

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

College of Liberal Arts

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Career Possibilities

Positions in business, government, and the non-profit sector. Please see <http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/cla/departments/wgss/students/degrees/what2do.htm>

Introduction

The Department seeks to provide students with skills in civic literacy that are a significant part of a 21st century university education. At the heart of this is the assertion that gender and sexuality are fundamental categories of social organization and power that are inseparable from race, ethnicity, class, nationality, and other categories of difference.

The Department offers a major and a minor. Designated WGSS courses may be used to fulfill General Education requirements for students of other majors.

Bachelor of Arts in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (120 units)

Requirements

This program requires 48 units. Courses cannot be counted for more than one category within the major. Requirements include 6 lower division units and 42 units distributed among the following, among which 39 units must be upper division:

Core Courses

Take all of the following courses:

WGSS 101 Women and Their Bodies (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

WGSS 102 Women In Contemporary Society (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

WGSS 300 Principles of Feminism (3)

Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

WGSS 301 Feminist Research Methods (3)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing and the completion of at least one other WGSS course.

WGSS 415 Feminist Theory (3)

Prerequisites: WGSS 300 or consent of instructor.

WGSS 495 Senior Capstone Seminar (3)

Prerequisite: WGSS 301.

Take one of the following courses:

WGSS 392 Feminist Pedagogy: Peer Facilitation (3)

Prerequisite: Previous or concurrent WGSS class and consent of instructor.

WGSS 496 Community Service Learning in Women's Issues (3)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing and two prior women's studies courses, or consent of instructor.

Clusters

To include a minimum of 3 units from each of the following five clusters and an additional 3 units from any cluster. In addition, students are required to take an additional 9 units from any combination of WGSS classes.

Gender and Sexuality

The study of the construction and maintenance of sexual difference, sexual behaviors, desires and identities.

WGSS 205, 356, 416, 442 and 490 (depending on topic and with prior approval of the WGSS advisor).

Cultural Studies

Women's place in culture through which societal ideas about women and gender have historically been created and maintained.

WGSS 318, 365, 410, 432, 445A, 445B and 490 (depending on topic and with prior approval of the WGSS advisor).

Feminist Aesthetics

Examines art, literature and film as sites of women's theoretical and political work and as sources of the constructions and representations of gendered identities.

WGSS 216, 314, 316, 420, and 490 (depending on topic and with prior approval of the WGSS advisor).

Feminist Analysis

Examines the role of women within the legal, economic and political structures of our society.

WGSS 307, 308, 350, 401, 440 and 490 (depending on topic and with prior approval of the WGSS advisor).

Feminist Change

Women as agents of change and in social movements that address gendered lives.

WGSS 424, 425, 430, 449 and 490 (depending on topic and with prior approval of the WGSS advisor).

Note: Students must earn a grade of at least "C" in all upper division major courses.

Minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Requirements

A minimum of 24 units will be required for the minor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, to be selected with the approval of the department's undergraduate advisor. Courses cannot be counted for more than one category within the minor and must be selected from among the following courses:

Lower Division

Take both of the following courses:

WGSS 101 Women and Their Bodies (3)
Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

WGSS 102 Women In Contemporary Society (3)
Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Upper Division (18 units)

Take all of the following courses:

WGSS 300 Principles of Feminism (3)
Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

WGSS 318I U.S. Women of Color (3)
Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

WGSS 401I Bodies and Borders: Feminism and Globalization (3)
Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Explorations course, and upper division standing.

Take one of the following courses: WGSS 392, 496

Take six additional units from any cluster(s) referenced in the B.A. program requirements.

Courses (WGSS)

LOWER DIVISION

101. Women and Their Bodies (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Introduction to the rapidly expanding body of literature and ideas related to the biology and sexuality of women.

102. Women In Contemporary Society (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Introduction to some of the basic questions raised by the contemporary feminist movement relating to the social, political, and economic status of women.

