

## Gender Studies

Melissa M. Wilcox, *Director*

Andrea Dobson

Alberto Galindo

Suzanne Morrissey

Elyse Semerdjian

Zahi Zalloua

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 Gender Studies 100 *Introduction to Gender Studies*, Gender Studies 490 *Senior Seminar and Thesis Preparation*, and Gender Studies 497 or 498 *Thesis*. Gender studies majors must complete at least 28 additional credits; at least 12 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., Politics 328, Philosophy 235), history (e.g., History 300, History 325, Classics 140), social sciences (e.g., Anthropology 358, Politics 357, Psychology 239, Sociology 258), humanities (e.g., Art History 329, Religion 358, Rhetoric and Film Studies 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., Biology 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 40 credits to fulfill the requirements for the gender studies major.

**The Gender Studies minor:** A minimum of 20 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 2008-09)

Art History 329 (Hu), *Gender in Contemporary Visual Culture* (Not offered 2008-09)

Classics 140 (Hi), *Women in Antiquity* (Not offered 2008-09)

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

English 181A (Hu), *Jane Austen and Her Context* (Fall 2008)

English 387C (Hu), *Woman in American Law and Literature* (Fall 2008)

History 259 (Hi), *ST: The Social History of Stuff* (Not offered 2008-09)

History 300 (Hi), *Gender in Chinese History* (Not offered 2008-09)

History 310 (Hi) *ST: Women in Africa* (Spring 2009)

History 325 (Hi), *Women in Islam* (Fall 2008)

History 370 (Hi), *Interrogating Sisterhood: Women and Gender in the United States* (Not offered 2008-09)

History 383 (Hi), *Women in Latin America* (Not offered 2008-09)

History 393 (Hi), *Constructions of Gender in the Middle Ages* (Fall 2008)

Music 354 (Hu), *Women as Composers* (Spring 2009)

Philosophy 235 (Th), *Philosophy of Feminism* (Not offered 2008-09)

Philosophy 332 (Hu), *Reproduction* (Fall 2008)

Philosophy 410 (Hu), *ST: The Hermeneutics of the Subject: The Late Foucault* (Not offered 2008-09)

Physics 101, *ST: Women in Physical Science* (Fall 2008)

Politics 307 (Th), *The Severed Hand: Political Theory and the Body Politic* (Not offered 2008-09)

Politics 325 (SS), *Queer Politics and Policy* (Spring 2009)

Politics 328 (Th), *Contemporary Feminist Theories* (Not offered 2008-09)

Politics 359 (SS), *Gender and International Hierarchy* (Not offered 2008-09)

Psychology 239 (SS), *Psychology of Women and Gender* (Spring 2009)

Religion 287 (Hu), *Queer Religiosities* (Spring 2009)

Religion 358 (Hu), *Feminist and Liberation Theologies* (Spring 2009)

Religion 359 (Hu), *Gender, Body, and Religion* (Not offered 2008-09)

Rhetoric and Film Studies 240 (Hu), *Rhetorical Explorations: Race, Class and Gender* (Spring 2009)

Sociology 257 (SS), *Sociology of the Family* (Spring 2009)

Sociology 258 (SS), *Gender and Society* (Fall 2008)

Sociology 287 (SS), *Sociology of the Body* (Spring 2009)

Spanish 447/World Literature 329 (Hu), *Familias y Fronteras: Contemporary Chicana Literature* (Fall 2008)

Spanish 450 (Hu), *Night Chicas: Sex Workers in Contemporary Film from Spain, Mexico, and*

*Brazil* (Spring 2009)

Spanish 451 (Hu), *The Theatre and Poetry of Federico García Lorca* (Not offered 2008-09)

Spanish 452 (Hu) *Pedro Almodóvar's Spain* (Not offered 2008-09)

SSRA 328, *Women and Sport* (Fall 2008)

World Literature 395 (Th), *Contemporary Literary Theory* (Spring 2009)

Please check the Gender Studies Web page for updates to this list and for information about gender studies courses offered in alternate years: [www.whitman.edu/gender\\_studies](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 38 credit requirement for the gender studies major and history minor or vice versa.

### 100 Introduction to Gender Studies

**4, 4**      **Fall: Morrissey; 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.

### 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.

### 380 Special Topics

**4**

The course explores selected topics in gender studies.

### 380A ST: Queer Theory

**4, x**

**Wilcox**

Queer theory developed in the early 1990s out of the conjunction of feminist theory, sexuality studies, and queer activism. This course introduces students to some of the key authors and texts in queer theory, as well as applications of queer theory in a variety of academic fields and critiques of queer theory as androcentric, Eurocentric, overly intellectual, and impractical. It is recommended that students who take this class have previous exposure to theoretical writing in either the humanities or the social sciences. Distribution area: alternative voices.

**380B ST: French Feminism****x, 4****Zalloua**

This course will explore the movement of French Feminism as articulated by its leading representatives, Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray, and Hélène Cixous. Taking a genealogical approach to the investigation of “feminism”, we will compare these theorists’ understanding of the concept with that of Simone de Beauvoir, as well as that of their Anglophone contemporaries (such as Judith Butler and Diana Fuss). Particular attention will be given to the representations of gender and sexual difference in relation to language and pleasure, essentialism, and accounts of the body, as well as French Feminism’s critical dialogue with psychoanalysis, Marxism, and poststructuralism.

**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, 4****Staff**

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

**498 Honors Thesis****x, 4****Staff**

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