GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES

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

Chair: Shannon Miller
Laura Harrison

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.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

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.

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.

GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES BA
Degree completion = 120 credits

Major Common Core
GWS 110 Introduction to Gender (4)
GWS 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
GWS 310 Feminist Thought (4)
GWS 330 Feminist Research and Action (4)
GWS 340 Undergraduate Seminar (4)

Major Restricted Electives
(choose a minimum of 13 credits from the following)
AIS 240 American Indian Women (3)
AIS 240W American Indian Women (3)
ANTH 432 Kinship, Marriage and Family (3)
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 Gender in Literature (2-4)
ETHN 470 Women of Color (3)
GWS 120 Violence and Gender (4)
GWS 222W Violence and Gender (4)
GWS 225W Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS 225W Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS 230 Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)
GWS 251 Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
GWS 251W Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)

Other Graduation Requirements

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY - Language (8 credits)
Required Minor: Yes. Any.

GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES BS
Degree completion = 120 credits

Major Common Core
GWS 110 Introduction to Gender (4)
GWS 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
GWS 310 Feminist Thought (4)
GWS 330 Feminist Research and Action (4)
GWS 340 Undergraduate Seminar (4)

Major Restricted Electives
(choose a minimum of 9 credits from the following)
AIS 240 American Indian Women (3)
AIS 240W American Indian Women (3)
ANTH 432 Kinship, Marriage and Family (3)
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 Gender in Literature (2-4)
ETHN 470 Women of Color (3)
GWS 120 Violence and Gender (4)
GWS 222W Violence and Gender (4)
GWS 225W Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS 225W Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
GWS 230 Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)
GWS 251 Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
GWS 251W Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
GWS 260 Selected Topics (1-4)
GWS 265W Women and Spirituality (1)
GWS 265W Women and Spirituality (1)
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)


**GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES CONTINUED**

- **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 460W** Psychology of Women (3)
- **SOC 209** Sociology of Human Sexualities (3)
- **SOC 307** Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
- **SOC 409** Family Violence (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**

**Minor Core** (16 credits)
- Minors choose between GWS 110, GWS 110W and GWS 220, GWS 220W. If both are taken, one can be applied toward electives.

- **GWS 110** Introduction to Gender (4)
- **GWS 110W** Introduction to Gender (4)
- **GWS 220** Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
- **GWS 220W** Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
- **GWS 310** Feminist Thought (4)
- **GWS 330** Feminist Research and Action (4)
- **GWS 340** Undergraduate Seminar (4)

**Minor Electives**

(choose a minimum of 5 credits from the following)

- **AIS 240** American Indian Women (3)
- **AIS 240W** American Indian Women (3)
- **ANTH 432** Kinship, Marriage and Family (3)
- **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** Gender in Literature (2-4)
- **ETHN 470** Women of Color (3)
- **GWS 120** Violence and Gender (4)
- **GWS 120W** Violence and Gender (4)
- **GWS 225** Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
- **GWS 225W** Intro. to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
- **GWS 230** Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)
- **GWS 251** Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
- **GWS 251W** Coming of Age: Gender and Culture (4)
- **GWS 260** Selected Topics (1-4)
- **GWS 265** Women and Spirituality (1)
- **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)
- **GWS 497** Internship: Teaching (1-6)
- **GWS 498** Internship: Community (1-6)
- **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)
- **SOWK 420** Women’s Issues in Social Work (3)
- **SOWK 427** Social Work and Domestic Violence (3)

**SEXUALITY STUDIES MINOR**

The Sexuality Studies minor is an interdisciplinary course of study designed to complement any major. The objective of the curriculum is to develop a critical framework for understanding social justice by examining how sexual practices, expressions, identities, and representations are shaped by social, anthropological, historical, psychological, legal, sociological, and political contexts. Under the coordination of the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, the minor focuses on issues of social ethics and sexuality, including the impact of factors cultural inequality upon sexual well-being and sexual health.

**Minor Core**

- **GWS 225** Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
- **GWS 230** Gender, Race, and Popular Culture (4)
- **GWS 455** Politics of Sexuality (3)
- **PSYC 333** Psychology of Sexual Health (3)
- **SOC 209** Sociology of Human Sexualities (3)

(choose one of the following courses)

- **ANTH 269** Anthropology of Sex (3)
- **ANTH 340** Language and Power (4)

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**GWS 110 (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 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

WI, GE-5, GE-7

Diverse Culture - Purple

**GWS 120 (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 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

WI, 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 interlocking systems of oppression.

Fall, Spring, Summer

GE-8, GE-9

Diverse Cultures - Purple
GWS 220W (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 interlocking systems of oppression. Fall, Spring
WI, GE-8, GE-9
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
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
Diverse Cultures - Purple

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 - Gold

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 Cultures - 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 Cultures - 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. Fall

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 330W (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 400 (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.

GWS 460 (1-4) Selected Topics
Offered according to student demand and instructor availability/expertise, topics courses provide curriculum enrichment on an ongoing basis. Variable

GWS 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

GWS 490 (1-4) Workshop
Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit. Variable

GWS 497 (1-6) Internship: Teaching
Students assist a faculty member in teaching GWS 110 or GWS 220. (Complete course handbook available from: cynthia.veldhuisen@mnsu.edu) Pre: GWS 110 or GWS 220 and consent.

GWS 498 (1-6) Internship: Community
The Gender and 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.

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 330W (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
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Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit. Variable

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