Women’s Studies Program

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The Women’s Studies minor is designed to inform and enlighten students about the lives and history of diverse women. Women’s Studies courses are taught from a feminist perspective, which means they center on women’s experience and emphasize social transformation to enhance and empower women’s lives and are informed by theories of the social construction of gender. Students study such issues as work, health, leadership, and activism and issues of difference among women, including race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, nationality, age, and ability. Students also study obstacles to gender equality and justice. Courses emphasize an interactive learning process to challenge all students intellectually and emotionally. The minor promotes scholarly research about women and discussions of women’s goals, relationships, attitudes, and achievements.

Program Requirements

Students considering a Women’s Studies minor should take WMST 2100 as part of the General Education requirements. To complete the minor, students must take 15 additional hours within an interdisciplinary structure. The minor requires 9 hours of program courses (WMST prefix), including WMST 2100 and WMST 4500 (junior/senior standing required), plus 9 hours from the courses listed below (program or departmental). Students may apply credit for no more than one course from any single major field (program courses excepted) without permission from the Women's Studies director.

Program
WMST 2100 Introduction to Women’s Studies
(required for all minors)
Students should choose WMST 2100 as part of the General Education requirement under Social/Behavioral Sciences.
WMST 2500 Women’s Leadership and Self Empowerment
WMST 3000 Women’s Leadership Conference Practicum A
WMST 3001 Women’s Leadership Conference Practicum B
WMST 3500 Women in the Media
WMST 4200 Symposium in Women’s Studies (series)
WMST 4500 Feminist Theory (required for all minors)
WMST 4900 Independent Study

Courses in Women’s Studies [WMST]

2100 Introduction to Women’s Studies. Three credits. Designed to inform and enlighten students about the lives and history of diverse women and the social construction of gender. Areas of study may include work, the family, health, sexuality, violence in women’s lives, images of women, and feminist activism. Required for all Women’s Studies minors.

2500 Women’s Leadership and Self Empowerment. Three credits. An exploration of the concepts of leadership and followership through historical, contemporary, and personal perspectives as they apply to women. Provides an opportunity to examine, evaluate, and enhance personal leadership skills. WMST 2100 is recommended as a prerequisite but not required.

3000 Women’s Leadership Conference Practicum A. Three credits. Prerequisites: WMST 2100 and permission of instructor. WMST 2500 recommended but not required. Theory and concepts of women’s leadership through participation in major women’s activities.
conference. Provides an opportunity to engage in creative planning, decision-making and collaborative and experiential learning, and to assume significant responsibility for conference related to women's issues. No more than 6 hours of practicum and independent study may count toward the Women's Studies minor.

3001 Women's Leadership Conference Practicum B. Three credits. Prerequisite: WMST 2100, 3000, and permission of instructor. WMST 2500 recommended but not required. Theory and concepts of women's leadership through participation in major women's conference. Provides an opportunity to engage in creative planning, decision-making and collaborative and experiential learning, and to assume significant responsibility for conference related to women's issues. No more than 6 hours of practicum and independent study may count toward the Women's Studies minor.

3050 Women and Poverty. Three credits. (See SW 3050.) Prerequisite: WMST 2100 or SW 2570.

3500 Women in the Media. Three credits. Prerequisites: WMST 2100 and 1000- and 2000-level English requirements or permission of instructor. Women in popular/mass media. Emphases include images of women in the media; women as producers and consumers of media; the intersections of gender, race, and class in the media; comparative global images and issues; and feminist approaches to media study.

3700 Women, Crime, and Justice Administration. Three credits. (See CJA 3700.)

4201- Symposium in Women's Studies. Three credits. Prerequisite: WMST 2100 or permission of instructor. Additional prerequisites may apply to individual courses within the series. A variable-content course highlighting contributions of women to various fields and disciplines and exploring special problems which may be encountered by women. Specific courses include:

- 4201 Women and Spirituality
- 4202 Lesbian Studies
- 4204 Women and Television
- 4205 Women and Science
- 4206 Women and the Holocaust
- 4207 Women and the Social Construction of Illness
- 4209 Desire in History and Literature
- 4210 Ecofeminism
- 4211 Asian-American Women's Literature and Culture
- 4212 Multicultural Women

4500 Feminist Theory. Three credits. Prerequisites: WMST 2100 and junior standing or permission of instructor. Major voices, texts, and ideas in the field of feminist theory from the early seventeenth century through the present within the contexts of a variety of critical discourses and emergent critical fields. Intended as a capstone for the minor. Required for all Women's Studies minors.

4900 Independent Study. Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A variable-content course examining a topic within the study of women and gender not covered in depth in other Women's Studies courses. Student develops project, conducts research, and confers regularly with the instructor. Student must submit a formal project proposal to be approved by the Women's Studies Program's Independent Studies Committee at least one semester prior to enrolling for WMST 4900 (not including summer term). May be taken for credit no more than twice.