

WOMEN'S STUDIES

College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies

Program Description

The field of Women's Studies is dedicated to studying women's lives and facilitating political activism and community participation. What makes Women's Studies such a dynamic field is the conviction that theoretical knowledge is best illuminated when connected to political projects and personal experiences.

Our Women's Studies curriculum is multi-disciplinary and focuses on women, gender, and sexuality in relation to other social and economic forces such as racism, ethnocentrism, capitalism, and militarism. Students have opportunities to examine women's diverse experiences—locally, nationally, and globally—within feminist and social justice frameworks.

The course of study situates gender in specific historical and cultural contexts, and examines how our lives are shaped by social and economic institutions, political movements, and individual experiences. We also place a strong focus on community involvement and activism, and we offer many opportunities for internships and service work credit.

Women's Studies affirms the Preamble and Purpose of the National Women's Studies Association which states:

"Women's Studies owes its existence to the movement for the liberation of women; the women's liberation movement exists because women are oppressed... Feminist aims include the elimination of oppression and discrimination on the basis of sex, race, class, religion, disability, and sexual orientation."

Degree Programs

Minor in Women's Studies (<http://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/womens-studies/minor-in-womens-studies>)

BS in Women's Studies (<http://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/womens-studies/bs-in-womens-studies>)

Contact Information

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Faculty

JONES, CARA

JOSEPHSON, TRISTAN

MONI, SUJATHA

WOMS 50. Introduction to Gender & Sexuality. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Introduction to basic concepts and issues informing studies in gender, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual/gender (GLBT) identities. Classic and contemporary texts from different cultures will cover biological, historical and social constructions of gender and sexuality. Transformations in family and society, global and intersectional perspectives on GLBT identity, political activism, cultural and social perceptions of gender and sexuality will be discussed.

WOMS 110. Introduction to the Women's Movement in Contemporary Society. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Examination of women's issues in the current women's movement. Emphasis is on detailed examination of feminist topics important to women today.

WOMS 115. Introduction to Women's Studies. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Introduction to the origins and models of Women's Studies. Explores the significance of a new field of study, and examines the methods of interdisciplinary study. Provides an opportunity to read a number of Women's Studies "classics" and to trace the development of feminist theory.

WOMS 118. Asian American Women. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Humanities (Area C2)

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Using an interdisciplinary approach, course offers a broad introduction to broad principle values and traditions shaping Asian American women's lives in the U.S. Examines cultural diversity, gender inequality and conflicts between traditions and social practices through critical analysis of literature, film and cultural theories as expressions of identity. Topics covered include: cultural heritage and philosophies, intergenerational conflict, transnationalism, gender roles and socio-economic practices. Comprehensive understanding principle factors governing Asian American women's lives at the nexus of Asian and American cultures. Cross-listed: ETHN 118.

WOMS 120. Mother Woman Person. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D

Term Typically Offered: Fall only

This course applies principles of feminism to the study of motherhood as social institution and private experience. Students explore family, cultural and social values that influenced their mothers and grandmothers, analyzing the impact of social institutions on their own childhood and adulthood. Students develop awareness of the historic evolution of women's social and private roles and the changing emphasis on woman as mother, wife/sexual companion and wage earning person largely through African American women's social movements.

WOMS 121. Women Of The Middle East. 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Humanities (Area C2)
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Provides an introduction to historical and contemporary conditions affecting women's lives and contributions to Middle Eastern societies. Readings will be framed with a focus on women within state systems and political life, economic activity, family systems, religious thought and law, health, arts and literature.

WOMS 125. Sex & Gender in South Asia. 3 Units

This course focuses on sex & gender roles in South Asia starting with ancient times to the present. Patriarchal ideals pertaining to social values, traditions and family structures will be examined. Religious, caste and economic class factors contributing to the preservation of gender norms and socially approved sexual behavior, sex roles, stereotypes, and violence against women, transgender youth and sexual minorities will be analyzed. Contemporary social movements and activism by women's groups and LGBTIQ activists will also be discussed.

WOMS 133. Gender & Health. 3 Units
Term Typically Offered: Fall only

This course explores feminist analyses of medicine. An intersectional approach to how medical science constructs knowledge about health will be examined. This interdisciplinary study draws on humanities and social sciences; feminism; medical, scientific, and clinical literature; popular sources; and web discourses. How gender, race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, and disability intersect and shape behavior and experience will be analyzed. Contemporary social movements and activism by women and LGBTQIA+ people will also be discussed.

WOMS 136. Gender, Race, and Class. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D, Race & Ethnicity Graduation Requirement (RE), Writing Intensive Graduation Requirement (WI)

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Designed to examine the effects of the dynamic interaction of gender, race, and class on women. The social construction of gender, race, and class will also be examined. Other topics to be discussed and researched are the effects of sexism, racism, and classicism on institutions such as academia, business, government, religion, and social movements. Also provides an analysis of effective techniques to end sexism, racism, and classicism. Prerequisite: GEAR certification before Fall 09; or WPJ score of 80+; or 3-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W; or 4-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X; or WPJ score 70 or 71 and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X.

