

Gender and Women's Studies

MAJOR, MINOR

PROFESSOR: LeeRay Costa (director, gender and women's studies)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Lindsey Breitwieser

AFFILIATED FACULTY: Courtney Chenette (political science), Amy Gerber-Stroh (film), Michael Gettings (philosophy), Genevieve Hendricks (art history), Lori Joseph (communication studies), Pauline Kaldas (English), Rachel Nuñez (history), Wendy-Marie Martin (theatre) Julie Pfeiffer (English), Darla Schumm (religious studies), Patricia Sunia (English), Jennifer Turner (sociology)

VISITING FACULTY: Emma Snowden (history)

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, as it intersects with race/ethnicity, class, age, sexual identity, citizenship, and (dis)ability.

People'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 is 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. Students 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 students to have successful careers and lives and to promote social justice and gender equity.

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

8 courses (32 credits) and one 4-credit internship

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 four additional courses from the list of gender and women's studies courses. At least two of the eight courses must be at the 300 level. 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)
- Two theory courses from the following:
 - GWS 205: Criminal Justice Systems (4)
 - GWS 209: Feminist Philosophies (4)
 - GWS 219: Food, Culture, and Social Justice (4)
 - GWS 242: Gender, Culture, and Power (4)
 - GWS 250: Mad in America: Gender, Mental Health, and Popular Culture (4)
 - GWS 250: Material Girls in a Material World: Gender & Science (4)
 - GWS 250: From Tramp Stamps to Designer Genes: Body Modification (4)
 - GWS 250: Citing Black Women (4)
 - GWS 281: Sinners, Saints, and Misfits: Religion and Disability (4)
 - GWS 310: The Body and Sexuality in European History (4)
 - GWS 318: Sexual Ethics (4)
 - GWS 347: Girlhood Studies (4)
 - GWS 350: High Politics (4)
 - GWS 362: Spiritual Activism (4)
 - GWS 372: Images of Women in Film (4)
 (additional courses may be approved by the GWS Director)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies (4)

Four ADDITIONAL COURSES (16):

- Four additional courses from the list of gender and women's studies courses

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES

- GWS 117: Childbirth and Women's Writing (4)
- GWS 174: International Women's Voices (4)
- GWS 197F: Supreme! (4)
- GWS 203: Race, Class, Gender & The Law (4)
- GWS 205: Criminal Justice System (4)
- GWS 209: Feminist Philosophies (4)
- GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
- GWS 215: Constructing Gender (4)
- GWS 216: Silenced? Marginalized Voices in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (4)
- GWS 219: Food, Culture, and Social Justice (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 242: Gender, Culture, and Power (4)
- GWS 250: Special Topic: Mad in America: Gender, Mental Health, and Popular Culture (4)
- GWS 250: Special Topic: Material Girls in a Material World: Gender & Science (4)
- GWS 250: Special Topic: From Tramp Stamps to Designer Genes: Body Modification (4)
- GWS 250: Special Topic: Queer Middle Ages (4)
- GWS 250: Citing Black Women (4)
- GWS 260: Race, Class, Gender (4)
- GWS 272: Reproductive Justice (4)
- GWS 281: Sinners, Saints, and Misfits: Religion and Disability (4)
- GWS 290: Independent Study (2, 4)
- GWS 310: The Body and Sexuality in European History (4)
- GWS 318: Sexual Ethics (4)
- GWS 324: Feminism and Contemporary Art (4)
- GWS 328: 19th-Century Women Writers (4)
- GWS 334: Sex and Race in the Age of Empire (4)
- GWS 338: Survey of Feminist Thought (4)
- GWS 342: Advanced Studies in Children's Literature: American Girls' Fiction (4)
- GWS 345: Arab Women Writers (4)
- GWS 347: Girlhood Studies (4)
- GWS 350: Special Topic: High Politics (4)
- GWS 362: Spiritual Activism (4)
- GWS 372: Images of Women in Film (4)
- GWS 382: Queer Ecologies in American Environmental Writing (4)
- GWS 390: Independent Study (2, 4)
- GWS 399: Internship (4)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies (4)
- GWS 480, 490: Senior Thesis (4-8) or (4/4, 4)

INTERNSHIP

An experiential component will also be required of each major. This consists of an internship or service project (4 credits or one Short Term) carried out while a student in the program. The experiential component is an integral part of the program. Students will work under the sponsorship of a faculty member of the gender and women's studies program to design an experience that will augment their 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 journal and a paper analyzing their field experience.

