

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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The WGSS major empowers students as advocates and agents of social justice for their communities, workplaces, and the wider world. Whatever their career goals, our curriculum prepares students to be conscientious citizens by focusing on large questions of social difference and inequality across categories such as gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, ability, religion, and nationality. Our courses pair academic rigor with civic engagement and range in scope from the local to the transnational. As an interdisciplinary field, WGSS courses provide students with a framework for developing and integrating a broad range of transferable skills. These skills include effective oral and written communication, strategic approaches to research, critical analysis of evidence, and the application of field-specific theoretical models. By critically analyzing the assumptions, norms, discourses, and systems that structure social identities and behaviors, WGSS aims not only to produce new knowledge, but also to question and reshape what counts as knowledge.

Online information about the WGSS major, minors, and course offerings can be found at <http://wgs.tcnj.edu/>.

Requirements for the Major (10 course units)

- **5 Core Courses:**
 - WGS 200 Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
 - WGS 325 Feminist Theories
 - WGS 326 Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods (or similar course by advisement)
 - WGS 398 Feminism in the Workplace: Field Study in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
 - WGS 495 or 496 Senior Seminar
- **5 course units of additional WGS courses:**
 - One of these courses must consider gender in global perspective (either 200 or 300 level).
 - Choose one of the following to fulfill this requirement:
 - WGS 222/HGS 210 Nonviolence and Peace Action
 - WGS 252/AAS 252 Gender, Race, and Cultural Production
 - WGS 271/WLC 271 Gender and Language
 - WGS310/HIS324/HON337 Women in Eastern Europe
 - WGS 321/CMP 321 Gender and Disability: Literary Perspectives
 - WGS 327 European History Since 1780
 - WGS360/LIT334 Literature by Latinas and Latin American Women
 - WGS375 Transnational Feminisms
 - WGS376/LIT316 Global Women Writers
 - WGS 377 Gender Politics of Development
 - WGS380/HON 338 Gender and Democracy
 - WGS381/ANT311 Women in Migration
 - SOC303 Women in World Perspectives
- **Five courses of the 10 in the major must be at the 300 level or above.**

Requirements for Dual Education/WGS Majors (10 course units)

- **4 Core Courses:**
 - WGS 200 Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

WGS 325 Feminist Theories

WGS 350 Gender Equity in the Classroom OR EFN 457 Critical Pedagogy

WGS 495 or 496 Senior Seminar

- **6 course units of additional WGS courses:**

One of these courses must consider gender in global perspectives (either 200 or 300 level).

Choose one of the following to fulfill this requirement:

WGS 222/HGS 210 Nonviolence and Peace Action

WGS310/HIS324/HON337 Women in Eastern Europe

WGS 321/CMP 321 Gender and Disability: Literary Perspectives

WGS 327 European History Since 1789

WGS360/LIT334 Literature by Latinas and Latin American Women

WGS375 Transnational Feminisms

WGS376/LIT316 Global Women Writers

WGS 377 Gender Politics of Development

WGS381/ANT311 Women in Migration

SOC303 Women in World Perspectives

- **Five courses of the 10 in the major must be at a 300 level or above.**

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses:

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these "critical content courses": WGS 200 Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (C-), WGS 325 Feminist Theories (C-), WGS 495 Senior Seminar: Methods and Theory (C-) or WGS 496 Women's Leadership and Social Change (C-).
- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0, in WGSS courses and overall.

Honors Policy

Prerequisites: WGS 325 Feminist Theories and WGS 326 Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods (or equivalent course).

Departmental Honors is open to any WGSS major with a GPA of at least 3.5 in the major and the permission of the department chair. Students should have completed at least 24 course units. Honors projects are extended research papers written under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Honors projects extend over two semesters. Students begin their honors projects while enrolled in WGS 495 Senior Capstone and complete their projects while enrolled in WGS 497 Honors Independent Research in WGSS. A departmental committee of 2-3 members will approve project proposals and evaluate the completed work in conjunction with the faculty mentor. For more information, please contact the department chair.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major Learning Goals

At the end of their program of study, WGSS majors should be able to:

- Demonstrate central concepts, terms, distinctions, questions, arguments, and theories in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and articulate multiple points of view on a range of questions within the discipline, exhibiting an understanding of their strengths, limitations, and implications.

- Exhibit knowledge of feminist theories on a transnational scale, central questions, arguments, theories, and movements in the history of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
- Explicate the concept of intersectionality within the context of the complex ways gender intersects with other social categories of difference, e.g., race, ethnicity, class, nation-state, age, geography, religion, sexuality, etc.
- Undertake original conceptual/theoretical and/or empirical research; demonstrate an ability to analyze feminist theories across a range of academic disciplines.
- Demonstrate an ability to critically analyze cultural assumptions, social norms, and the systems that structure societies related to gender and sexuality; and explain how gender and sexuality are shaped by and in turn shape a broad range of institutions.
- Engage in theoretically informed civic engagement in the context of gender, intersectionality, and social justice.
- Formulate their own theoretical positions in relation to gender and sexuality, demonstrating a firm grasp of opposing positions and construct a cogent oral and/or written argument.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major Course Sequence

