

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."

Contact Information

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Faculty

CAMERON-WEDDING, RITA

MONI, SUJATHA

BS in Women's Studies

Units required for Major: 36

Minimum total units required for the BS: 120; 40 units should be upper division

A minimum grade of C- is required of courses applied to the major.

Required Lower Division Core Courses (3 Units)

WOMS 50	Introduction to Gender Sexuality	3
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Required Upper Division Courses (9 Units)

WOMS 110	Introduction to the Women's Movement in Contemporary Society	3
WOMS 115	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
WOMS 180	Seminar in Feminist Theory	3

Required Upper Division Elective Courses (24 Units)

Select at least one course from each of the following categories: 24

Identities and Intersectionality

ANTH 183	Women Cross-Culturally
EDUC 165	Sex Role Stereotyping in American Education 
ETHN 132	La Mujer Chicana
ETHN 151	Native American Women
ETHN 172	Black Women In America
HROB 158	Special Topics in Human Resource Management
PSYC 134	Psychology of Human Sexuality
PSYC 157	Psychology of Women
WOMS 120	Mother/Woman/Person
WOMS 136	Gender, Race, and Class  
WOMS 137	Women Of Color 
WOMS/GOVT 166	Women and Politics in Contemporary America
WOMS 195A	Fieldwork in Women's Studies
WOMS 199	Special Problems

The Humanities

ENGL 185B	Twentieth Century Fiction by Women 
ENGL 185C	British Women Novelists
ENGL 185D	American Women Writers
HIST 122A	History of Women in Western Civilization, Prehistory-Middle Ages 
HIST 122B	History of Women in Western Civilization, Renaissance-Present 
HIST 167	History of American Women
HRS 185	Women in Film and American Culture
JOUR 172	Women in the Mass Media
PHIL 123	Philosophy and Feminism
WOMS/ETHN 118	Asian American Women
WOMS/THEA 144	Women and Theatre: Staging Diversity 
WOMS 145	Feminism and the Spirit
WOMS 146	Women In Art

Society, Politics and Social Movements

CRJ 111	Women and the Criminal Justice System
EDTE 266	Women And Education
HIST 175	Sex, Population, and Birth Control in America
SOC 126	Sociology of Gender
SWRK 134	Crimes Without Victims
WOMS 139	Violence Against Women
WOMS 150	Critical Queer and Trans Studies
WOMS/GOVT 166	Women and Politics in Contemporary America

Economic Globalization and Transnational Feminism

ECON 184	Women and the Economy
WOMS 121	Women Of The Middle East
WOMS 138	Women and Work 
WOMS 147	Women's Global Issues

Total Units 36

Minor in Women's Studies

Units required for the Minor: 21; all must be upper division courses. The minor emphasizes the position and achievement of women in various fields of study.




Required Courses (9 Units)

WOMS 110	Introduction to the Women's Movement in Contemporary Society	3
WOMS 115	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
WOMS 180	Seminar in Feminist Theory	3

Electives (12 Units)

Select at least one course from each of the following categories: 12

Identities and Intersectionality

ANTH 183	Women Cross-Culturally	
EDUC 165	Sex Role Stereotyping in American Education  	
ETHN 132	La Mujer Chicana	
ETHN 151	Native American Women	
ETHN 172	Black Women In America	
HROB 158	Special Topics in Human Resource Management	
PSYC 134	Psychology of Human Sexuality	
PSYC 157	Psychology of Women	
WOMS 120	Mother/Woman/Person	
WOMS 136	Gender, Race, and Class  	
WOMS 137	Women Of Color 	
WOMS/GOVT 166	Women and Politics in Contemporary America	
WOMS 195A	Fieldwork in Women's Studies	
WOMS 199	Special Problems	


The Humanities

ENGL 185B	Twentieth Century Fiction by Women 	
ENGL 185C	British Women Novelists	
ENGL 185D	American Women Writers	
HIST 122A	History of Women in Western Civilization, Prehistory-Middle Ages 	
HIST 122B	History of Women in Western Civilization, Renaissance-Present 	
HIST 167	History of American Women	
HRS 185	Women in Film and American Culture	
JOUR 172	Women in the Mass Media	
PHIL 123	Philosophy and Feminism	
WOMS/THEA 144	Women and Theatre: Staging Diversity 	
WOMS 145	Feminism and the Spirit	
WOMS 146	Women In Art	

