

# Gender and Women's Studies

**MAJOR, MINOR****PROFESSOR:** LeeRay Costa (gender and women's studies)**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Lindsey Breitwieser (chair, gender and women's studies)**AFFILIATED FACULTY:** Anna Bennett (history), Amy Gerber-Stroh (film), Michael Gettings (philosophy), Genevieve Hendricks (art history), Pauline Kaldas (English), Jaeyeon Lee (global politics and societies), Rachel Nuñez (history), Wendy-Marie Martin (theatre), Julie Pfeiffer (English), Darla Schumm (religious studies), Patricia Sunia (English)**VISITING FACULTY:** Charlotte Rossler (history)

Gender and women's studies is an interdisciplinary program that examines how systems of oppression, privilege, and resistance operate. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of the importance of gender as a category of analysis that intersects with the study of race/ethnicity, class, age, and sexual identity, citizenship, and (dis)ability. Gender and women's studies explores gender roles and expectations, as well as the ways local and global transformations in work, technology, politics, and popular culture shape our lives, bodies, and beliefs. The gender and women's studies faculty are dedicated to creating an environment that fosters critical thinking and community connection, supports student activism and social justice work, 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, science, education, politics, business, media, and the arts will be well-prepared by the gender and women's studies major and minor. Graduates are experts in advocacy and communications, conflict resolution, research and project management, scholarly and creative expression, and advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion principles.

## 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 206: Theatre for Social Change (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 (4)
  - GWS 250: LGBTQ Literature (4)
  - GWS 272: Reproductive Justice (4)
  - GWS 281: Witches, Cripples, & other Monsters: Religion & Disability (4)
  - GWS 310: The Body and Sexuality in European History (4)
  - GWS 318: Sexual Ethics (4)
  - GWS 324: Feminism in Contemporary Art (4)
  - GWS 347: Girlhood Studies (4)
  - GWS 350: Feminist Geographies (4)
  - GWS 362: Spiritual Activism (4)
  - GWS 372: Images of Women in Film (4)
  - (Additional courses may be approved by the GWS Chair)
- 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 150: Eureka! The Social Study of Science (4)

- GWS 150: Introduction to Disability Studies (4)
- GWS 174: International Women's Voices (4)
- GWS 203: Race, Class, Gender & The Law (4)
- GWS 205: Criminal Justice System (4)
- GWS 206: Theatre for Social Change (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: Mad in America: Gender, Mental Health, & Popular Culture (4)
- GWS 250: LGBTQ+ Literature (4)
- GWS 250: LGBTQ+ History (4)
- GWS 250: Gender, Love, and Class in East Asian Popular Culture (4)
- GWS 250: Witchcraft (4)
- GWS 260: Race, Class, Gender (4)
- GWS 272: Reproductive Justice (4)
- GWS 281: Witches, Cripples, & Other Monsters: Religion & 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: 19<sup>th</sup>-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: Feminist Geography (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: Senior Thesis (4-8)
- GWS 490: Senior Honors Thesis (4/4)

### **INTERNSHIP**

An experiential component is required for each major. This consists of an internship or service project (4 credits or one Short Term) carried out while in 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 coursework and provide valuable experience that may lead to further career or educational opportunities. Short Term interns may be expected to participate in a biweekly discussion group with other gender and women's studies interns. At the end of the internship or service project, the student will submit a journal of work completed, a paper analyzing their field experience, and a reflective RATE assignment via the Career and Life Design center.

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

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

In designing their programs, minors should work closely with an advisor in gender and women's studies to select courses from the catalog that will allow them to develop a critical perspective in one area of interest without losing the interdisciplinary focus of the program.

### **CORE COURSES IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (12)**

- GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (4)
- One theory course from the following:
  - GWS 206: Theatre for Social Change (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 (4)
  - GWS 250: LGBTQ Literature (4)
  - GWS 272: Reproductive Justice (4)
  - GWS 281: Witches, Cripples, & other Monsters: Religion & Disability (4)
  - GWS 310: The Body and Sexuality in European History (4)
  - GWS 318: Sexual Ethics (4)
  - GWS 324: Feminism in Contemporary Art (4)
  - GWS 347: Girlhood Studies (4)
  - GWS 350: Feminist Geographies (4)
  - GWS 362: Spiritual Activism (4)
  - GWS 372: Images of Women in Film (4)
 (Additional courses may be approved by the GWS Chair)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies (4)

### **Two ADDITIONAL COURSES (8)**

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

### **INTERNSHIP (4)**

### **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. (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, DJP)

#### **GWS 150: SPECIAL TOPIC: EUREKA! THE SOCIAL STUDY OF SCIENCE (4)**

**Breitwieser**

Feminist science and technology studies is an interdisciplinary field dedicated to understanding knowledge production and the social practices that inform scientific work and technological development. We build on insights from gender, women's, and sexuality studies, indigenous studies, and critical race theory to examine the human dimensions of science and to investigate topics as varied as objectivity, blackboxing, and scientific adventure. Offered Term 2. (INQ)

#### **GWS 150: SPECIAL TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO DISABILITY STUDIES (4)**

**Breitwieser**

The study of disability is the investigation of how society understands and responds to physical, cognitive, and psychological diversity. In this course students will examine the importance and complexity of disabled experience; bear witness to historical accounts of marginalization; and interrogate contemporary debates about normality, autonomy, care, and human rights. Spanning multiple disciplines, eras, and cultures, the course trains students to think critically about conventional conceptualizations of the body, mind, and self and to recognize the role disability plays in gender, racial, and religious identification and politics. Offered Term 1. (MOD, DIV, DJP)

