

Gender Studies

Melissa M. Wilcox, *Director*
 Robert Tobin (*Chair, Division II*)
 Andrea Dobson (*Chair, Division III*)
 Suzanne Morrissey (*Fall 2007*)
 Elyse Semerdjian (*Fall 2007*)
 Jacqueline Woodfork (*Spring 2008*)
 Zahi Zalloua (*Fall 2007*)

Gender Studies courses focus upon gender identity and gendered representation as central categories of analysis. Gender Studies uses the concept of gender to analyze a wide range of disciplines. Although many lines of argumentation in gender studies are inspired by feminism, a broad variety of theoretical approaches are used to study the categories of gender. Gender Studies includes women's studies, men's studies, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender studies.

The Gender Studies major: All Gender Studies majors must take *Introduction to Gender Studies* (GndS 100), *Senior Seminar and Thesis Preparation* (GndS 490), and *Thesis* (GndS 497 or 498). Gender Studies majors must complete at least 28 additional credits; at least twelve of these additional credits must be at the 300-400 level. Students will work closely with an adviser to select courses, which meet the following two criteria:

At least one course must be taken in each of the following four areas: theory (e.g., Pol 157, Pol 328, Phil 235), history (e.g., Hist 300, Hist 325, Clas 140), social sciences (e.g., Anth 358, Pol 357, Psyc 239, Soc 258), humanities (e.g., ArtH 329, Rel 358, RFS 240). See the list of courses offered in Gender Studies to determine the area into which a course falls.

At least three courses at or above the 200 level must be closely related in topic or methodology. This concentration can be achieved by taking three courses from one department (e.g., history) or by taking three courses with the same focus (e.g., Latin America) from different departments. In all courses, the student's work should focus on issues of gender, even if the course itself is not as a Gender Studies course. Before pre-registration for the senior year the major

adviser must agree that the student has proposed an acceptable means of meeting the concentration requirement.

A course in biology (e.g., Biol 120 or 125) is recommended. Students considering graduate programs are strongly advised to complete a minor in a related discipline (e.g., anthropology history, politics, psychology, sociology).

In the final semester the student must pass a senior assessment consisting of a senior thesis and an approximately one-and-a-half-hour oral examination, which will include questions concerning the thesis and coursework taken for the major.

No more than 12 credits earned in off-campus programs and transfer credit, nor more than four credits in independent study, may be used to satisfy the Gender Studies major requirements. Courses completed in Gender Studies apply to the humanities, social sciences, alternative voices, and fine arts distribution areas. Students who enter Whitman with no prior college-level coursework in Gender Studies would need to complete 38 credits to fulfill the requirements for the Gender Studies major.

The Gender Studies minor: A minimum of twenty credits to include Gender Studies 100 and at least four hours of coursework at the 100 or 200 levels and at least eight hours at the 300 or 400 levels. The student, in consultation with a gender studies adviser, will plan a program which will meet requirements of special interest and intellectual coherence, and will include courses in the social sciences, humanities and, when possible, the sciences.

The following courses are available for a gender studies major or minor. Th (theory), Hi (history), SS (social sciences), or Hu (humanities) indicates the cluster area within the major to which a course may be applied.

Anthropology 358 (SS), *Sex and Gender in Anthropological Perspective* (Not offered 2007-08)

Art History 329 (Hu), *Gender in Contemporary Visual Culture* (Not offered 2007-08)

Classics 140 (Hi), *Women in Antiquity* (Fall 2007)

Education 360/Sociology 370 (SS), *Issues of Educational Equality* (Spring 2008)

