WOMEN’S STUDIES

Women’s Studies
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Women’s Studies
109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2077
Web site: www.sbs.mnsu.edu/women

Chair: Maria Bevacqua
Susan Freeman, Cheryl Radeloff, Jocelyn Fenton Stitt

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 with 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, 20 credits):
WOST 110 Intro to Women’s Studies (4)
WOST 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
WOST 310 Feminist Thought (4)
WOST 330 Feminist Research and Action (4)
WOST 340 Undergraduate Seminar (4)

Required for BS:
WOST 497 Internship: Teaching (1-6) OR
WOST 498 Internship: Community (1-6)

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

Required for Major, electives, 9 credits (BS) or 13 credits (BA):
ANTH 433 ART 419 BIOL 102 CORR 444
ENG 402 ETHN 470 ETHN 480 HIST 487
HILTH 400 LAWE 235 PHIL 445 PSYC 460
SOWK 420 SOWK 427 SOC 307 SOC 409
WOST 120W WOST 225 WOST 251 WOST 260
WOST 277 WOST 290 WOST 440 WOST 460
WOST 490 WOST 497 WOST 498

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

WOMEN’S STUDIES MINOR (21 credits):

Required for Minor (CORE 16 credits):
WOST 110 Intro to Women’s Studies (4) OR
WOST 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4) AND
WOST 310 Feminist Thought (4)
WOST 330 Feminist Research and Action (4)
WOST 340 Undergraduate Seminar (4)

Required for Minor (Electives, 5 credits):
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 424 Women and Politics (3)
PSYC 460 Psychology of Women (3)
SOWK 420 Women’s Issues in Social Work (3)
SOC 307 Sex and Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOWK 499 Family Violence (3)

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WOST 110 (4) 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.
Fall, Spring
GE-5, GE-7 CD-Core

WOST 120W (4) 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.
Fall, Spring
GE-1C, GE-9

WOST 220 (4) 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.
Fall, Spring
GE-8, GE-9 CD-Core

**WOST 225 (4) Intro. 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.
Spring
GE 5, GE-7 CD-Core

**WOST 251 (4) 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.
Spring
GE-6, GE-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.
Fall

**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
Fall, Spring

**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 (4) Feminist Thought**
Examine major theories of feminism and salient issues in women’s movements of the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
Fall

**WOST 330 (4) 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 (4) Undergraduate Seminar**
Advanced topics in women's and gender studies.
Pre: WOST 110 or WOST 220 or consent
Spring

**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.