

Gender Studies

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Gender studies courses focus upon gender identity and gendered representation as central categories of analysis. The concept of gender is considered from a range of academic disciplines, including but not limited to anthropology, French, history, philosophy, religion, rhetoric, writing and public discourse, and theatre. 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.

Distribution: Courses completed in gender studies apply to the cultural pluralism distribution area; The following Gender Studies courses also apply to the following distribution: humanities: 250, 330, 331; social science: 330, 331, 333, 358.

Total credits required to complete a Gender Studies major: 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.

Learning Goals: Upon graduation, a student will be able to:

- **Major-Specific Areas of Knowledge**
 - Demonstrate knowledge of gender studies methods and content in history, humanities, social sciences, theory, and global context. Understand and apply feminist theory, queer theory, and men's and masculinity studies. Demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of human diversity. Demonstrate knowledge of different approaches to a single issue within gender studies. Understand the role of intersectionality in the gendered realities of human life.
- **Communication**
 - Demonstrate ability to write clearly, expressively, and creatively. Demonstrate ability to discuss and verbally defend academic ideas.
- **Critical Thinking**
 - Demonstrate ability to apply gender studies theories to new problems. Apply critical perspectives on gender and sexuality to situations beyond the context of Whitman College.
- **After College**
 - Demonstrate adequate preparation for graduate-level work.

The Gender Studies major: All gender studies majors must take Gender Studies 100, Gender Studies 490, and Gender Studies 497 or 498. Gender studies majors must complete at least 28 additional credits; at least 12 of these additional credits must be at the 300 to 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 five areas: gender studies in global context (e.g., Anthropology/Gender Studies 358, History 214, Politics 359, General Studies 245), history (e.g., History 214, History 254, History 300,); humanities (e.g., Religion 358, Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse/Gender Studies 250), social sciences (e.g., Politics 365, Psychology 239, Sociology 258, SSRA 328), theory (e.g., Politics 328, Philosophy 235). Courses that fulfill the global context requirement may also fulfill other area requirements.

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 a gender studies course. Before preregistration 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.

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. GC (global context), Hi (history), Hu (humanities), SS (social sciences), or Th (theory) indicates the cluster area within the major to which a course may be applied.

Anthropology 358/Gender Studies 358 (GC, SS), *Social Bodies, Diverse Identities: the Anthropology of Sex and Gender*

Art History and Visual Culture Studies 353 (Hu), *Blues, Blood, Bruise: Blackness in Art*

Classics 205/Environmental Studies 205 (Hi), *Women and Nature in the Ancient World*

Classics 280/History 280 (Hi) *The "Other" Greece & Rome*

Economics 345 (SS), *Political Economy of Women*

English 200 (Hu), *VT: Badass Women 1559-1668*

English 230 (Hu), *Intro to Shakespeare: Love, Sex and Gender*

Film and Media Studies 220 (Hu), *Identity, Gender, and Media*

Film and Media Studies 255 (Hu), *ST: Introduction to Comic Studies: Women in Comics*

Film and Media Studies 315 (Hu) *Bad Objects: Popular Culture and Questions of Taste*

French 329 (GC, Th) *French Masculinities*

French 401 (GC, Th), *French Feminism*

French 427 (GC, Hu), *Subjectivity and Otherness in Medieval and Renaissance Literature*

General Studies 245 (GC), *Critical Voices*

Global Literatures 395 (Th), *Contemporary Literary Theory*

Hispanic Studies 460/Gender Studies 460 (Hu), *Queer Latinidades; Gender and Sexuality in America*

History 214 (GC, Hi), *Sex in the Casbah: Sex, Gender & Islam*

History 254 (Hi), *The Social History of Stuff: Power, Technology, and Meaning in the United States from the Cotton Gin to the Internet*