205. Introduction to Queer Studies (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements.

Introduction to the interdisciplinary field of queer studies. Focus is on the relationship between gender and sexualities. Prepares students for further study in gender and sexuality studies.

216. Hollywood and Beyond: Gender, Race, and Sex in the Movies (3)

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Explores ideologies of gender, race, sexuality, and class in mainstream and independent films. Focus is on learning to critically evaluate representations of identity and their social and political significance, including hegemonic and alternative representations.

UPPER DIVISION

General Education Category A must be completed prior to taking any upper division course except upper division language courses where students meet formal prerequisites and/or competency equivalent for advanced study.

300. Principles of Feminism (3)

Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Introduction to principles of feminist history, thought, theory, methodology, and current issues that emphasizes but is not limited to the United States.

Letter grade only (A-F).

301. Feminist Research Methods (3)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing and the completion of at least one other WGSS course.

Examines how feminist scholars frame and conduct research. Students explore feminist adaptations and critiques of traditional academic disciplines and design and conduct a research project using a range of bibliographic and research tools.

Letter grade only (A-F).

307I. U.S. Women and the Economy: Money, Sex, and Power (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Explorations courses, and upper-division standing.

Interdisciplinary examination of the economic roles of women; analysis of the sexual division of labor and domestic work. Special focus on the origin, migration, settlement, and economic patterns of and problems facing US women from major ethnic and racial groups.

308. Women and the Law (3)

History of women's experience under the law; constitutional law; 19th amendment and ERA; equal protection issues; discrimination in employment; marriage and family law.

309I. Women in Science (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, upper division standing, six units of General Education science courses and consent of instructor.

Examines women and their roles in science in terms of their socio-historical context, their specific contributions, and the nature of the scientific problems they pursued, including methodology and outcomes. Explores the cultural and institutional obstacles to the success of women in science.

Letter grade only (A-F). Same course as NSCI 309I. Not open for credit to students with credit in NSCI 309I. (Lec 3 hours)

312. Women in the Ancient and Medieval West (3)

Prerequisite: ENGL 100.

Examines roles and experiences of women in Western Europe from prehistory to sixteenth century. Themes may include: construction of gender roles, relation between symbols and reality, interaction of private/public life, access to power/opportunity; possibility of a "women's culture."

Same course as HIST 319. Not open for credit to students with credit in HIST 319.

313. American Indian Genders and Sexualities (3)

Analysis of popular, feminist, queer and tribally specific theories and representations of American Indian genders and sexualities with a focus on literatures by American Indian women, men and two-spirit peoples.

Same course as AIS 313. Not open for credit to students with credit in AIS 313.

314. Women Narrate Their Lives (3)

Study of lives of a cross-section of Women in U.S. from colonial era to present based on biographical and autobiographical sources.

315. Black Women in America (3)

Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Examination of American black women from eighteenth century to present. Taught from interdisciplinary perspective and presented in their own voices.

Letter grade only (A-F).

316. Women in the History of U.S. Film (3)

History of women as they are represented, presented as images, or constructed in the development of U.S. film. Theory and analysis of film from a feminist perspective.

Same course as FEA 317. Not open for credit to students with credit in FEA 317.

318I. U.S. Women of Color (3)

Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Examines condition, position, experiences and accomplishments of U.S. women of color. Covers historical and contemporary issues using theoretical essays, personal narratives, historical documents, literature, and media images.

319. The Ethnic Experience in the U.S. (3)

Examination of dynamics of development of our multicultural society, emphasizing study of four distinct ethnic strands of American society (Asian American, Black American, Mexican American, and American Indian) and their role in maintenance of cultural diversity in United States.

Same course as AIS 319, ASAM 319, AFRS 319, CHLS 319. Not open for credit to students with credit in AFRS 319, AIS 319, ASAM 319, or CHLS 319.

320. Latina Women in the United States (3)

Prerequisite: Junior standing or consent of instructor.