Society, Politics and Social Movements

CRJ 111	Women and the Criminal Justice System	
EDTE 266	Women And Education	
SOC 126	Sociology of Gender	
SWRK 134	Crimes Without Victims	
WOMS 139	Violence Against Women	
WOMS/GOVT 166	Women and Politics in Contemporary America	
WOMS 150	Critical Queer and Trans Studies	

Economic Globalization and Transnational Feminism

ECON 184	Women and the Economy	
WOMS 121	Women Of The Middle East	
WOMS 138	Women and Work 	
WOMS 147	Women's Global Issues	

Total Units 21

Descriptions of non-Women's Studies courses may be obtained by consulting the listings under the appropriate departments. Please consult the Women's Studies Department for any new courses added to these categories. The major and minor in Women's Studies are planned in advance and approved for graduation by the Women's Studies Coordinator.

Additional Information

- **Course Offerings:** To meet the feminist goals of Women's Studies, two types of courses are offered. Women's Studies courses taught by Women's Studies faculty and funded by Women's Studies; and courses taught by faculty from other departments and funded by those departments.
- **Approved Service Courses:** Women's Studies courses are offered in many departments including: Anthropology, Art, Teacher Education, Business Administration, Counselor Education, Economics, English, Ethnic Studies, Family and Consumer Sciences, Government, History, Humanities and Religious Studies, Criminal Justice, Journalism, Kinesiology, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work. A complete listing of semester courses may be obtained from the Department Office, Amador Hall 561B.

Listed below are the regularly offered service courses, approved for the Women's Studies Department, although many experimental offerings are taught in departments each semester. Please refer to departmental listings for a complete description of these courses.

ANTH 183	Women Cross-Culturally	3
CRJ 111	Women and the Criminal Justice System	3
ECON 184	Women and the Economy	3
EDUC 165	Sex Role Stereotyping in American Education  	3
EDTE 266	Women And Education	3
ETHN 132	La Mujer Chicana	3
ETHN 172	Black Women In America	3
HIST 122A	History of Women in Western Civilization, Prehistory-Middle Ages 	3
HIST 122B	History of Women in Western Civilization, Renaissance-Present 	3
HIST 167	History of American Women	3
HRS 185	Women in Film and American Culture	3
HROB 158	Special Topics in Human Resource Management	3
JOUR 172	Women in the Mass Media	3
PSYC 134	Psychology of Human Sexuality	3
PSYC 157	Psychology of Women	3
SWRK 134	Crimes Without Victims	3
WOMS/GOVT 166	Women and Politics in Contemporary America	3

- WOMS 50. Introduction to Gender Sexuality.** 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D
 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
 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
 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)
 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: Understanding Personal Development (E)
 Application of feminist analyses to the role of mother in this culture. Focuses on the evolution of the institution of motherhood and its effects upon our lives.
- WOMS 121. Women Of The Middle East.** 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Humanities (Area C2)
 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 136. Gender, Race, and Class.** 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Race & Ethnicity Graduation Requirement (RE), Writing Intensive Graduation Requirement (WI), GE AREA D
 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
 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
 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
 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: Arts (Area C1), Race & Ethnicity Graduation Requirement (RE)
 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)
 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)
 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
 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. Critical Queer and Trans Studies. 3 Units**
Prerequisite(s): WOMS 50 or an equivalent course in LGBT Studies
 Advanced course exploring 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, dis/ability studies, postcolonial theory, critical race and ethnic studies, and feminist theory.
- WOMS 166. Women and Politics in Contemporary America. 3 Units**
 Examination and evaluation of several approaches to moment's equality in America today. A brief historical examination of the political aspects of the women's movement. A more thorough examination of the various factions; moderate, radical and revolutionary. Such approaches as community projects, electoral politics, consciousness raising, separatism and violent revolution will all be individually considered. Open to both sexes.
 Cross Listed: GOVT 166; only one may be counted for credit.
- WOMS 180. Seminar in Feminist Theory. 3 Units**
Prerequisite(s): WOMS 110 or instructor permission.
 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.
 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.
 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**
 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