

Women's Studies Program

Elyce Rae Helford, Director
Peck Hall 109B

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, 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

The minor requires 18 semester hours within an interdisciplinary structure. All students pursuing the minor are required to take WMST 2100, 4500, and one from the following: WMST 2500, 3000, 3001, 3500, or a course from the WMST 4200 series. The remaining 9 hours may be selected from the program or departmental courses listed below. Students may apply credit for no more than one course from any single major field without permission of the Women's Studies director.

Interdisciplinary

- WMST 2100 Introductory Women's Studies
(required for all minors)
Students should choose WMST 2100 as part of the General Studies requirement under Area III-B, Social and 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 3050 Women and Poverty (same as S W 3050)
WMST 3500 Women in the Media
WMST 3700 Women, Crime, and Justice Administration (same as CJA 3700)
- WMST 4200 Symposium in Women's Studies (series)
WMST 4500 Feminist Theory (required for all minors)
WMST 4900 Independent Studies

Departmental

Not all sections of a given course will earn Women's Studies credit; see Women's Studies section of schedule book for each term's approved offerings.

- ANTH 3750 Race, Class, and Gender
ANTH 4760 Kinship and Marriage
ART 4910 Women in Art
CDFS 4340 The Contemporary Family
CJA 3700 Women, Crime, and Justice Administration
COMM 3225 Gender Communication
ENGL 2230 Themes in British Literature
ENGL 2330 Special Topics in Literature and Culture
ENGL 2330 Women in Science Fiction
ENGL 2330 Women Playwrights
ENGL 3060 Black Women as Writers
ENGL 3070 Early Women Writers
ENGL 3080 Women and Film
ENGL 3090 Nineteenth-Century Women Writers
ENGL 3100 Women Writers of the Twentieth Century
ENGL 4720 Special Topics in Contemporary Literature (approved Women's Studies topics only)
ENGL 4850 Selected Topics in Literature and Language (approved Women's Studies topics only)
FREN 3130 Twentieth-Century Women Writers in French
HIST 1020 Survey Western Civilization II (approved Women's Studies topics only)
HIST 3030 Topics in African-American History: The African-American Woman
HIST 4770 Women in America to 1890
HIST 4780 Women in America Since 1890
HIST 4790 Women in Europe Since 1700
HIST 4810 History of Women in the Third World
HLTH 4390 Women's Health
HUM 2610 Foreign Literature in Translation (approved Women's Studies topics only)
HUM 3950 Women in the Middle Ages
PHIL 4800 Readings in Philosophy: Feminist Epistemology
P S 3000 The Political Status of Women in the World
P S 3010 Women and the Law
PSY 4620 Psychology of Women
SOC 3400 Gender and Society
SOC 4030 Topics in Aging Studies: Women and Aging
S W 3050 Women and Poverty
THEA 3870 Women in Theatre

Courses in Women's Studies [WMST]

- 2100 (210) 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 (250) 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 (300) 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 conference. Provides an opportunity to engage in creative planning, decision-making, 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 (301) 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, 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 (305) Women and Poverty.** Three credits. (See S W 3050.) Prerequisite: WMST 2100 or S W 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 (370) Women, Crime, and Justice Administration.** Three credits. (See CJA 3700.)
- 4201- (420 A-Z) 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 (420A) Women and Religion**
 - 4202 (420B) Lesbian Studies**
 - 4204 (420D) Women and Television**
 - 4205 (420E) Women and Science**
 - 4206 (420F) Women and the Holocaust**
 - 4207 (420G) Women and Social Construction of Illness**
 - 4209 Desire in History and Literature**
- 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 (490) Independent Studies.** 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.**