Examines cultural, political, economic, and sexual forces that mold Latina women. Focus on cultural stereotypes, class, gender identity, sexuality, and politics of race.

Same course as CHLS 415. Not open for credit to students with credit in CHLS 415.

325. Sociology of Women (3)

A sociological analysis of social, political and economic status of women. Examines history of women's roles and status; gender conflicts and social movements; and societal attitudes towards women in society.

Same course as SOC 325. Not open for credit to students with credit in SOC 325.

350. Feminist Issues in Mental Health (3)

Introduces issues related to the mental health of women, from historical, anthropological, sociological and psychological perspectives. Emphasis is on the relationship of power, sexism, sex role socialization and gender stereotypes to mental health.

356. Lesbian Histories and Culture (3)

Examination of lesbianism from psychological and historical perspectives; includes discussions of lesbianism in literature, representations of lesbianism in various media; the place of lesbianism in the politics of the women's movement and in gay liberation, and the development of "queer theory."

365I. Popular Culture: Women, Gender and Sexuality (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Explorations courses, and upper-division standing.

Analyzes the construction of images of women in popular culture. Discussion of theories of culture, gender and ideology. Analysis of film, advertising, magazines and popular fiction.

370. Masculinities (3)

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Focuses on understanding contemporary social and political issues in relation to masculinities. Thematic areas include: the social

construction of masculinities, militarism, men and violence, sexuality, sports, work, media and masculinities, men and feminism, and possibilities for change.

375. Reproductive Justice (3)

Prerequisites: Upper-division status or instructor consent

Explores how race, class and sexuality intersect with political and socio-economic forces in shaping women's reproductive lives. Highlights how women have contested these forces to control their own reproductive lives.

381. Asian American Women (3)

Reconstructs and examines Asian American women's history and contemporary experiences. Assesses complexities of intersecting social categories of oppression and Asian American women's active pursuit of equality and dignity.

Same course as ASAM 381. Not open for credit to students with credit in ASAM 381, or HIST 381.

382. Women and Literature (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements.

Survey of literature by women authors writing in English, across a range of historical periods; examination of works in various genres that present complexity of women's lives and challenges of female authorship; exploration of feminist critical approaches.

Same course as ENGL 382. Not open for credit to students with credit in ENGL 382.

392. Feminist Pedagogy: Peer Facilitation (3)

Prerequisite: Previous or concurrent WGSS class and consent of instructor.

Peer facilitation of small group discussion, teaching assistance and other assignments directed by a supervising faculty member, supplemented by seminar, reading and journal writing.

May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units. Letter grade only (A-F).

401I. Bodies and Borders: Feminism and Globalization (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Explorations course, and upper division standing.

Covers feminist perspectives on contemporary globalization. Examines how we might imagine a more equitable world and why feminism should be concerned with global perspectives. Topics include colonialism, tourism, food production, women's labor, migration, militarism, and social movements.

402. Women in Political Theory (3)

Prerequisite: Students must have completed one course in either political science or women's studies.

Differential treatment of women and men in western political theories, including femininity, power, rationality and the role of women in family. Classic and contemporary texts.

Same course as POSC 401. Not open for credit to students with credit in POSC 401.

406A. Asian Women: East and Northeast Asia (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Exploration of the histories of women in China, Japan and Korea from prehistory to the present. Major themes include women's contributions to social, cultural and political change, and the complex relationship between feminism and nationalism in the modern period.

Same courses as A/ST 406A and HIST 406A. Not open for credit to students with credit in A/ST 406A and HIST 406A.

406B. Asian Women: South and Southeast Asia (3)

Emphasis on modern period; exploration of complexities of women's roles in multicultural, multilingual societies in South and Southeast Asia, including gender as a continuing site of contention in nationalist discourse.

Letter grade only (A-F). Same course as A/ST 406B and HIST406B. Not open for credit to students with credit in A/ST 406B, HIST 406B.

