

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

Director: *Jo Reger (Sociology)*

Women and Gender Studies Executive Committee: *Kathy Patterson-Hawes, Diane Hartmus (Political Science), Sylvie Lombardo (Psychology), Patricia Wren (WHP)*

Chief adviser: *Jo Reger (Sociology)*

Women and gender studies constitutes an interdisciplinary field devoted to the description and analysis of women's experiences in historical and contemporary societies. Particular attention is given to differences among women in various social and cultural contexts, the representation of women in literature, art and the media, and the treatment of women by medical and biological sciences. Women and gender studies uses feminist methodologies and theories to describe and analyze the impact of social movements, historical events, public policy and other social facts and forces on women's positions in societies. Specific attention is given to the conditions that promote and impede women's progress.

Requirements for the liberal arts major in women and gender studies, B.A. program

The major requires a minimum of 40 credits in women and gender, distributed as follows:

1. Core: WGS 200, 320, 321, 399, 405. Students must earn a grade of at least 2.0 in both WGS 200 and 320.
2. Five courses selected from: AH/WGS 351; AN/WGS 305, 337, 385; COM 327; EED/WGS 481; HST/WGS 322, 339, 361, 362, 375; MUS/WGS 370; PHL 305/WGS 307; PS/WGS 311; PSY/WGS 374; WRT/WGS 365; SOC 207, 335, 336, 352; WGS/WHP 325; WGS 300, 301, 382, 400.

At least 28 credits counted towards the major must be at the 300 level or above.

Note: To remain in good standing students must complete all other courses in the major with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00.

Program honors

To be a candidate for honors in women and gender studies, students must be graduating seniors who have taken a minimum of 20 credits of their women and gender studies major course work at Oakland University and have earned a minimum GPA of 3.60 in that coursework with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. In addition, a letter of reference is required concerning the student's volunteer involvement in a service activity relevant to women's issues.

Requirements for a liberal arts minor in women and gender studies

To earn a minor in women and gender studies, students must complete a minimum of 20 credits in women and gender studies distribution as follows:

- a. Core: WGS 200, 320, 321. Students must earn a grade of at least 2.0 in both WGS 200 and 320.
- b. 8 credits at the 300 level or above chosen from the above list of WGS electives.

Course Offerings

WGS 200 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies (4)

Interdisciplinary and comparative overview of fundamental women and gender studies concepts and topics as they relate to history, culture, literature, economics, class, ethnicity, race, theories and methods. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the social science knowledge exploration area or may be used in lieu of one of the College of Arts and Sciences' distribution categories, not both. Satisfies the university general education requirement in U.S. diversity.*

WGS 207 Human Sexuality (4)

Identical with SOC 207.

Prerequisite: SOC 100 or 206.

WGS 300 Women in Transition (4)

Focuses on life experiences unique to women. Major issues include identity and independence, marriage, childbirth, adulthood and aging. *Satisfies the university education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Prerequisite for knowledge applications integration: completion of the general education requirement in the social science knowledge exploration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement in U.S. diversity.*

WGS 301 Special Topics in Women and Gender Studies (4)

Topics vary from year to year. May be repeated for additional credit under different subtitles.

WGS 305 The Life Course in Anthropological Perspectives (4)

Identical with AN 305.

WGS 307 Philosophy of Gender (4)

Identical with PHL 305.

Prerequisite: WRT 160 and one course in philosophy or one course in women and gender studies.

WGS 311 Women and Politics (4)

Identical with PS 311.

WGS 320 Feminist Theory (4)

Overview of variations in feminist theory with emphasis on current social issues. Includes analysis of categories such as gender, sexual identity, race/ethnicity and class.

Prerequisite: WGS 200.

WGS 321 Methods of Feminist Analysis (4)

Explores how connections among epistemologies, methodologies and research methods are formed in traditional disciplines. Feminist critiques of these epistemologies. Introduction to feminist critiques of research and to a range of research methods utilized by feminist scholars.

Prerequisite: WGS 200.

WGS 322 Women in Modern America (4)

Identical with HST 322.

Prerequisite: WRT 160.

WGS 325 Issues in Women's Health (4)

Examines the medical, sociological, political and financial aspects of women's health issues. Includes an historical look at women's health in the U.S., the roles women have played in health care and the role of women as health care providers. Identical with WHP 325.

WGS 335 The Family (4)

Identical with SOC 335.

Prerequisite: SOC 100 or 205.

WGS 336 Sociology of Gender (4)

Identical with SOC 336.

Prerequisite: SOC 100 or 205.

WGS 337 Women's Lives in Cross-Cultural Perspective (4)

Identical with AN 337.

Prerequisite: AN 102 or WGS 200.

WGS 339 Women in Early Modern Europe (4)

Identical with HST 339.

Prerequisite: WRT 160.

WGS 351 Women in Art (4)

Identical with AH 351.

Prerequisite: AH 101 or WGS 200.

WGS 352 Women and Work (4)

Identical with SOC 352.

Prerequisite: SOC 100 or WGS 200.

WGS 361 History of American Families (4)

Identical with HST 361. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in U.S. diversity.*

Prerequisite: WRT 160.

WGS 362 History of African-American Women (4)

Identical with HST 362. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in U.S. diversity.*

Prerequisite: WRT 160.

WGS 365 Women Writing Autobiography (4)

Identical with WRT 365.

Prerequisite: WRT 160.

WGS 370 Women in Music (4)

Identical with MUS 370.

WGS 374 Psychology of Women (4)

Identical with PSY 374.

Prerequisite: PSY 100 or 130.

WGS 375 Women in China, 1700 to the Present (4)

Identical with HST 375.

Prerequisite: WRT 160.

WGS 382 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Education (4)

Examines the intersections of sexual orientation, gender identity and education from multiple perspectives. Analyze current law and educational policy as it relates to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and families and introduces essentialist and constructivist concepts of sexuality. Immersion/service project required for 4 credits.

WGS 385 Historical Archaeology (4)

Identical with AN 385. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Prerequisite for knowledge applications integration: completion of the university general education requirement in the social science knowledge exploration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement in U.S. diversity.*
Prerequisite: AN 101 or 102.

WGS 399 Field Experience in Women and Gender Studies (4)

Field experience in women and gender studies with faculty supervision. An academic project involving field work or community activism around an issue of importance in women and gender studies. May not be repeated for credit.

Prerequisite: junior/senior standing. Minimum of 16 credits in the major including WGS 320, 321 or approval of women and gender studies director.

WGS 400 Directed Research in Women and Gender Studies (2 or 4)

Directed individual study and advanced scholarly research in women and gender studies.

Prerequisite: approval of faculty adviser and women and gender studies director.

WGS 401 Advanced Topics in Women and Gender Studies (4)

Course content varies. Representative topics include research methods in women and gender studies.

WGS 405 Women and Gender Studies Capstone Course (4)

Provides students the opportunity to integrate their theoretical and practical work in women and gender studies. Students examine a subject using critical analysis and methodological skills, and demonstrate their abilities through class discussion, presentations and critical writing assignments. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in the major. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: junior or senior standing, 16 credits in women and gender studies courses including WGS 320 and 321 or approval of women and gender studies director.

WGS 481 Gender Socialization in the Schools (4)

Identical with EED 481.