WOMS 137. Women Of Color. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Race & Ethnicity Graduation Requirement (RE), GE AREA D

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Examines the social, economic, and cultural uniqueness of various ethnic groups in the U.S. Includes discussion of definitions of sexism, racism, economic exploitation, feminism, and the nature and evolution of the women's movement in relation to women of color.

WOMS 138. Women and Work. 3 Units

Prerequisite(s): GEAR certification before Fall 09; or WPJ score of 80+; or 3-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W; or 4-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X; or WPJ score 70 or 71 and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X.

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Writing Intensive Graduation Requirement (WI), GE AREA D

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Explores topics basic to discussion of women's paid and unpaid work from historical and crosscultural perspectives. Consideration is given to popular conceptions and stereotypes of work and "women's issues" in the industrialized world; the private and public lives of women and men with emphasis on work and social realities; and the maintenance of patriarchy under capitalism, socialism and communism, with some possible feminist "solutions."

WOMS 139. Violence Against Women. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D

Term Typically Offered: Spring only

Consider from an international feminist perspective the forms of violence directed at women. It will also look at contemporary attitudes towards women, children, power, aggression and sexuality. Topics include sexual assault; child abuse; medical violence; psychiatric violence; economic violence; and military violence. Also examines the ways in which women are individually and collectively combating these various forms of violence.

WOMS 144. Women and Theatre: Staging Diversity. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Race & Ethnicity Graduation Requirement (RE), Arts (Area C1)

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Includes study of recent feminist performance theory and criticism and its application to acting, directing, and writing for the theatre. Students will participate in both lecture/discussion and activities, including the creation of a final performance. Lecture two hours; lab two hours. Cross Listed: THEA 144; only one may be counted for credit.

WOMS 145. Feminism and the Spirit. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Humanities (Area C2)

Term Typically Offered: Fall only

Provides a critique of traditional patriarchal religions and traces women's participation in the evolution of the human spirit. Consideration is given to the history of Goddess religion and its resurgence in the contemporary world; sexism in institutionalized religions and the current advances women are making in the churches; and dimensions of woman spirit incorporated in today's feminist art and literature.

WOMS 146. Women In Art. 3 Units

General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Arts (Area C1)

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Study of the unique and important contributions of women to the visual arts (Renaissance to present) and their personal struggle toward success and recognition. The Women's Art Movement and its impact on education, museums and women's status in the arts are important topics of this class.

- WOMS 147. Women's Global Issues. 3 Units**
Prerequisite(s): Minimum 45 units completed
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
- Provides a historical overview, as well as in-depth studies of the similarities and differences in feminist developments from an international perspective. Examples will be drawn from industrialized democracies, centrally planned socialist states, and third world countries. Pluralistic trends in feminist development within countries will also be examined with a view to understanding the differential impact of gender based discrimination on different categories of women.
- WOMS 150. Introduction to Queer and Trans Studies. 3 Units**
Prerequisite(s): WOMS 50 or instructor permission.
 Introduces students to the fields of queer theory and trans theory from a transnational feminist perspective. Includes theoretical approaches to the history of sexuality and the politics of sexual and gender normativity. Places queer and trans studies in conversation with Native studies, disability studies, postcolonial theory, critical race and ethnic studies, and feminist theory.
- WOMS 166. Gender and Politics. 3 Units**
Term Typically Offered: Spring only
- This course examines the influence of socially constructed meanings of femininity and masculinity on the political participation of women, candidate selection, election campaigns, and electoral outcomes in executive and legislative offices in the U.S. and worldwide. Students will develop a rich understanding of the relationship between gender and women's political representation and analyze and discuss institutional, structural, cultural, and historical conditions associated with women's voting behavior, political advancement, leadership styles, and impacts of political representation on women.
 Cross Listed: GOVT 166; only one may be counted for credit.
- WOMS 172. LGBTQ Histories. 3 Units**
Term Typically Offered: Spring only
- This course provides an introduction to the study of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) histories. Uses an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to explore the historical emergence and development of LGBTQ identities, communities, and political movements. Includes theoretical analysis of the history of gender and sexuality and the practice of historical analysis.
 Cross Listed: HIST 172; only one may be taken for credit.
- WOMS 180. Seminar in Feminist Theory. 3 Units**
Prerequisite(s): WOMS 110 or instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
- Advanced course providing detailed inquiry into specific feminist theories, including their conceptual framework and development, relationship to other political theories and application to the current practices of feminism.
- WOMS 195A. Fieldwork in Women's Studies. 1 - 3 Units**
Prerequisite(s): Instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
- Supervised experience in selected women's organizations and projects in the Sacramento area; for example, the Rape Crisis Center, Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE), Sacramento Women's Center.
 Credit/No Credit
- WOMS 199. Special Problems. 1 - 3 Units**
Prerequisite(s): WOMS 115 and instructor permission.
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
- Supervised individual research projects or directed reading specifically related to Women's Studies topics. Should be taken by students who can work on an individual basis.
 Credit/No Credit
- WOMS 299. Special Research Problems. 1 - 3 Units**
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
- Supervised research projects and directed study specifically related to Women's Studies and taken on an individual basis by Graduate students in the Special Major Graduate Program.
 Credit/No Credit