WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Program Description

Women's and Gender Studies is a dynamic interdisciplinary field preparing students to be future leaders, scholars, and social justice activists. We are dedicated to studying the social production of gender and women's experiences in relation to formations of sexuality, race, class, nationality, ability, ageism, and other categories of difference. Scholarship and research in Women's and Gender Studies emphasize the importance of connecting what students learn in the classroom to political projects and personal experiences.

Our curriculum empowers students to be agents of change in their communities and society. It provides them tools to examine relations of gender in local, national, and global contexts. Our courses situate gender within specific historical and cultural contexts, allowing students to examine how our lives are shaped by social and economic institutions, political movements, and individual experiences. “Putting Theory into Practice” since 1971, we place a strong emphasis on community involvement and activism, and we offer many opportunities for internships and service work credit.

The B.S. in Women's and Gender Studies prepares students for careers in education, as professors, teachers, or curriculum specialists; counseling, as school counselors, psychological or family therapists; law, health; human services; student services; and public service.

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

Degree Programs

Minor in LGBTQ Studies (http://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/womens-studies/minor-in-lgbtq-studies/)

Minor in Women’s & Gender Studies (http://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/womens-studies/minor-in-womens-gender-studies/)

BS in Women's & Gender Studies (http://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/womens-studies/womens-gender-studies/)

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Faculty

WGS 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.

WGS 75. Introduction to Disability Studies. 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course is an introduction to disability studies. An intersectional approach to knowledge construction about disability will be examined. This interdisciplinary study draws on humanities and social sciences, feminism, medical and scientific literature, and popular sources. How gender, race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and nationality intersect with disability to shape experience will be analyzed. Historical and contemporary social movements and activism by people with disabilities will also be discussed.

WGS 85. Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies. 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: GE AREA D
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Introduction to major topics and issues within feminism. Using interdisciplinary and intersectional perspectives, the course will examine issues in women’s and gender studies across the globe. Feminist methods and approaches will be examined using classic and contemporary texts. Topics include intersectionality, LGBTQ studies, domestic violence, reproductive justice, beauty standards, disability, and globalization.

WGS 110. Introduction to Women's Movements in the United States. 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: United States History, GE AREA D
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

An examination of the institutional structures, practices and ideals contributing to feminist struggles, and achievements of women’s movements in the United States. This course explores how factors of race, class, gender, and sexuality have contributed to the emergence of feminist consciousness and struggles for social justice in the United States from the nineteenth century to the present time.
Women's and Gender Studies

WGS 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.

WGS 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.

WGS 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.

WGS 125. Sex & Gender in South Asia. 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Humanities (Area C2)
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course focuses on love, sex & gender in the cultures of South Asia starting with ancient times to the present. The influence of social customs, traditions, religion, and social class on human relationships will be examined using various texts and films. Gender and sexual identity, sexual desire, eroticism, sex role stereotyping, violence against women, gay and transgender people, subversive desires and the threat they pose to patriarchal structures will be explored.

WGS 133. Gender & Health. 3 Units
General Education Area/Graduation Requirement: Further Studies in Area B (B5)
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.

WGS 136. Gender, Race, and Class. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): GWAR 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 (RE), GE AREA D
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.

WGS 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.

WGS 138. Women and Work. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): GWAR 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 (RE), 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.

WGS 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.
This course offers students feminist frameworks for understanding Latinx feminisms as a field of study and political inquiry. Latinx feminisms and their development are mapped alongside queer, trans, Black, Indigenous, women of color, and antiracist feminisms and movements. Centers the creative and critical ways in which Latinx feminists conceptualize oppression, resistance, social transformation, and the abolition of systems of domination. Students will analyze the complexity, heterogeneity, and interconnectedness of U.S. based Latinx feminisms.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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: POLS 166; only one may be counted for credit.

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 counted for credit.

This interdisciplinary course utilizes texts from various humanities and social sciences disciplines to survey the field of feminist disability studies, with emphasis on intersectional feminist disability theory, narrative, and practice. Attention will be given to historical and contemporary social movements and activism by disabled people, focusing particularly on disability justice. Students will analyze how individual experiences of gender, race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and nationality intersect with disability to reflect institutional bias against multiply marginalized disabled people.

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.
WGS 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

WGS 198. Special Topics in Women's and Gender Studies. 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): WGS 85 or WGS 110
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

Examines various topics within the field of women's and gender studies. Different issues will be covered based on the interests and expertise of the faculty teaching the course. Approaches topics from broadly intersectional perspectives using feminist concepts and methods. Potential topics include: Feminism & War; Queer & Trans Migrations; Gender, Sexuality & Mass Incarceration; Gender & Human Rights; Reproductive Justice; Feminist Disability Studies; LGBTQ Health; Black Motherhood; Black Feminist Activism; Gender & Education; Comparative Feminisms.

WGS 199. Special Problems. 1 - 3 Units
Prerequisite(s): WGS 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

WGS 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