History 259 (Hi) *ST: Historicizing "Kids": Exploring Childhood in the US*

History 300 (GC, Hi), *Gender in Chinese History*

History 319 (GC, Hi), *Women in Africa*

History 370 (Hi), *Gendered Lens on U.S. History*

History 393 (Hi), *Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages*

Philosophy 235 (Th), *Philosophy of Feminism*

Philosophy 260 (Hu), *Queer Friendship*

Philosophy 332 (Hu), *Reproduction*

Politics 100 (SS), *Introduction to Race, Gender, and the Politics of the Body*

Politics 225 (GC, SS), *Introduction to Indigenous Politics*

Politics 236 (GC, SS), *Concepts of the Political in Southeast Asia: An Introduction*

Politics 254 (SS), *Gender and Race in Law and Policy*

Politics 311 (SS), *Deservingness in U.S. Social Policy*

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

Politics 328 (Th), *Contemporary Feminist Theories*

Politics 333/Gender Studies 333 (Th), *Feminist and Queer Legal Theory*

Politics 351 (GC, SS), *Necropower and the Politics of Violence*

Politics 359 (GC, SS), *Gender and International Hierarchy*

Politics 365 (SS), *Political Economy of Care/Work*

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

Psychology 309 (SS), *Science of Sexual Orientation*

Religion 304 (GC, Hu) *Muslim Bodies*

Religion 305 (GC, Hu), *Gender and Identity in Judaism*

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

Religion 387 (SS, Hu), *ST: Mormonism: Race, Gender and Sexuality, and Marriage in America*

Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 250/Gender Studies 250 (Hu, Th), *Rhetoric, Gender and Sexuality*

Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 365 *Rhetoric and Violence* (Hu, Th)

Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 380/English 377 (Hu, Th), *Rhetorical Bodies*

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

Sociology 258 (SS), *Gender and Society*

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

SSRA 328 (SS), *Women and Sport*

Theatre 330 (Hu), *Playwriting/Writing for Performance*

Theatre 350 (Hu), *Speech and Voice for the Performer*

History 494 (GC, Hi), *ST: Harem Histories*
Music 354 (Hu), *Women as Composers*

Please check the Gender Studies website for updates to this list and for information about gender studies courses offered in alternate years.

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

Fall, Spring **Fall: Morrissey; Spring: Zalloua** **4 credits**

This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce students, particularly those intending to complete a gender studies major or 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.

110-119 Special Topics

4 credits

This course explores selected topics in gender studies. Any current offerings follow.

238 Men and Masculinities

Spring **Morrissey** **4 credits**

From A-Rod to Arnold, Obama to O'Reilly, masculinity is presented and represented in a variety of ways in the contemporary United States. Across cultures and historical periods, this variety becomes even greater. This class focuses on the task of analyzing hegemonic and counter-hegemonic masculinities. Students will undertake a critical, interdisciplinary examination of the social construction of men and masculinities in multiple cultural and historical contexts.

250 Rhetoric, Gender and Sexuality

Fall **Patia** **4 credits**

This class examines the ways that rhetorical practices and theories rooted in gender and sexuality can and do create, reinforce, adjust and sometimes overcome sex and gender based bias in society. The nature of this bias is addressed as a rhetorical construct that continues to serve as a basis for social, political, and economic conditions of existence for many. In the class, we will critique communication in the media, daily discourse, the law, politics, and in

personal experiences. The goal of this examination is to increase awareness of difference and bias in communication based on gender and sexuality, to challenge theoretical assumptions about what constitutes inequity, to analyze the rhetorical practices that constitute gender and sexuality, and to offer new perspectives from which to view gender-based rhetorical practices. May be elected as Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse 250.

291, 292 Independent Study

Fall, Spring

Staff

1-4 credits

Discussion and directed reading on a topic of interest to the individual student. The staff must approve the project.

Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

300-309 Special Topics

4 credits

This course explores selected topics in gender studies. Any current offerings follow.

328 Queer Studies

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

Queer studies, in the guise of 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 the next generation of works that brought about the establishment of queer studies as a field. It is recommended that students who take this class have previous college-level exposure to theoretical writing in either the humanities or the social sciences. Applies to theory area requirement.

