

Gender & Women's Studies

MAJOR, MINOR

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: LeeRay Costa (anthropology and gender and women's studies) (director), Susan Thomas (political science and gender and women's studies)

AFFILIATED FACULTY: Michelle Abate (English), Sandy Boatman (chemistry), Jen Boyle (English), Jeffery Bullock (dance), Donna Faye Burchfield (dance), Caren Diefenderfer (mathematics), Michael Gettings (philosophy), Cathryn Hankla (English), Lori Joseph (communication studies), Pauline Kaldas (English), Andrew Matzner (adjunct, gender and women's studies), Marilyn Moriarty (English), Kathleen Nolan (art), Rachel Nuñez (history), Julie Pfeiffer (English), Joan Ruelle (library), Christina Salowey (classical studies), Darla Schumm (religious studies), Jill Weber (communication studies)

Gender and women's studies is an interdisciplinary program that examines how systems of oppression/resistance and privilege operate. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of the importance of gender as a category of analysis, and its intersections with race/ethnicity, class, age, sexual identity, and (dis)ability.

Women's lives today are increasingly shaped by global transformations in work, technology, politics, and popular culture resulting in profound changes in gender roles and expectations. Gender and women's studies explores these issues in both national and global contexts.

The gender and women's studies faculty are dedicated to creating an environment that fosters critical thinking, supports student activism, and emphasizes faculty/student and peer mentoring. Students are encouraged to question conventional wisdom and to participate actively in their education.

Gender and women's studies helps prepare students for a variety of careers. Women interested in law, education, politics, business, and the arts will be well prepared by the gender and women's studies major. Understanding the importance of gender in society helps women to have successful careers and lives and to promote social justice and gender equity.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES:

10 courses (40 credits)

Working closely with an advisor from the gender and women's studies program, each major will complete four core courses in gender and women's studies, supplemented by six additional courses from the list of gender and women's studies or affiliated courses. At least three of these courses should be at the 200 level or above, and an additional course at the 300 level or above. Each major will complete at least one internship in gender and women's studies, and this internship may be completed during the Short Term.

CORE COURSES IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (16):

- GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (4)
- One course from the following:
 - GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
 - GWS 213: Globalization and Poverty (4)
 - GWS 223: Women in Buddhism (4)
 - GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
- GWS 338: Survey of Feminist Thought (4)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies (4)

SIX ADDITIONAL COURSES (24):

- Six additional courses from the list of gender and women's studies or affiliated courses

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES

- GWS 117: Childbirth and Women's Writing (4)
- GWS 156: The Biology of Women and Its Social Implications (4)
- GWS 197F: First-year Seminar - Steppin' Up and Speakin' Out: The Rhetoric of Women Leaders (4)
- GWS 197F: First-year Seminar - Women of Discovery (4)
- GWS 203: Women and Law (4)
- GWS 208: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class (4)
- GWS 209: Feminist Philosophies (4)
- GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
- GWS 212: Sexual Politics (4)
- GWS 213: Globalization and Poverty (4)
- GWS 215: Gender and Communication (4)
- GWS 217: Rhetorical Theory (4)
- GWS 218: Global Gayz - The Lesbian/Gay Movement for Equality (4)
- GWS 219: Food, Culture, and Social Justice (4)
- GWS 220: Life Histories/Self-Narratives (4)
- GWS 222: Women in Ancient and Medieval Europe (4)
- GWS 223: Women in Buddhism (4)
- GWS 225: Gender and Women's History in Early Modern Europe (4)
- GWS 226: Gender and Women's History in Modern Europe (4)
- GWS 230: Textual Construction of Gender (4)
- GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
- GWS 243: Introduction to Children's Literature (4)
- GWS 252: Gender and Globalization (4)
- GWS 307: Women and Work (4)
- GWS 310: The Body and Sexuality in European History (4)
- GWS 312: Women and Social Movements Across the Globe (4)
- GWS 314: Women and Art (4)
- GWS 317: Dress, Gender, and Social Identity (4)
- GWS 318: Sexual Ethics (4)
- GWS 320: Transforming Families (4)
- GWS 324: Feminism and Contemporary Art (4)
- GWS 325: Nineteenth-Century European Art (4)
- GWS 334: Gender and Imperialism (4)
- GWS 338: Survey of Feminist Thought (4)
- GWS 339: Feminist Issues in Mental Health (4)
- GWS 342: Advanced Studies in Children's Literature: American Girls' Fiction (4)
- GWS 343: Drag - Theories of Transgenderism and Performance (4)
- GWS 344: Men and Feminism (4)
- GWS 345: Arab Women Writers (4)
- GWS 354: Italian Renaissance Art - Marriage, Birth, and Death (4)
- GWS 379: Feminist Theory (4)
- GWS 480, 490: Senior Thesis (4-8) or (4/4, 4)

