



Women's and Gender Studies

Description of the Major (B.A.) in Women's and Gender Studies

Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary major that examines the experiences and opportunities of women and men in relation to race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. WGS places gender in specific cultural and historical contexts in relations to families, communities, and nations. This includes contemporary and historical examinations of the impact of gender on the division of labor and the social construction of intimacy, sexuality and the family, mechanisms of governmental and social control, and the content and conduct of academic research and teaching. In addition, feminist scholarship in recent years has inspired a vast array of work on those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. Uniting inquiry in Women's and Gender Studies is the effort to understand and explain the inequalities between and among men and women and to envision change.

Components of the Major

The Women's and Gender Studies major has three components which provide students with a solid foundation in the substantial and growing area of theory and research on women and gender, grounding in a traditional academic discipline and practical experience in the working world:

- 1) an interdisciplinary core of 20 units that exposes students to theory and research about gender;
- 2) a disciplinary concentration of 16 units that exposes students to how gender analysis has developed within and influenced a specific discipline; and
- 3) skills application through a total of 8 units of course work and internships.

Total units required for the B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies

General Education.....	51 units
Major requirements	44 units*
includes:	
20 units of core requirements	
16 units disciplinary concentration	
8 units skills application	
Electives	26 units

Total 120 units

* Some required courses may overlap with GE requirements.

Careers in Women's and Gender Studies

A Women's and Gender Studies major prepares students for careers in teaching, counseling, social work, advocacy work, public service, management and many other areas. A Women's and Gender Studies major, combined with a relevant double major or minor, provides excellent preparation for graduate work in a variety of disciplines as well as professional programs in law, medicine and other fields.

Description of the Minor in Women's and Gender Studies

The Women's Studies minor is a 16 unit minor, requiring 3 core classes (WGS 350, WGS 375, WGS 475) and 7 units of electives.

Description of the Career Minor in Women's Health

The 20 unit Career Minor in Women's Health consists of 9–10 units of core courses, a 4 unit internship in a women's health setting and 6–8 units of electives.

For more information contact:

Cindy Stearns, Chair
 Rachel Carson Hall 32
 (707) 664-2708/664-2840
 or
 Charlene Tung, Assistant Professor
 Rachel Carson Hall 31
 (707) 664-2086/664-2840

I. Core Requirements

The core courses provide an organized framework for understanding women's and men's lives and experiences individually, within cultural groups, and as a whole.

Course	Units
WGS 280	Women's Bodies: Health and Image; or
WGS 285	Men's Health, Men's Lives; or
WGS 350	Gender, Sexuality, and Family3
WGS 375	Gender, Race, and Class (crosslisted as AMCS 420).....3
WGS 475	Contemporary Feminist Thought.....3
WGS 425	Feminist Research Methods.....4
WGS 485	Senior Seminar3
Electives4

Electives may include any combination of courses from Women's Studies and/or other departments that focus on women, men, or gender issues. These courses must be in addition to those taken to fulfill II and III below.

Total core units20

II. Disciplinary Concentration

Students must specialize in one discipline by completing 16 units of course work in that area as follows:

- 1) a course on gender (3–4 units). Examples: Sociology of Gender; Women Writers, Gender and Archaeology, or Women in U.S. History;
- 2) an introductory course (3–4 units); and
- 3) additional upper-division courses (8–10 units) in the disciplinary area chosen in consultation with a WGS advisor.

Total disciplinary units 16

III. Skills Application in Education or Human Services

WGS 490	Gender, Work, and Organization4
WGS 395/499	CIP/Internships4

Internships must be completed in an organization concerned with gender change. Examples: Sonoma County Women Against Rape, Men Evolving Nonviolently, Women's Resource Center.

Total skills application units8

Total units necessary for gender studies major.....44

Class Descriptions

280. Women's Bodies: Health and Image (3)

A course designed to increase awareness concerning women's health issues throughout the life cycle, including creating a positive body image. The influence of the American medical system on women's health issues as well as alternative approaches to creating and maintaining women's health will be explored. Satisfies GE, category E.

285. Men's Health, Men's Lives (3)

The purpose of this course is to examine men's mental and physical health within the larger context of men's lives. A multidisciplinary perspective will be used to explore how various populations of men experience health, disease and disability, the social sources of health and illness and men's body image concerns. In addition, this course will develop an understanding of various theories of manhood or masculinity, and explore how men's participation in various activities — including relationships, family, fatherhood, sports, crime, and violence — influence their health and well-being. Satisfies GE, category E.

