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 J. Miller
Faculty: Maria Bevacqua, Laura Harrison, Ana Perez

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.

Accelerated Combined Degree (BA/BS and MA/MS). Students interested in receiving both their undergraduate and graduate degrees in GWS at MSU, may apply to the Department for admission into the Accelerated Graduate Program. Interested majors may apply upon the completion of 60 credits if they have a minimum GPA of 3.0. If accepted, students will work with an advisor to design an accelerated program in which up to 12 credits of 500-level courses can be applied to both their undergraduate and graduate programs. If accepted, students must maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA overall and a 3.0 in the major the to continue in the program. Interested students should contact the Department for more information.

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 Sex and Gender Worldwide (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 10 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)

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

Major Common Core

GWS 110 Introduction to Gender (4)
GWS 220 Sex and Gender Worldwide (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 120W Violence and Gender (4)
GWS 225 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 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)
HITT 400 Women’s Health (3)
LAW 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)

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

Major Common Core

GWS 110 Introduction to Gender (4)
GWS 220 Sex and Gender Worldwide (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 120W Violence and Gender (4)
GWS 225 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)

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GWS 277 Individual Study (1-6)
GWS 290 Workshop (1-4)
GWS 440 Feminist Pedagogy (3)
GWS 453 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 444 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 309 Sociology of Human Sexualities (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

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 Sex and Gender Worldwide (4)
GWS 220W Sex and Gender Worldwide (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 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 444 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 309 Sociology of Human Sexualities (3)

SEXYALITY 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 cultural inequality on sexual wellbeing 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 205 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)
SOC 307 Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)

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 Culture - Purple

GWS 220 (4) Sex and Gender Worldwide
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) Sex and Gender Worldwide
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
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
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
WI, 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

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. Variable

GWS 277 (1-6) Individual Study
Concentrated study and research in areas of student's special interests/expertise under supervision of a faculty member. Prerequisite: Must be department 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 411 (4) Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy
Students will learn about the legal, cultural, and political factors that contribute to sexual assault and gendered violence. This course will combine hands-on training in activism from course instructors and community members in the field of sexual assault advocacy, as well as a background in theories of gender and sexual assault. Sexual assault advocates provide confidential services to victims of sexual violence, including hospital and legal advocacy, crisis counseling, and emotional support. Students who satisfactorily complete 40 hours of training will be certified as sexual assault advocates at the end of the semester. On Demand: Fall, 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.

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