410. Women, Religion, and Spirituality (3)

Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing, or consent of instructor.

Study of women as spiritual and religious beings responding to and coping with largely patriarchal religious doctrine. Examines socio-religious construction of women and women's religious experience from prehistory to present day. Focus on feminist transformations of religious traditions.

Same course as R/ST 410. Not open for credit to students with credit in R/ST 410.

415. Feminist Theory (3)

Prerequisites: WGSS 300 or consent of instructor.

Examines contemporary feminist theoretical perspectives. Discussion of primary sources from a number of positions, including liberal, socialist, poststructural, "third world", postmodernist and postcolonial feminisms. Issues include gender and sexuality, race, ethnicity, class and nationality. Focus on discussion of current debates which cross disciplinary boundaries. Active student participation required.

Letter grade only (A-F).

416. Queering Gender (3)

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

Explores intellectual debates in the emergent field of queer theory, particularly as it connects to women's experiences and the politics of gender. Focuses on the intervention that queer theory seeks to make into heteronormative culture on all levels of social life.

417. Sexuality, Crime and Punishment (3)

Prerequisites: CRJU majors: CRJU 101, 110, 302, 303, and 304. All other majors: upper-division standing and at least one other WGSS course, or consent of the instructor.

A transdisciplinary and critical examination of the accepted boundaries of human sexual behavior and opposing perspectives regarding the roles of criminal justice actors and institutions in regulating sex and secuality, with special attention paid to sex-related crimes, offender and victims.

Same course as CRJU 461. Not open for credit to students with credit in CRJU 461.

420. Mothers and Daughters (3)

Analyzes how mothering is "reproduced" in daughters, and why/how patriarchal culture regulates the mother/daughter bond. Course materials include novels, film, and interdisciplinary theoretical works. Special emphasis on the mother/daughter relationship in a range of historical, racial, class and sexual contexts.

424. Women and Environmental Justice (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements and upper division standing.

Examines complex relationship between women and nature and their treatment through 1) socio-religious ideologies, 2) international development, 3) environmental pollution, and 4) patterns of consumption and waste in industrialized nations. Third World feminists' insights largely frame the debate.

425. Women and Power (3)

Prerequisites: A previous WGSS class (101, 102, or 300) and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Examination of ways power has been defined, obtained, shaped and maintained, and effect this has historically had on women. Applies theory to contemporary issues affecting women and explores strategies for empowerment.

430. Women and Violence (3)

Women as victims and survivors of physical, psychological, and philosophical violence. Problems of rape, woman battering, incest, pornography and sexual harassment; examination of legal, religious and philosophical issues and alternatives for change.

432. Women in the City (3)

Examines the way women respond to urban environment, both literally and imaginatively. Special attention paid to sexual division of space, particular needs of immigrant and third world women, and utopian cities of sisterhood. Readings feature literary texts, augmented by an interdisciplinary range of theoretical and empirical studies of cities.

440. Issues in Women's Health (3)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing; ENGL 100; and WGSS 101, BIOL 205, BIOL 207.

Fundamentals of anatomy and physiology relevant to the cause, prevention, and treatment of various health issues, including reproductive organ dysfunction, sexually-transmitted disease, infertility, contraception, pregnancy, osteoporosis, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Emphasizes lifestyle habits such as diet, exercise, and stress.

441. Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance (3)

Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Explores literature and lives of women authors of American Harlem Renaissance Period of 1920s. Examines critical reception, relative obscurity, and current re-discovery of these writers. Utilizes theoretical essays, biographical narratives, historical documents, and media images.

Same course as ENGL 441. Not open for credit to students with credit in ENGL 441.

442. Sexing Chicana Literature (3)

Prerequisites: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Analyzes how Chicana authors explore race, class, and gender. Focuses on use of sexuality, particularly with regard to cultural and literary stereotypes vs. experience and aesthetic practice. Themes will include desire, identity, empowerment through "traditional" roles, and violence and the body.