AFFILIATED COURSES:

DIVISION I

- ENG 333: Shakespeare's Women (4)
- REL 221: Women's Spiritual Autobiographies (4)

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES continued

- REL 224: Women in Early Christianity (4)
- REL 320: Sexualities and Theologies (4)

DIVISION IV

- FILM 372: Images of Women in Film (4)
- MUS 256: Women in Western Music (4)

INTERNSHIPS

An experiential component will also be required of each major. This consists of an internship or service project (two or more credits each, or one Short Term) carried out in the junior or senior year. The experiential component is an integral part of the program. Each student will work under the sponsorship of a faculty member of the gender and women's studies program to design an experience that will augment her course work and provide valuable experience that may lead to further career or educational opportunities. Short Term interns may also be expected to participate in a biweekly discussion group with other gender and women's studies interns. At the end of the placement, the student will submit a written summary and interpretation of her field experience.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES:

6 courses (24 credits) and an internship

- GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (4)
- One of the following:
 - GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
 - GWS 213: Globalization and Poverty (4)
 - GWS 223: Women in Buddhism (4)
 - GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
- GWS 338: Survey of Feminist Thought (4)
- An internship in gender and women's studies
- In designing her program, a minor works closely with an advisor in gender and women's studies to select elective courses (12 credits) from the list in the catalog, which allow her to develop critical perspective in one area of interest without losing the interdisciplinary focus of the program
- Minors are also strongly encouraged to enroll in GWS 470 (4)

COURSES IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES:**GWS 117: CHILDBIRTH AND WOMEN'S WRITING (4)****Pfeiffer**

Also listed and described as ENG 117. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2009–10. (*f, w, x*)

GWS 141: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (4)**Costa**

This course includes topics such as origins of patriarchy, history of women's rights movements, theories of women's oppression, the social construction of gender, literary representations of women, women and industrialization, family and sexuality, feminist approaches to science, and the female experience as a force for social change. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered both terms. (DIV)

GWS 156: THE BIOLOGY OF WOMEN AND ITS SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS (4)**Boatman**

This course considers the biological processes that occur in a woman from birth until death and health issues arising from these processes. Topics discussed include, but are not limited to: the reproductive cycle and its control; fetal development and childbirth; effects of aging; nutrition; diseases of women

and their treatment; the relationship between women and the health care system, including the previous use of mostly male models in biological and medical research; recent and current developments in research on women's health; and the impact of gender on diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. Laboratory experiences include a Web-based exploration of the female anatomy (and comparison with the male anatomy), culturing bacteria and testing for antibiotic sensitivity, analyzing drugs in simulated urine and blood, analyzing food for vitamin and protein content, measuring blood glucose (in connection with diagnosis of diabetes), working with commercially available dipstick-types of medical tests (ovulation, pregnancy, blood sugar, ketone levels), and statistical analysis of national health data. Not intended for students majoring in biology. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (SCI)

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - STEPPIN' UP AND SPEAKIN' OUT: THE RHETORIC OF WOMEN LEADERS (4)

Weber

Also listed and described as COMM 197F. Offered Term 1. (*a, r*)

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - WOMEN OF DISCOVERY (4)

**Diefenderfer,
Nuñez**

Also listed and described as HIST 197F. Offered Term 1. (*a, r*)

GWS 203: WOMEN AND LAW (4)

Thomas

This course examines how women have been treated by wielders of the power of the law. Using constitutional and statutory case law, the course investigates women's reproductive rights, sexuality and family law, equal employment, woman battering, pornography, hate speech, and sexual exploitation. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

GWS 208: GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND CLASS (4)

Thomas

Also listed and described as POLS 208. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2009–10. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 209: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES (4)

Gettings

Also listed and described as PHIL 208. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2009–10.

GWS 211: MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS (4)

Kaldas

Also listed and described as ENG 211. Offered Term 1. (*x, w, AES, DIV*)

GWS 212: SEXUAL POLITICS (4)

Thomas

This course introduces ideas developed in feminist theory about the social and political construction of areas of experience relating to the body, gender, and sexuality. The course asks the following questions: What is communicated by, through, and about sex and sexuality in public controversies? What is the relationship of sexuality to struggles for power? What role has debates about sexuality and gender played in visions of social change? Issues analyzed in the subject include reproduction, pornography, trafficking of girls and women, early and forced marriage, sexual violence, sexual identity, and the sexual politics of meat. We will use experiential learning, film, lecture, readings, and discussion to accomplish course goals. Also listed as POLS 212. Prerequisite: GWS 141 or sophomore, junior, or senior standing. Not offered in 2009–10.