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

5 courses (20 credits) and a 4-credit internship

Core Courses in Gender and Women's Studies (12)

- GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (4)
- One GWS Theory designated course (4)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies (4)

Two additional courses from the list of gender and women's studies courses (8)

An internship in gender and women's studies (4)

In designing their programs, minors work closely with an advisor in gender and women's studies to select elective courses (8 credits) from the list in the catalog, which allow them to develop critical perspective in one area of interest without losing the interdisciplinary focus of the program.

COURSES IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES:

GWS 117: CHILDBIRTH AND WOMEN'S WRITING (4) **Pfeiffer**

Also listed and described as ENG 117. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2022-23. (*f, w, x*)

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

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 174: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S VOICES (4) **Kaldas**

Also listed and described as ENG 174. Offered Term 2. (*f, w, x, AES, GLO*)

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR –SUPREME! AMERICA'S HIGHEST COURT (4) **Chenette**

Also listed as POLS 197F. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (A) (*r*)

GWS 203: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & THE LAW (4) **Chenette**

Also listed and described as POLS 203. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2022-23. (DIV)

GWS 205: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (4) **Chenette**

Also listed and described as POLS 206. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Offered Term 1. (A)

GWS 206: THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (4) **Martin**

Also listed and described as THEA 206. Open to first years. No Prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

GWS 209: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES (4) **Department**

Also listed and described as PHIL 208. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2022-23.

GWS 211: MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS (4) **Kaldas**

Also listed and described as ENG 211. Not offered in 2022-23. (*w, x, AES, DIV*)

GWS 215: CONSTRUCTING GENDER (4) **Joseph**

Also listed and described as COMM 215. Not offered in 2022-23. (*r, DIV, MOD*)

GWS 216: SILENCED? MARGINALIZED VOICES IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM (4) **Department**

Also listed and described as REL 215. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (DIV, MOD)

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

Explores the meanings of food and food-related practices in various cultural contexts in relation to structures of power and inequality, including those shaped by race, ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, and geography. All students will participate in a community partnership project with a local food organization and volunteer a minimum of 20 hours during the semester. Also listed as ES 219. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2022-23. (DIV)

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

This course acquaints students with the theory and method of life histories and self-narratives. Students critically examine these concepts, while exploring epistemology, difference, and feminist interpretations of narrative theory. Readings are drawn from diverse cultural and historical contexts. Methodologically, students learn to organize and conduct life history interviews, transcribe, and present them in written form. Prerequisite: GWS 141 or SOC 110. Not offered in 2022-23. (r, DIV)

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

Also listed and described as HIST 222. Offered Term 1. (w, x, PRE)

GWS 223: WOMEN IN BUDDHISM (4)**Schumm**

Also listed and described as REL 223. Not offered in 2022-23. (r, GLO)

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

Also listed and described as HIST 225. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2022-23. (w, x, PRE)

GWS 226: WOMEN AND GENDER IN MODERN EUROPE (4)**Nuñez**

Also listed and described as HIST 226. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2022-23. (w, x, r, MOD)

GWS 242: GENDER, CULTURE, AND POWER (4)**Costa**

This course surveys anthropological approaches toward gender and sexuality from the 1920s to the present. We consider how gender and sexuality are constructed in specific historical and cultural contexts, including Pacific Island societies, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Key issues to examine include essentialism/constructivism, non-normative sexualities, genital cutting, intersex, and transgenderism. Prerequisite: GWS 141, GWS 197F, or SOC 110. Not offered in 2022-23. (DIV)

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: MAD IN AMERICA: GENDER, MENTAL HEALTH, AND POPULAR CULTURE (4)**Breitwieser**

This course examines mental health in cultural context. We ask, how do social relations impact wellbeing and how do social institutions define mental "health" and "illness" within gendered, racial, dis/abled, and colonial frameworks? Engaging popular media, science, and historic texts, we consider the production of behavioral, cognitive, and emotional norms and discuss how these may stigmatize difference and limit self-expression. Prerequisite: GWS 141 or SOC 110. Offered Term 1. (MOD, DIV)

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: MATERIAL GIRLS IN A MATERIAL WORLD: GENDER & SCIENCE (4)**Breitwieser**

This class examines how science produces and is produced by understandings of gender, sexuality, race, nation, and dis/ability. We think about science as a particular way of understanding the material world and trace western science's historical and philosophical emergence. We consider the object(ive)s of scientific study; representation within STEM; the culture(s) of science; and its role within systems of power. Offered Term 1. (MOD, DIV)

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: FROM TRAMP STAMPS TO DESIGNER GENES: BODY MODIFICATION (4)**Breitwieser**