Same course as ENGL 442. Not open for credit to students with credit in ENGL 442.

445A. Latinas and Revolution: Central America and Late 20th Century Mexico (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Examines how war and struggles for democracy shape the social consciousness and political activism of Latinas. Uses literature, film, history, and political theory to examine the role of violence in women's lives, community organizing, and the conceptualization of a pan-Latina feminist movement.

Letter grading only (A-F). Same course as CHLS 450A. Not open for credit to students with credit in CHLS 450A.

445B. Latinas and Revolution: Caribbean, U.S. and Early 20th Century Mexico (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ENGL 100 and upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Examines how war and struggles for democracy shape the social consciousness and political activism of Latinas. Uses literature, film, history, and political theory identify differences in contexts of community struggle and points of intersection within Latina activism.

Letter grading only (A-F). Same course as CHLS 450B. Not open for credit to students with credit in CHLS 450B.

449. Feminism and International Human Rights (3)

Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor.

Analyzes contemporary women's international human rights issues and social movements as influences on contemporary international human rights system. Covers international law, human rights treaty system, World Conferences, current issues, landmark cases, local/global activism, feminist intellectual debates.

Letter grade only (A-F).

455. Philosophical Perspectives on Sex and Love (3)

Prerequisite: Six units of philosophy or consent of instructor.

Philosophical perspectives on sex and love explores philosophical issues concerning sex, gender and love through readings and discussion of classical and contemporary philosophical sources. Topics such as sexual perversion, romantic love and gender discrimination are examined.

Same course as PHIL 455. Not open for credit to students with credit in PHIL 455.

462. Feminist Geography. (3)

Prerequisite: GEOG 360 or consent of instructor

An introduction to feminist geography. Students will critically engage with international research on topics such as geographies of emotion, care and health; femininities and masculinities; feminist post-structural theories and philosophies; and feminist methodological approaches to geographical research.

Same course as GEOG 462. Not open for credit to students with credit in GEOG 462.

Letter grade only (A-F).

475. Language and Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective (3)

Analysis of men's and women's communication in its social and cultural context; role of gender in interpreting conversational interactions in the U.S. and elsewhere; acquisition of gender differences; cultural dimensions or perceptions and stereotypes and their effect on communication.

Same course as ANTH 475, LING 470.

485A. History of Women in the U.S. Early Period (3)

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Survey of roles and activities of American women from colonial period to 1850, with focus on slavery, immigration, family, economy, law, and politics.

Same course as HIST 485A. Not open for credit to students with credit in HIST 485A or 485A.

485B. History of Women in the U.S. Since 1850 (3)

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Changing roles and status of women in economic and social change; suffrage movement; women in union movement and WW II; the decade of the sixties and the "second wave" of feminism.

Same course as HIST 485B. Not open for credit to students with credit in HIST 485B.

490. Selected Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (1-3)

Topics of current interest in women's studies, selected for intensive study.

May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

Topics announced in the *Schedule of Classes*.

492. Selected Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (1-3)

Topics of current interest in women's studies, selected for intensive study.

May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

Topics announced in the *Schedule of Classes*.

495. Senior Capstone Seminar (3)

Prerequisite: WGSS 301.

Capstone course intended to integrate the multidisciplinary body of knowledge accumulated in the major or minor.

496. Community Service Learning in Women's Issues (3)

Prerequisites: Upper division standing and two prior women's studies courses, or consent of instructor.

Allow students opportunity to practice theories and knowledge gained as a result of studying women's issues. Students will work in community with agencies addressing women's issues.

498. Field Work (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Practical experience in campus or community organizations concerned with women's issues.

May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.

499./599. Directed Studies (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Independent work in areas of special interest to student and instructor.

May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.

GRADUATE LEVEL**599./499. Directed Studies (1-3)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Independent work in areas of special interest to student and instructor.

May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.