

Women's Studies

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Mission

The mission of the women's studies curriculum is to emphasize women's past and present roles in various social contexts (economic, political, religious, etc.) and across multiple disciplines. The women's studies minor is an interdisciplinary minor taken along with a disciplinary major. Women's studies courses offer students a chance to develop the skills necessary to analyze and to explore the ways in which gender defines who we are as women and men, how we are perceived, and how we are taught to perceive ourselves. Students choosing this course of study are encouraged to view the study of gender and sexuality within larger discussions of race, ethnicity and nationality in comparative and global contexts.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Women's Studies Minor, students should be able to:

1. critically analyze gender roles and how they are shaped by social, economic, religious, political and scientific influences.
2. demonstrate knowledge of the history of the women's movement and the feminist theories developing in conjunction with it.
3. demonstrate how the information from optional or concentration area courses relates to the larger concepts of women's and gender studies.
4. synthesize the insights from all minor coursework into a quality senior thesis project focused on an area of personal interest.

Minor in Women's Studies (18 hours minimum)

A minor in Women's Studies requires a minimum of 18 credit hours. Half of the credit hours must be taken as upper level courses (300-400 level).

In addition to fulfilling major requirements students must take the following:

WS 101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	3 credits
WS 200 Feminist Theory	2-3 credits
WS 400 Senior Thesis Project	1-3 credits

Students will also select courses out of the following list to complete the requirements for the minor. This list shows examples of courses already in the catalog that are clearly appropriate.

ENG 379 Women Writers	3
POL 266/366 Politics of Sex	3
RST 203 Sex, Gender and Religion	3
RST 301 Religion and Women's Studies	3

Students will also have the opportunity, with the approval of the instructor and upon the completion of a petition process, to focus their studies in other courses on issues related to women. Possible options include an emphasis on eco-feminism, women and psychology, US women's history, feminist perspectives in science and women artists.

Internships

Students are encouraged to participate in an internship program focusing on women's issues and to begin to consider these issues in light of larger issues of social justice. Suggestions for internships include: Office for Women at General Assembly Offices of the PC (USA), Domestic Violence Shelter, etc.

International Experience

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of faculty-led international travel opportunities that are relevant to the course of study and to attend conferences discussing women's issues.