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES continued

GWS 213: GLOBALIZATION AND POVERTY (4) Thomas

This course is an introduction to the current debates about poverty and inequality within and between countries in this age of globalization. It looks at the causes and consequences of globalization, for example, the losses by women, children, and men in status, freedom, safety, education, and their diminished access to the basic needs of food, housing, and health care. We also examine how and why wealthy nations have failed to notice, let alone assist, the millions of people trapped in absolute poverty. How do nations, and individuals in them, justify their belief that they have no moral responsibility to help people in poverty? Also listed as POLS 213. Prerequisite: *q*. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (*Q*, GLO)

GWS 215: GENDER AND COMMUNICATION (4) Joseph

Also listed and described as COMM 215. Not offered in 2009–10. (*r*, DIV, MOD)

GWS 217: RHETORICAL THEORY - FROM ANCIENT GREECE TO THE RENAISSANCE (4) Weber

Also listed and described as COMM 217. Not offered in 2009–10. (*o*, ANC)

GWS 218: GLOBAL GAYZ - THE LESBIAN AND GAY MOVEMENT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (4) Thomas

This course examines the global movement for lesbian and gay civil rights. It introduces students to an interdisciplinary body of research, which focuses on contemporary sites of contention, for example the right of lesbians and gays to define what counts as a marriage or family. Other topics include: legal status of lesbians and gays around the globe, the extent of state-sponsored homophobia and heterosexism in the world, the differences among gay and lesbian movements in both form and objectives, and existing protections against hate crimes. Also listed as POLS 218. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (GLO)

GWS 219: FOOD, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (4) Costa

Also listed and described as ANTH/ES 219. Not offered in 2009–10. (*r*, DIV)

GWS 220: LIFE HISTORIES/SELF-NARRATIVES (4) Costa

Also listed and described as ANTH 220. Prerequisite: ANTH 145 or SOC 110. Offered Term 2. (*r*, DIV)

GWS 222: WOMEN IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE (4) Nuñez

Also listed and described as HIST 222. Offered Term 2. (*w*, *x*, ANC)

GWS 223: WOMEN IN BUDDHISM (4) Schumm

Also listed and described as REL 223. Not offered in 2009–10. (*r*, GLO)

GWS 225: WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE - WITCHES, QUEENS, AND COURTESANS (4) Nuñez

Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 225. Offered Term 1. (*w*, *x*, ANC)

GWS 226: GENDER AND WOMEN'S HISTORY IN MODERN EUROPE (4) Nuñez

Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 226. Not offered in 2009–10. (MOD)

GWS 230: TEXTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER (4) Moriarty

Also listed and described as ENG 230. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2009–10.

- GWS 242: ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY (4)** **Costa, Matzner**
Also listed and described as ANTH 242. Offered Term 2. (DIV)
- GWS 243: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (4)** **Abate**
Also listed and described as ENG 242. Offered both terms. (w, x, AES)
- GWS 252: GENDER AND GLOBALIZATION (4)** **Department**
This course provides an international perspective on women's lives and highlights the importance of race, ethnicity, and nation in constructions of gender and privilege. Among the topics covered are: the way in which the legacies of colonialism affect social, cultural, and economic connections among women; the role of women and the construction of gender in the formation of modern nation-states; the globalization of media and its effect on the meanings of body, beauty, and family; the global feminization of labor; and global feminist movements. Also listed as INTL 252. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: GWS 141. Not offered in 2009–10. (r, GLO)
- GWS 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)** **Department**
Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.
- GWS 307: WOMEN AND WORK (4)** **Department**
Also listed and described as SOC 307. Not offered in 2009–10. (DIV)
- GWS 310: THE BODY AND SEXUALITY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY (4)** **Nuñez**
Also listed and described as HIST 310. Offered Term 2. (w, x, MOD)
- GWS 312: WOMEN AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE (4)** **Costa**
In this course we examine voluntary forms of collective action known as social movements from an interdisciplinary perspective. Our emphasis is on women and the ways they have organized on their own and together with men at the local, national, regional, and global levels, both within and across difference. We look at movements organized around human rights, peace and war, race and ethnicity, sexuality, the environment, and development and capitalism in a variety of locales. Also listed as ANTH 312. Prerequisites: ANTH 145 or GWS 141 or SOC 110 and junior or senior standing. Not offered in 2009–10. (o, r, GLO)
- GWS 314: WOMEN AND ART (4)** **Nolan**
Also listed and described as ART 314. Not offered in 2009–10. (w, x, AES)
- GWS 317: DRESS, GENDER, AND SOCIAL IDENTITY (4)** **Nolan**
This student-led seminar explores the role of dress in creating gender and social identities. The course is global in scope and broad in chronological span, ranging from the ancient Mediterranean world and medieval western Europe to African tribal cultures and modern Islamic societies. Topics include the veil in Muslim society, symbolic properties of costume, the construction of masculinity, wedding attire, and contemporary fashion photography. Also listed as ART 317. Prerequisite: one 200-level art history class. Not offered in 2009–10. (r, AES, GLO)
- GWS 318: SEXUAL ETHICS (4)** **Schumm**
Also listed and described as REL 318. Not offered in 2009–10. (o, DIV)

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES continued

GWS 320, 520: TRANSFORMING FAMILIES (4) **Matzner**

How do you define “family”? Families take a variety of forms and are influenced by factors such as gender, race, class, sexual orientation, age, and geographic location. This course examines the transformation of the “family unit” in communities in the U.S. over the past 50 years. Issues to be examined include: experiences of working mothers, debates over absent fathers, single-parent households, “family values,” and GLBT parenting. Prerequisites: GWS 141 and GWS 338. Not offered in 2009–10.

