### Women's Studies Program Interdisciplinary Courses

ANTH 431	Applied Cultural Research (3)
ANTH 433	Anthropology of Gender (3)
ANTH 485	Topics in Anthropology (1-3)
ART 419	Gender in Art (3)
BIOL 102	Biology of Women (3)
CORR 444	Women in the Criminal Justice System (3)
ENG 495	Special Study: Sex and Language (3)
ETHN 401	Applied Cultural Research (3)
ETHN 470	Women of Color (3)
ETHN 480	Social Justice in Ethnicity & Gender (3)
HIST 155	History of the Family in America (3)
HIST 487	United States Women's History (4)
HLTH 400	Women's Health (3)
LAWE 235	Women in Law Enforcement (3)
PHIL 450	Special Topics (3)
POL 484	Women and Politics (3)
PSYC 460	Psychology of Women (3)
SOWK 420	Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK 427	Social Work and Domestic Violence (3)
SOC 307	Sex and Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC 409	Family Violence (3)
SOC 485	Women, Crime, and Social Control (2-6)

### POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. A GPA of 2.0 is required, and a grade of "C" or better must be earned in all 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.

## WOMEN'S STUDIES

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### WOST 110 (3) Introduction to Women's Studies

Focus is on the social construction of gender, race, class, and sexual identity. Gaps between reality and stereotypes are examined. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with Women's Studies scholarship and provide the tools to connect what one learns to one's life and to further academic study.

F, S

GE-5, 7 CD-Core

#### WOST 120W (3) Violence and Gender

Students will examine the gendered and systematic nature of violence. Special attention will be given to the ways in which violence against women is perpetuated through interpersonal relationships and through institutions such as schools, the judicial system, welfare policies. The effects of internalized oppressions, such as internalized sexism, racism, and homophobia will be discussed. Emphasis on feminist analysis and building skills for educating ourselves and others about constructing non-violent cultures.

F, S

GE-1C, 9

#### WOST 220 (3) Global Perspectives on Women and Change

Focus is on women activists in past and current social change movements in the U.S. and world; strategies and tactics which have been used to create social, political and economic change; the self as an agent of change in terms of personal empowerment and group activism; all in the context of interlocking systems of oppression.

F, S

GE-8, 9 CD-Core

#### WOST 225 (3) Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies

This course introduces students to the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities and identities. We will explore the social and historical construction of LGBT identities as they vary across ethnic, class, and gender lines.

S

GE 5, 7 CD-Core

#### WOST 251 (3) Coming of Age: Gender and Culture

Students will become aware of diverse experiences of coming of age and will reflect on their own experiences. Diversity of experiences presented will include: race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic class, ability/disability and nationality.

S

GE-6, 7 CD-Core

#### WOST 260 (1-4) Selected Topics

Offered according to student demand and instructor availability/expertise, topics courses provide curriculum enrichment on an ongoing basis.

Variable

#### WOST 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.

F

#### WOST 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 F, S

#### WOST 290 (1-4) Workshop

Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.

Variable

#### WOST 295 (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.

#### WOST 310 (3) Feminist Thought

Examine major theories of feminism and salient issues in women's movements of the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

F

#### WOST 330 (3) Feminist Research and Action

This course combines knowledge of feminist research methods and methodology with writings and research concerning social justice and community activism. Students will make practical applications between their own scholarship and local, national, and international activist movements.

#### WOST 340 (3) Undergraduate Seminar

Advanced topics in women's and gender studies.

Pre: WOST 110 or 220 or consent S

#### WOST 440 (3) Feminist Pedagogy

We explore key philosophical and methodological issues in feminist teaching with an emphasis on application of the material.

#### WOST 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.

#### WOST 460 (1-4) Selected Topics

Offered according to student demand and instructor availability/expertise, topics courses provide curriculum enrichment on an ongoing basis.

Variable

#### WOST 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 F, S

#### WOST 490 (1-4) Workshop

Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.

Variable

#### WOST 497 (1-6) Internship: Teaching

Students assist a faculty member in teaching Women's Studies 110 or 220. (Complete course handbook available from: [cynthia.veldhuisen@mnsu.edu](mailto:cynthia.veldhuisen@mnsu.edu))

Pre: WOST 110 or 220 and consent.

#### WOST 498 (1-6) Internship: Community

The 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.