### Gender and Women’s Studies

**College of Social & Behavioral Sciences**  
**Department of Gender and Women’s Studies**  
109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2077  
Website: mnsu.edu/women

Chair: Maria Bevacqua  
Laura Harrison, Shannon Miller, Jocelyn Fenton Stitt

The Department of Gender and Women’s Studies familiarizes students with 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.

**Policies/Information**

**GPA Policy.** A Gender and Women’s Studies major GPA of 2.0 is required, AND a grade of “C-” or better must be earned in all Gender and 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.

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### Gender and Women’s Studies BA

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Common Core</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWS 110</td>
<td>Intro. to Gender (4)</td>
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<td>GWS 220</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWS 340</td>
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<tr>
<th>Major Restricted Electives</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Choose 13 credits from the following)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIS 240</td>
<td>American Indian Women (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 432</td>
<td>Kinship, Marriage and Family (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 433</td>
<td>Anthropology of Gender (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART 419</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 102</td>
<td>Biology of Women (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORR 444</td>
<td>Women in the Criminal Justice System (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 402</td>
<td>Gender in Literature (2-4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWS 120</td>
<td>Violence and Gender (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWS 120W</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWS 225W</td>
<td>Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)</td>
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**Internship**  
(Choose 4 credits from the following)  
GWS 497 Internship: Teaching (1-6)  
GWS 498 Internship: Community (1-6)

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<td>GWS 225</td>
<td>Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWS 251</td>
<td>Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)</td>
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GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES

GWS 260 Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS 277 Individual Study (1-6)
GWS 290 Workshop (1-4)
GWS 440 Feminist Pedagogy (3)
GWS 455 Politics of Sexuality (3)
GWS 460 Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS 477 Individual Study (1-6)
GWS 490 Workshop (1-4)
HIST 155 History of the Family in America (3)
HIST 408 History of Women in Preindustrial Europe (4)
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 & Politics (3)
PSYC 460 Psychology of Women (3)
SOC 209 Sociology of Human Sexualities (3)
SOC 307 Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC 409 Family Violence (3)
SOC 420 Identity Work in Women’s Reentry Experiences (3)
SOWK 420 Women’s Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK 427 Social Work and Domestic Violence (3)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES MINOR

Required for Minor (16 credits)
GWS 110W (4) Introduction to Gender
GWS 220W (4) Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies
GWS 277 Gender, Race, and Popular Culture
GWS 490 Gender, Race, and Popular Culture

Required for Minor (Electives, 5 credits)
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)
LAW 235 Women in Law Enforcement (3)
PHIL 445 Feminist Philosophy (3)
POL 424 Women & 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)
SOC 409 Family Violence (3)

Gender and 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)
LAW 235 Women in Law Enforcement (3)
PHIL 445 Feminist Philosophy (3)
POL 424 Women & 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)
SOC 409 Family Violence (3)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GWS 110W (4) Introduction to Gender
This course familiarizes students with the field of Gender and Women’s Studies. It focuses on major questions and approaches to understanding gender alongside race, class, and sexuality, among other identity categories.
Fall, Spring, Summer
GE-5, GE-7
Diverse Culture - Purple

GWS 120W (4) Violence and Gender
We will examine the gendered systemic, and institutional nature of violence. We will seek to understand and prevent gender-based violence: sexual assault and harassment, intimate partner abuse, and hate crimes. We will think critically about gender, oppression, and privilege.
Fall, Spring, Summer
GE-9
Diverse Cultures - Purple

GWS 220 (4) Global Perspectives on Women and Change
This course will examine women’s lives and activism, past and present, throughout the world. We will explore and evaluate individual and collective efforts to achieve social justice in the context of intersecting systems of oppression.
Fall, Spring, Summer
GE-5, GE-7
Diverse Cultures - Purple

GWS 225 (4) Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies
An introduction to the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and identities, including challenges to homophobia and heterosexism. We will explore social and historical constructions of LGBT identities as they vary across ethnic, class, and gender lines.
Fall, Spring
GE-5, GE-7
Diverse Cultures - Gold

GWS 225W (4) Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies
An introduction to the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and identities, including challenges to homophobia and heterosexism. We will explore social and historical constructions of LGBT identities as they vary across ethnic, class, and gender lines.
Fall, Spring
GE-5, GE-7
Diverse Cultures - Gold

GWS 230 (4) Gender, Race, and Popular Culture
Explores how popular culture shapes and mirrors our understandings of gender and sexuality and their intersections with race and class. Critically examines representations of gender and race in popular culture forms such as film, television, music, books, and the internet.
On-Demand
GE-2, GE-6
Diverse Cultures - Purple

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GWS 251 (4) Coming of Age: Gender and Culture
This course explores the gendered coming-of-age experience in different time periods and cultures. Students will learn and apply tools from women’s studies to analyze the impact of gender, race, class, and sexuality on childhood, adolescence and adulthood.
Fall, Spring
GE-6, GE-7
Diverse Culture - Purple

GWS 251W (4) Coming of Age: Gender and Culture
This course explores the gendered coming-of-age experience in different time periods and cultures. Students will learn and apply tools from gender and women’s studies to analyze the impact of gender, race, class, and sexuality on childhood, adolescence and adulthood.
Fall, Spring
WI, GE-6, GE-7
Diverse Culture - Purple

GWS 260 (1-4) Selected Topics
Offered according to student demand and instructor availability/expertise, topics courses provide curriculum enrichment on an ongoing basis.
Variable

GWS 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

GWS 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

GWS 290 (1-4) Workshop
Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.
Variable

GWS 310 (4) Feminist Thought
This course will introduce you to major theories of feminism as well as key issues in contemporary feminist thought. Students will have an opportunity to advance their own feminist thinking through engagement with a diversity of theoretical perspectives on gender.
Fall

GWS 330 (4) Feminist Research and Action
This course examines fundamentals of feminist research and the relationship between theory and practice. Students will engage philosophical and methodological questions about the production of knowledge; learn concrete research skills; and complete individual research/action projects.
Spring

GWS 340 (4) Undergraduate Seminar
Advanced topics in women’s and gender studies.
Pre: GWS 110 or GWS 220 or consent
Spring

GWS 440 (3) Feminist Pedagogy
We explore key philosophical and methodological issues in feminist teaching with an emphasis on application of the material.

GWS 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.