#### **GWS 174: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S VOICES (4)**

**Kaldas**

Also listed and described as ENG 174. Not offered in 2024-25. (f, w, x, AES, GLO)

- GWS 201: MAD IN AMERICA: GENDER, MENTAL HEALTH, & POPULAR CULTURE (4)** **Breitwieser**  
 This course uses popular culture to understand how insanity, madness, and psychological disability are perceived and how we might improve our own well-being. We use an intersectional perspective to understand mental health as a social and biological phenomenon; as part of systems we use to categorize one another, organize daily life, and distribute resources; and as a lens through which we may study our world. Engaging media, science, legal, and historic texts, we consider the production of behavioral, cognitive, and emotional norms and discuss how these stigmatize gender, sexual, racial, and mental difference. Also listed and described as SOC 201. Pre-requisite: GWS 141, SOC 110, or permission from the instructor. Offered Term 2. (DIV, MOD)
- GWS 203: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & THE LAW (4)** **Department**  
 Also listed and described as POLS 203. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2024-25. (DIV)
- GWS 205: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (4)** **Department**  
 Also listed and described as POLS 206. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2024-25. (A)
- GWS 206: THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (4)** **Martin**  
 Performance and performativity are radical ways to engage with notions of self, society, and identity politics. Who are we? How do we connect to our communities? How do we change alone and together? This class delves into these questions, pulling from the world of queer and feminist theory, philosophy, and performance aesthetics, and exploring the exciting new territories that spring up when these worlds collide. Also listed and described as THEA 206. Open to first years. No Prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (DIV, DJP)
- GWS 209: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES (4)** **Department**  
 Also listed and described as PHIL 208. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2024-25.
- GWS 211: MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS (4)** **Kaldas**  
 Also listed and described as ENG 211. Not offered in 2024-25. (w, x, AES, DIV)
- GWS 215: CONSTRUCTING GENDER (4)** **Department**  
 Also listed and described as COMM 215. Not offered in 2024-25. (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. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 and described as ES 219. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (r, DIV)
- GWS 222: WOMEN IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE (4)** **Department**  
 Also listed and described as HIST 222. Not offered in 2024-25. (w, x, PRE)
- GWS 223: WOMEN IN BUDDHISM (4)** **Schumm**  
 Also listed and described as REL 223. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (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. Offered Term 1. (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 2024-25. (DIV)

**GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: LGBTQ+ LITERATURE (4)****Sunia**

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

**GWS 250: LGBTQ+ HISTORY (4)****Rossler**

This course examines the modern history of LGBTQ+ people in the West. We will survey how ideas and expressions of gender and sexuality shifted across the period and how LGBTQ+ identity developed. We will study the history of LGBTQ+ repression, resistance, and rights. Students will contend with how gender, sexuality, race, class, disability, and colonialism challenged and complicated queer communities. Also listed and described as HIST 250. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. (DJP)

**GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: GENDER, LOVE, AND CLASS IN EAST ASIAN POPULAR CULTURE (4)****Lee**

Students will learn how to analyze contemporary East Asian popular culture within the broader context of gender, sexuality, class, and culture in East Asia. As primary or supplementary materials for this course, we will use Korean films, dramas, K pop idols' performance videos as well as Japanese animated films and movies, and Chinese reality shows. Also listed and described as INTL 250. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1.

**GWS 250: HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT IN EUROPE AND THE ATLANTIC WORLD (4)****Bennett**

This course analyzes European witchcraft beliefs in a comparative and transatlantic perspective. We will examine the ancient origins of witchcraft beliefs in the Mediterranean, cultural reasons for believing certain individuals were witches, and causes and consequences of the waves of trials and executions that embroiled communities. Comparing variations of European witchcraft persecution with the better-known Salem witch trials, and with witchcraft beliefs across the colonial Americas and the Caribbean, deepens our understanding of witchcraft as a global phenomenon and our knowledge of the historical particularity of the early modern European witch craze. Also listed and described as HIST 250. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. (DJP)

**GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES (4)****Alms**

Also listed and described as HIST 250.

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

Also listed and described as SOC 260. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2024-25. (DIV, MOD)

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

Also listed and described as SOC 272. Offered Term 1. (DJP)

**GWS 281: WITCHES, CRIPPLES, & OTHER MONSTERS: RELIGION & DISABILITY (4)****Schumm**

Also listed and described as REL 281. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (w, x, MOD)

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

Also listed and described as REL 318. Not offered in 2024-25. (o, DIV)

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

Also listed and described as ART 324. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Offered Term 2. (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 2024-25. (w, x, AES)

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

Also listed and described as HIST 334. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (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 2.

**GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: FEMINIST GEOGRAPHY (4)****Lee**

In this course, students will learn key concepts in feminist geography such as body as space, public/private space, gender politics, feminist geopolitics, etc. By going over key themes in feminist geography, students will learn how gender, sexuality, class, and race work to construct particular spaces and places. Also listed and described as INTL 350. Offered Term 1.

**GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: ROMAN WOMEN: METHODOLOGIES AND EVIDENCE (4)****McCullough**

This course will examine the material evidence for women across the Roman empire considering small finds, visual culture, epigraphic material, skeletal remains, and architectural components to answer the following questions: How was the feminine gender constructed and presentation in public and private contexts negotiated? How did women interact with and affect the religious and economic structures around them? How were women included in the making of empire? Also listed and described as ARTH 350 and CLAS 350. Not offered in 2024-25.

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

Also listed and described as SOC 360. Prerequisite: SOC 110. Not offered in 2024-25.

**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 and described as REL 362. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2024-25. (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. Offered Term 1. (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.