History 259 (Hi), *ST: The Social History of Stuff*

(Spring 2008)
 History 300 (Hi), *Gender in Chinese History* (Spring 2008)
 History 325 (Hi), *Women in Islam* (Not offered 2007-08)
 History 370 (Hi), *Interrogating Sisterhood: Women and Gender in the United States* (Fall 2007)
 History 377 (Hi), *Masculine/Feminine: Gendered Europe* (Not offered 2007-08)
 History 383 (Hi), *Women in Latin America* (Not offered 2007-08)
 History 393 (Hi), *Constructions of Gender in the Middle Ages* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Music 354 (Hu), *Women as Composers* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Philosophy 235 (Th), *Philosophy of Feminism* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Philosophy 332 (Hu), *Reproduction* (Fall 2007)
 Philosophy 410 (Hu), *The Hermeneutics of the Subject: The Late Foucault* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Physics 101, *Women in Physical Science* (Fall 2007)
 Politics 157 (Th), *Foundations of Feminist Political Thought* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Politics 307 (Th), *The Severed Hand: Political Theory and the Body Politic* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Politics 328 (Th), *Contemporary Feminist Theories* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Politics 359 (SS), *Gender and International Hierarchy* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Psychology 239 (SS), *Psychology of Women and Gender* (Spring 2008)
 Religion 287 (Hu), *Queer Religiosities* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Religion 358 (Hu), *Feminist and Liberation Theologies* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Religion 359 (Hu), *Gender, Body, and Religion* (Spring 2008)
 Rhetoric and Film Studies 240 (Hu), *Rhetorical Explorations: Race, Class and Gender* (Not offered 2007-08)
 Rhetoric and Film Studies 380A (Hu), *ST: Gender in Popular Music and Dance* (Fall 2007)
 Rhetoric and Film Studies 380C (Hu), *ST: Body, Gender, Culture* (Spring 2008)
 Sociology 258 (SS), *Gender and Society* (Fall 2007)
 Sociology 287 (SS), *Sociology of the Body* (Spring 2008)
 Spanish 441 (Hu), *The Theatre and Poetry of Federico García Lorca* (Fall 2007)
 Spanish 442 (Hu) *Pedro Almodóvar's Spain* (Spring 2008)

Spanish 443 (Hu) *ST: Maricones, Travestis, Tortas, and Other Raros: Subjectivities in Queer Latin American Cinema* (Fall 2007)
 Spanish 468 (Hu) *ST: Latin Lovers: The Discourse of Love in Twentieth-Century Latin American Fiction and Poetry* (Spring 2008)
 World Literature 387 (Hu), *The German Discovery of Sex* (Fall 2007)
 World Literature 388 (Hu), *Introduction to Contemporary Literary Theory* (Not offered 2007-08)

Please check the Gender Studies Web page for updates to this list and for information about Gender Studies courses offered in alternate years: http://www.whitman.edu/gender_studies.

Note: A course cannot be used to satisfy both major and minor requirements, e.g., History 370 cannot be used to apply toward the thirty-eight credit requirement for the Gender Studies major and history minor or vice versa.

100 Introduction to Gender Studies

4, 4 **Fall: Staff; Spring: Wilcox**

This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce students, particularly those intending to complete a Gender Studies minor, to questions in which gender is a significant category of analysis. Topics will include the construction of gender identity and sexuality and the relationship of gender to past and present social and cultural institutions, gendered representations in the arts and literature, and feminist and related theoretical approaches to various disciplines. Open to first and second-year students; others by consent of instructor. Distribution area: alternative voices.

220 Women's Writing and Women's Activism in South Asia

4, x **Wickramagamage**

The course maps women's activism for social justice in South Asia through textual formulations of activist histories and ventures. It will bring in for contemplation and analysis both "literary" texts and other forms of resistant articulations such as films, drama pieces, and oral testimonies. This inclusive line-up of texts introduces students to the diversity in foci and profile of activists who inhabit the socio-economic and political landscapes of South Asia. The selected texts offer both a broad survey of issues of importance and nuanced readings of these issues as they find expression in particular texts. One-time offering only. May be elected as AsnS 220.

291, 292 Independent Study

1-4, 1-4 **Staff**

Discussion and directed reading on a topic of interest to the individual student. The project must be approved by the staff. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

tor.

380 Special Topics

4

The course explores selected topics in gender studies.

380 ST: Sexuality and Human Rights

x, 4

Tobin

After an introductory analysis of the categories of “sexuality” and “human rights” in historical and cross-cultural perspective, this course will use literary, legal, theoretical, and scholarly texts from a variety of fields to examine the varying claims of sexuality and human rights in a variety of areas, including anti-discrimination efforts, the right to privacy, consent and age of consent, sado-masochism, sodomy laws and gay marriage. Distribution area: humanities or alternative voices.

490 Senior Seminar

4, x

Wilcox

Taught by a Gender Studies faculty member with guest participation by others, this seminar is intended to engage senior majors in sustained discussion of contemporary gender issues. Readings, discussion, and papers, including a proposal for the thesis. *Required of* and limited to senior Gender Studies majors. (Fall degree candidates should plan to take this seminar at the latest possible opportunity).

491, 492 Independent Study

1-4, 1-4

Staff

Directed study and research on a topic of interest to the individual student. The project must be approved by the staff. *Prerequisite*: consent of instructor.

497 Thesis

x, 2

Staff

Completion of a thesis based on the previous semester’s plan.

498 Honors Thesis

x, 2

Staff

Completion of an honors thesis. *Required of* and limited to senior honors candidates in Gender Studies. *Prerequisite*: admission to honors candidacy.