330 Affect Theory and Gendered Subjectivities

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

In this course students will examine the impact of the “affective turn” within gender studies. Affect theory complicates the boundaries between mind and body, stressing how social life—of which gender embodiment is a significant part—is irreducible to cognitive processes alone. It is particularly attentive to the role of emotions and feelings in the formation of gendered subjectivities. Affect—such as joy, pride, shame, and anger—exceeds the disciplining powers of consciousness and representation, pointing (back) to the body, to a reality that is viscerally felt. We will read and critically discuss some of the most important contributions in “Affect Theory” with an eye for gender and subjectivity formation. Applies to theory area requirement.

331 Feminism and Psychoanalysis

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

This course explores feminism’s critical dialogue with psychoanalysis. We will be drawing on the works of Jacques Lacan and French Feminism—as articulated by its leading representatives Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray, and Hélène Cixous—as well as those of queer feminists, such as Judith Butler, Lynne Huffer, Jasbir Puar, and Elizabeth Grosz. Particular attention will be given to the psychoanalytic critique of the subject and to questions of gender and sexual difference: Is sexual difference an ontological condition? What role does the unconscious play in the perpetuation of patriarchy? How are women and men interpellated as sexed subjectivities? Applies to theory area requirement.

333 Feminist and Queer Legal Theory

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

Broadly, this is a course on gender, sexuality, and the law. More particularly, this course will 1) explore the relationship between queer theoretical and feminist theoretical projects and will 2) consider how these projects engage legal doctrines and norms. In question form: Where do feminist and queer theories intersect? Where do they diverge? How do these projects conceive of the law in conjunction with their political ends? How have these projects shifted legal meanings and rules? How have the discourses of legality reconfigured these political projects? These explorations will be foregrounded by legal issues such as marriage equality, sexual harassment, workers’ rights, and privacy. Theoretically, the course will engage with issues such as identity, rights, the state, cultural normalization, and capitalist logics. We will read legal decisions and political theory in this course. May be elected as Politics 333.

358 Social Bodies, Diverse Identities: the Anthropology of Sex and Gender
Not offered 2019-20 **4 credits**

Sex and gender have been framing, analytical categories throughout the history of anthropology. This course explores why sex and gender are invaluable to understanding the human condition. Yet, “sex” and “gender” are not stagnant categories. Instead, they vary across time, place and researcher. Thus, while considering cross-cultural expressions of sex and gender in the ethnographic record, this course is also designed to examine theoretical developments in the field. May be elected as Anthropology 358. *Recommended Prerequisites:* Anthropology 201 or Gender Studies 100.

460 Queer Latinidades: Gender and Sexuality in the Americas
Not offered 2019-20 **4 credits**

This course analyzes articulations of queerness in contemporary Latin American and U.S. Latinx narrative. In the first half of the course we will sample queer narratives from the Caribbean and Latin America, and will conclude by attending to the narrative production of queer Latinxs in the United States. Our work will consist of examining the various narrative techniques that shape understandings of queerness across the continent, while tracing the configurations of race and class, ethnicity and nationality, and immigration and legal status that routinely intersect with queerness. Primary readings may be drawn from authors such as Ricardo Piglia, Pedro Lemebel, Luis Negrón, Rita Indiana, Reinaldo Arenas, Sonia Rivera-Valdés, Achy Obejas, John Rechy, Manuel Muñoz, and Ana Castillo, among others. Evaluation is based on class participation, oral and written assignments, and a final research paper. May be applied to the Narrative/Essay requirement for the Hispanic Studies Major. Satisfies the 400 level requirement for Hispanic Studies minor. Course is taught in Spanish. May be elected as Hispanic Studies 460. *Prerequisite:* Hispanic Studies 341, 342, 343, or 344 or consent of instructor.

490 Senior Seminar
Fall **Staff** **4 credits**

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
Fall, Spring **Staff** **1-4 credits**

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
Spring **Staff** **4 credits**

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

498 Honors Thesis
Spring **Staff** **4 credits**

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