This course examines understandings and experiences of body modification. We explore the social, political, and ethical aspects of body modifications and analyze what constitutes (un)natural enhancement, modification versus mutilation, and individual agency. We learn that we shape our bodies to express ourselves, as well as to deliberately conform to or defy bodily expectations based on gender, race, religion, and ability. Also listed as SOC 250. Offered Term 2.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: QUEER MIDDLE AGES (4)**Snowden**

This course will explore the history of what we might now understand as queer expressions of gender and sexuality in the Middle Ages, considering examples from Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East from about 500 to 1500 CE. Among other things, we'll read homoerotic love poetry, learn about saints whose gender was miraculously transformed, and discuss what it means to think about LGBTQ+ identities in the Middle Ages. Also listed as HIST 250. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students. (PRE)

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: CITING BLACK WOMEN (4)**Turner**

Also listed and described as SOC 250. Offered Term 2.

GWS 260: RACE, CLASS, GENDER: A REFLEXIVE APPROACH (4)**Turner**

Also listed and described as SOC 260. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2022-23. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 272: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE (4)**Turner**

Also listed and described as SOC 272. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1.

GWS 281: SINNERS, SAINTS, AND MISFITS: RELIGION AND DISABILITY (4)**Schumm**

Also listed and described as REL 281. Offered Term 2. (w, x, MOD, DIV)

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 310: THE BODY AND SEXUALITY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY (4)**Nuñez**

Also listed and described as HIST 310. Not offered in 2022-23. (w, x, MOD)

GWS 318: SEXUAL ETHICS (4)**Schumm**

Also listed and described as REL 318. Not offered in 2022-23. (o, DIV)

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

Also listed and described as ART 324. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2022-23. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 328: 19TH-CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS (4)**Pfeiffer**

Also listed and described as ENG 328. Prerequisite: sophomore standing; English majors must have completed at least one 100-level or 200-level literature course in English. Not offered in 2022-23. (w, x, AES)

GWS 334: SEX AND RACE IN THE AGE OF EMPIRE (4)**Nuñez**

Also listed and described as HIST 334. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2022-23. (w, x, GLO, MOD)

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

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 and one other 200-level gender and women's studies course. Not offered in 2022-23. (o, DIV)

GWS 342: ADVANCED STUDIES IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: AMERICAN GIRLS' FICTION (4)**Pfeiffer**

Also listed and described as ENG 342. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission; English majors must have completed both a 100-level and a 200-level literature course in English. Offered Term 2. (w, x, AES, MOD)

GWS 345: ARAB WOMEN WRITERS (4)**Kaldas**

Also listed and described as ENG 345. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2022-23.

(AES, GLO)

GWS 347: GIRLHOOD STUDIES (4)**Costa**

This course will explore the interdisciplinary field of girlhood studies. We will consider the cultural representations and productions of girls and girl cultures, both academic and popular. Themes of investigation may include gender socialization, racialization, sexuality, self-esteem, identity formation, media, consumption, international development, empowerment, agency & activism. Discussions will be grounded in feminist intersectional approaches that investigate the diversities and commonalities of girls' experiences as well as the larger structures of power that shape girls' experiences. Students will have the opportunity to learn about girls' experiences and organizations at the local, national, and global levels. Offered Term 1.

GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: HIGH POLITICS (4)**Chenette**

Also listed and described as POLS 350. Offered Term 2.

GWS 360: DOING, UNDOING, RE-DOING GENDER (4)**Turner**

Also listed and described as SOC 360. Prerequisite: SOC 110. Offered Term 2.

GWS 362: SPIRITUAL ACTIVISM (4)**Costa**

This course explores the role of spirituality for individuals and collectivities engaged in transformative social justice work. In particular, we focus on the work of contemporary feminist, womanist, and women of color scholars and activists such as Gloria Anzaldúa, Audre Lorde, Layli Maparyan, Jaqui Alexander, and AnaLouise Keating. We also explore the writings and practices of contemplatives from a range of spiritual traditions. Students in this seminar will be expected to engage in experiential learning, leading class discussion, sustained personal reflection, cultural analysis and critique, and rethinking epistemology and social change. Also listed as REL 362. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Offered Term 1. (DIV)

GWS 372: IMAGES OF WOMEN IN FILM (4)**Gerber-Stroh**

Also listed and described as FILM 372. Prerequisite: prior film course or permission. Offered Term 2. (AES, MOD)

GWS 382: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE - QUEER ECOLOGIES IN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING (4)**Sunia**

Also listed and described as ENG 382. (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: INTERNSHIP (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)**Breitwieser, 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 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.