Women and Gender Studies

Overview

Women and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary program that involves an interdisciplinary, multicultural, and transnational perspective of gender inequality. Based on the conviction that gender roles are socially constructed through time, the program employs perspectives from disciplines such as history, literature, philosophy, sociology, politics, and psychology to examine how gendered experiences are created and shaped by social and economic institutions, political movements, and individual experiences. The course of study centers on teaching students how to use feminist and social justice frameworks to analyze gender oppression within local, national, and global contexts. The program encourages an analysis of how race, class, sexuality, and nationality influence the construction of gender.

Career Options

The Women and Gender Studies program teaches written and oral communication skills, organization and sensitivity to marginalized or oppressed groups. These attributes can all be used in visual arts and writing careers or publishing and public relations which may include publishing or editing a feminist newsletter, working for a public relations firm, grant-writing or advocating for positive images of women in the media. Individuals may be employed with an organization or self-employed. Graduates of these programs have knowledge of power relationships and social justice issues that prepares them to work in law and government positions. Options are available in public and private sector organizations whose clients are primarily women and girls. These careers include some government agencies, protective and social services and international development.

Because a graduate from a Women and Gender Studies major learns interdisciplinary topics, he or she is well prepared for research and librarianship careers.

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Associate Degree

A.A. in Women and Gender Studies

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Catalog Date: June 1, 2020

Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGS 300</td>
<td>Introduction to Women and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 302</td>
<td>Global Women’s Issues (3)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOC 345</td>
<td>Global Women’s Issues (3)</td>
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</tbody>
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A minimum of 12 units from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
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<th>UNITS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 312</td>
<td>Women in Art (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLT 360</td>
<td>Women in Literature (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLT 401</td>
<td>Women in Film and Literature (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 340</td>
<td>Women in Politics (3)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 356</td>
<td>Human Sexuality (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 360</td>
<td>Psychology of Women (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 341</td>
<td>Sex and Gender in the U.S. (3)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 343</td>
<td>Women and Social Action (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 344</td>
<td>Sociology of Women’s Health (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 304</td>
<td>Women, Globalization, and Human Rights (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOC 347</td>
<td>Women, Globalization, and Human Rights (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 483</td>
<td>History of the United States - Honors (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HIST 310</td>
<td>History of the United States (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 311</td>
<td>History of the United States (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HIST 484</td>
<td>History of the United States - Honors (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total Units: 18

1Students must take the "Women’s Emphasis" sections of HIST 310, HIST 311, HIST 483, and HIST 484. The "Women’s Emphasis" courses are identified in the class schedule.

The Women and Gender Studies Associate in Arts (A.A) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) one of the following: the SCC General Education, the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC), or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.
Women and Gender Studies (WGS) Courses

WGS 300 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify women’s contributions to major social and cultural institutions, including history, politics, science, social science, literature, and art.
- demonstrate an understanding of the role of oppression and privilege in the lives of women, integrating the roles played by of race, class, gender, ethnicity, age, (dis)ability, and sexuality in women’s experiences.
- demonstrate the ability to summarize and apply a variety of feminist theories.
- identify and discuss a range of gender issues, including motherhood, gender-based violence, reproductive justice, economic issues, marriage and relationships, political leadership, employment, and physical and mental health issues.
- utilize a variety of strategies for social change, incorporating an understanding of the connection between knowledge and experience, theory and activism regarding issues pertaining to women and gender.
- demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing.

Career Information

A degree in Women and Gender Studies provides students with an academically well-rounded knowledge base anchored in strong critical thinking skills, through the lens of feminism and social justice. Students who complete the Women and Gender Studies program develop skills that are attractive to many employers in the twenty-first century, including the ability to think critically, to be open-minded and innovative, and to handle the real-life complexities of the workplace. Students also bring to the workplace a specific awareness of issues such as sexism, racism, homophobia, and class oppression. Students who earn an A.A. degree in Women and Gender Studies may either pursue further study or obtain employment directly in fields such as health and social services, education, law, government and politics, communications, and business. Moreover, a Women and Gender Studies degree gives students the confidence to pursue nontraditional careers.

WGS 300 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies

This course provides an interdisciplinary approach to introducing Women and Gender Studies and key theories, concepts, and issues of the field. The course will examine gender inequality from an intersectional perspective, emphasizing the interrelated circumstances that influence women’s status in popular culture, in the workforce, before the law, in the family, and in other social, political, and economic realms of society. Students will strive to understand women’s diverse histories and experiences, while at the same time seeking to understand how their own histories have shaped who they are and how they view the world. Employing gender as a central category of analysis, the course will be inclusive of issues of oppression based on gender expression and sexuality. Each student writes a minimum of 3,000 words.