350. Gender, Sexuality, and Family (3) (Fall and Spring)

An exploration of changing ideals and practices of gender, sexuality, and family life in the United States, drawing especially on recent feminist scholarship. Topics for reading and discussion will focus on both women and men. Fulfills upper-division GE, category E (The Integrated Person). Prerequisites: ENGL 101 or PHIL 101; and one course in sociology, psychology, American history, or women's studies; or consent of the instructor.

365. Women's History and Women's Activism (3)

This course will take an activist-historical perspective on the history of American women. The course will review historical figures and trends and the history of feminist activism, especially concerning writing women into history and the struggles for equality beginning with the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848.

375. Gender, Race, and Class (3)

An overview of the interaction of race, sex, and class oppression and resistance in the historical and contemporary experience of Native American, Asian American, African American, and Latin people. The course seeks to enhance understanding of how racism and sexism function in the political, social, and economic systems of the United States. Crosslisted as AMCS 420. Satisfies GE, category D1 (Individual and Society).

380. Gender and Social Movements (3)

Social movements organized around gender issues and identities are significant sources of social change in modern societies. This course analyzes the structure and dynamics of social movements based on gender, with attention to the roles of organizations, resources, leadership, recruitment, commitment, values, ideology, political culture, and counter movements. Case studies will emphasize the women's suffrage movement, the women's peace movement, the feminism movement that began in the 1960s as well as its offshoots and counter movements, the gay and lesbian rights movement, and recent men's movements. Crosslisted with SOCI 497.

425. Feminist Research Methods (4) (Fall)

A feminist critique of traditional methods of constructing knowledge and research practices and a discussion of gender-inclusive research strategies. Students will be given instruction in library and electronic information retrieval and in grant writing for research funding. Students will design, execute, and report on a research project.

475. Contemporary Feminist Thought (4) (Fall)

An overview of the development of feminist thought since World War II in relation to the historical and social conditions of women and men, and the development of the women's movement, men's movement, and gay and lesbian movements. An exploration of the current controversies about how we conceptualize gender difference. The aim of the intellectual work in this course is not only to increase our knowledge, but to enhance our ability to reason theoretically and to link theory with our practice to end gender inequality.

485. Senior Seminar (3) (Spring)

This course provides an opportunity for advanced study on a special issue each time it is offered, including such topics as health, family, and work. The special topic will be explored in seminar format. Students will write research papers or design organizational or advocacy programming. This course should be taken during the student's senior year. Prerequisites: WGS 280, WGS 285, WGS 350, WGS 375, or consent of the instructor.

490. Gender, Work, and Organization (4) (Spring)

A review and critical evaluation of research on gender, work, and organization. Topics include gender differences in earnings, advancement and career selection, bureaucratic and alternative forms of work organization, balancing work and family demands, and practical and policy solutions for gendered problems men and women face in the workplace.

492. Syllabus Design (1) (Fall and Spring)

Students work on an individual basis with a faculty member to develop reading materials, lecture and discussion topics, and assignments appropriate to the teaching of a specific course. Student-taught courses must be approved by the coordinator; and students must follow established procedural guidelines for teaching in the Women's and Gender Studies program. Most student teachers are required to take WGS 492 before teaching, and WGS 493 while teaching.

493. Teaching Supervision (1) (Fall and Spring)

In order to continue professional skill development in the teaching of adults, students enrolled in WGS 499 (Internship in Teaching) are required to enroll in concurrent supervised group discussion relating to the implementation of adult learning theory. Students acting as teaching assistants in the university or teaching adults in a community context are also able to enroll in this course. Prerequisite: WGS 491 or EDUC 490; co-requisite: WGS 499, or consent of instructor.

499. Internship (1-4)

Supervised training and experience for advanced students in community agencies concerned with women and gender change. Student teaching is another form of internship. At present we offer credit (and not a grade) for student teaching and off campus projects. Special contracts are required and are obtainable either in the department office or the Center for Field Experience.

We hope this information will be helpful. Official requirements of all majors and programs are published in the Sonoma State University catalog. Sonoma State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and has a strong commitment to the principal of diversity. A member of the California State University

