

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Women's Studies

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

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 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 BS/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
HLTH 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 433	ART 419	BIOL 102	CORR 444
ENG 402	ETHN 470	ETHN 480	HIST 487
HLTH 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	

Women's Studies Program Interdisciplinary Courses

ANTH 433	Anthropology of Gender (3)
ART 419	Gender in Art (3)
BIOL 102	Biology of Women (3)
CORR 444	Women in the Criminal Justice System (3)
ENG 402	General in Literature (2-4)
ETHN 470	Women of Color (3)
ETHN 480	Social Justice in Ethnicity & Gender (3)
HIST 487	United States Women's History (4)
HLTH 400	Women's Health (3)
LAWE 235	Women in Law Enforcement (3)
PHIL 445	Feminist Philosophy (3)
POL 424	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)

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

WOMEN'S STUDIES

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.

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

Fall, Spring

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 WOST 110 or WOST 220.

(Complete course handbook available from: cynthia.veldhuisen@mnsu.edu)

Pre: WOST 110 or WOST 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.