WGS 302 Global Women's Issues

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing.
- utilize a variety of strategies for social change, incorporating an understanding of the connection between knowledge and experience, theory and activism regarding issues pertaining to women and gender.
- demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing.
- demonstrate a working knowledge of feminism and the field of Women and Gender Studies.
- recognize, critically analyze, and choose paths of action for social change.
- assess how women’s opportunities and achievements are constrained by systems of oppression and privilege.
- demonstrate an awareness of how the intersectional effects of sex, gender, race, class, sexuality, age, ethnicity, ability, and other complex aspects of identity influence social structures and women’s empowerment.
- analyze the diversity of gendered experiences and apply feminist approaches to understanding social structures and cultural pressures related to gender inequality.
- examine how sex, gender, race, class, sexuality, age, ethnicity, ability, and other complex aspects of identity affect one’s status and self-concept, and use this knowledge to question events and situations occurring in everyday life.
- identify women’s contributions to major social and cultural institutions, including history, politics, science, social science, literature, and art.
- demonstrate an understanding of the role of oppression and privilege in the lives of women, integrating the roles played by of race, class, gender, ethnicity, age, (dis)ability, and sexuality in women’s experiences.
- demonstrate the ability to summarize and apply a variety of feminist theories.
- identify and discuss a range of gender issues, including motherhood, gender-based violence, reproductive justice, economic issues, marriage and relationships, political leadership, employment, and physical and mental health issues.
- utilize a variety of strategies for social change, incorporating an understanding of the connection between knowledge and experience, theory and activism regarding issues pertaining to women and gender.
- demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing.

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WGS 300 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies

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Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- analyze key issues affecting women through a transnational feminist perspective, including immigration, education, maternal health, globalization, economics, war and conflict, gender-based violence, and political activism.
- comprehend the value of locally-generated social change arising from and working within the culture of local communities.
- demonstrate knowledge about the ways that women throughout the world are resisting gender oppression and organizing to reshape their own communities.
- critically assess media representation to seek an understanding of historical and cultural complexities that are embedded in global women's issues.
- recognize key women activists who have received global recognition for their contributions.
- apply knowledge as an emerging global citizen by considering options for contributing to positive change.

WGS 304 Women, Globalization, and Human Rights

Through global and transnational feminist perspectives, this course provides an overview of human rights ideas and frameworks, including the history and ongoing implementation of United Nations conventions, treaties, and campaigns concerning women. The course will consider the complex and gendered social, economic, and political impacts of globalization on women and girls around the world. Students will learn to critically engage with theories, approaches, and representation related to improving the lives of women in the global context and will learn about key human rights defenders who are recognized for their activism. Students will consider their own place in a globalized world and utilize course knowledge to think about their role in creating justice in the world. Credit may be awarded for either WGS 304 or SOC 347 but not for both.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- describe human rights ideas and frameworks, including the history and implementation of United Nations conventions and treaties concerning women.
- analyze the complex and gendered social, economic, and political aspects of globalization that disproportionately disadvantage and impact women in various locations around the world.
- identify various feminist and social science theories and approaches to improving the lives of women globally, including human rights, global and transnational feminisms, gender in development, grassroots organizing, and global campaigns.
- critically assess discourses related to women in the global context, including images and messages in the media, approaches and representations utilized by nongovernmental organizations, and language and methods within the United Nations human rights domain.
- recognize key women’s human rights defenders who have made important contribution to furthering the rights of women and girls.
- identify options, as a globally-informed citizen, for involvement in positive social change.

WGS 499 Experimental Offering in Women and Gender Studies

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- analyze key issues affecting women through a transnational feminist perspective, including immigration, education, maternal health, globalization, economics, war and conflict, gender-based violence, and political activism.
- comprehend the value of locally-generated social change arising from and working within the culture of local communities.
- demonstrate knowledge about the ways that women throughout the world are resisting gender oppression and organizing to reshape their own communities.
- critically assess media representation to seek an understanding of historical and cultural complexities that are embedded in global women’s issues.
- recognize key women activists who have received global recognition for their contributions.
- apply knowledge as an emerging global citizen by considering options for contributing to positive change.

Faculty

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People and Society

(//academics/meta-majors/people-and-society)

This program is part of the People and Society meta major.

PEOPLE AND SOCIETY ➤ (//ACADEMICS/META-MAJORS/PEOPLE-AND-SOCIETY)