GWS 324: FEMINISM AND CONTEMPORARY ART (4) **Department**

Also listed and described as ART 324. Prerequisites: ART 264 or ART 314 or GWS 141 or GWS 338 or permission. Not offered in 2009–10. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 334: GENDER AND IMPERIALISM (4) **Nuñez**

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Also listed and described as HIST 334. Not offered in 2009–10. (MOD)

GWS 338: SURVEY OF FEMINIST THOUGHT (4) **Costa, Thomas**

This course provides an intensive study of the various theories which form the conceptual base for feminism (among these are liberal, radical, Marxist, and postmodern—to name a few). It provides a critique of traditional intellectual and research frameworks that have omitted women’s perspectives and experiences and looks in detail at the intersections of gender with race, class, sexuality, and culture. Prerequisite: GWS 141, GWS 252, or other 200-level gender and women’s studies course. Offered Term 2. (o, r, DIV)

GWS 339: FEMINIST ISSUES IN MENTAL HEALTH (4) **Matzner**

What is pathological? What is normal? Utilizing a feminist, interdisciplinary perspective, this class examines how power and bias have been used in the field of mental health to oppress various populations. In particular, we’ll explore the impact of racism, sexism, ageism, classism, and homophobia on theories and treatments of mental illness. Not open to first-year students. Not offered in 2009–10.

GWS 342: ADVANCED STUDIES IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE (4) **Pfeiffer**

Also listed and described as ENG 342. Offered Term 1. (w, x, AES, MOD)

GWS 343: DRAG - THEORIES OF TRANSGENDERISM AND PERFORMANCE (4) **Matzner**

For more than 2,500 years, cross-dressing has been an integral part of the Western theatrical tradition, from Greek drama to Shakespeare, from the castrati to Milton Berle, American burlesque, and modern-day drag kings and queens. This course examines historical, theoretical, and autobiographical perspectives on drag, including transgenderism and performance in non-Western cultures. Prerequisites: GWS 141 and junior or senior standing. Not offered in 2009–10.

GWS 344: MEN AND FEMINISM (4) **Matzner**

Can a man be a feminist? What role(s) can/should men play in the feminist movement? This course examines men’s participation in feminism, exploring how (and why) some men seek to create more equitable gender relations. We also explore feminist reactions, both positive and negative, to male involvement in the feminist movement. Prerequisites: GWS 141 and junior or senior standing. Not offered in 2009–10.

- GWS 345: ARAB WOMEN WRITERS (4)** **Kaldas**
Also listed and described as ENG 345. Not offered in 2009–10. (AES, GLO)
- GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC (4)** **Department**
Not offered in 2009–10.
- GWS 354: ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART - MARRIAGE, BIRTH, AND DEATH (4)** **Nolan**
Also listed and described as ART 354. Offered Term 2. (*r*, AES)
- GWS 379: FEMINIST THEORY (4)** **Boyle**
Also listed and described as ENG 379. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2009–10.
- GWS 382: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE - LITERATURE OF PROTEST (4)** **Abate**
Also listed and described as ENG 382. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2009–10. (*w*, *x*, AES, DIV)
- GWS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)** **Department**
Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.
- GWS 399: INTERNSHIPS (2 or 4)** **Department**
Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed any term.
- GWS 470: SEMINAR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (4)** **Costa**
"Feminist journeys" is the theme of this capstone course. Students examine feminism as a journey, both historically and politically, and in their own lives as feminists and gender and women's studies majors/minors through the method of autoethnography. The course goal is to integrate the personal and political in innovative and creative ways. Students play a significant role in shaping the class and complete a major final creative project in the medium of their choice. Prerequisites: GWS 141, GWS 338, and senior standing. Offered Term 2.
- GWS 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)** **Department**
A research paper based upon inquiry into a specific issue within gender and women's studies. Students must consult with GWS advisor in the spring semester of junior year. Research begins during Fall Term and ends Short Term.
- GWS 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)** **Department**
Offered to qualified gender and women's studies majors. Students must consult with GWS advisor in the spring semester of junior year. Research is completed over Fall, Short, and Spring Terms.