First Year

FSP First Seminar

HSS 099/ Orientation to Humanities and Social Sciences

WRI 102/Academic Writing (if required)

WGS 200/Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Two WGS options (by advisement)

Liberal Learning courses*

Electives

* *Arabic 151 and 152, Chinese 151 and 152, Japanese 151 and 152, and Russian 151 and 152 are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

Second Year

Gender in Global Perspective—Choose one:

WGS 222/HGS 210 Nonviolence and Peace Action

WGS 252/AAS 252 Gender, Race, and Cultural Production

WGS 271/WLC 271 Gender and Language

WGS310/HIS324/HON337 Women in Eastern Europe

WGS 321/CMP 321 Gender and Disability: Literary Perspectives

WGS 327 European History Since 1780

WGS360/LIT334 Literature by Latinas and Latin American Women

WGS375 Transnational Feminisms

WGS376/LIT316 Global Women Writers

WGS 377 Gender Politics of Development

WGS380/HON 338 Gender and Democracy

WGS381/ANT311 Women in Migration

SOC303 Women in World Perspectives

Two WGS Options (by advisement)

Liberal Learning courses*

Electives

** Arabic 151 and 152, Chinese 151 and 152, Japanese 151 and 152, and Russian 151 and 152 (offered annually) are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

Third Year

WGS 325/Feminist Theories

WGS 326/Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods (or similar course by advisement)

WGS 398/Feminism in the Workplace: Field Study in Women's Studies

Liberal Learning courses*

Electives

** Arabic 151 and 152, Chinese 151 and 152, Japanese 151 and 152, and Russian 151 and 152 (offered annually) are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

Fourth Year

WGS 495 or 496/Senior Seminar

Liberal Learning courses

Electives

** Arabic 151 and 152, Chinese 151 and 152, Japanese 151 and 152, and Russian 151 and 152 (offered annually) are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

WGSS Studies majors whose first major is Elementary, Early Childhood, Urban Education option in Elementary or Early Childhood Education, Special Education, or Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing must also complete the requirements for the WGSS major.

When planning their academic program, students should consult with their advisers in *both* departments. These plans should take into account requirements for the major, liberal learning, professional courses, and state certification. Students are encouraged to consult the Academic Requirement Report which is available on PAWS.

Requirements for the Minor in WGSS

The minor in WGSS consists of five courses as follows:

WGS 200 Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (may be substituted by another WGS course at discretion of department chair)

Four more WGS courses (two of these course must be at the 300 or above level) or courses from other departments that offer Gender credit (listed below).

Sexuality and Queer Studies Minor

The minor in Sexuality and Queer Studies provides students with a broad interdisciplinary education in the sociocultural, historical, political, and theoretical foundations of LGBTQ studies. In addition, the minor provides avenues for the study of sexualities more generally, engaging students in critical analyses of the existing organization and social meaning of sexual identities and sexual practices.

Requirements (5 courses total): One required course (either WGS 240: Introduction to LGBTQ Studies or WGS 241: Introduction to Sexuality Studies); and four additional courses. Two of the five courses must be at the 300 or above level.

Required:

One course selected from the two courses below:

WGS 240: Introduction to LGBTQ Studies (offered annually); or,

WGS 241: Introduction to Sexuality Studies (offered annually)

Options:

Four courses selected from the courses below:

- WGS 240: Introduction to LGBTQ Studies (if not taken as the required course above)
- WGS 241: Introduction to Sexuality Studies (if not taken as the required course above)
- WGS 250: Politics of Sexuality
- WGS 270: Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (with a Sexuality and/or Queer Studies focus)
- WGS 306/CLS 325: Sex and Gender in Greco-Roman Antiquity
- WGS 307/MUS 355: Gender, Sexuality, and Pop Music in the 1980s
- WGS 340/HIS 397: Gay and Lesbian History
- WGS 341/LIT 313: Queer Literature
- WGS 342: LGBTQ Issues in K-12 Education
- WGS 343: Queer Studies
- WGS 344: Transgender Studies
- WGS 370: Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (with a Sexuality and/or Queer Studies focus)
- WGS 391: Independent Study in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (with a Sexuality and/or Queer Studies focus)
- WGS 393: Independent Research in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (with a Sexuality and/or Queer Studies focus)

Women in Learning and Leadership

Women in Learning and Leadership (W.I.L.L.) is a curricular and co-curricular, certificate-bearing program designed to develop leadership skills and provide leadership experiences. W.I.L.L. offers active learning opportunities that empower women as leaders and fosters a deeper understanding of women's roles and contributions to society. Successful completion of W.I.L.L. results in a Women's and Gender Studies minor.

Requirements for W.I.L.L.

Five Courses

- WGS 200/Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (W.I.L.L. section): An introductory level course that introduces students to the discipline. In the W.I.L.L. section there is special emphasis on women and leadership.
- Gender in Global Perspectives (either 200 or 300 level)—A requirement that may be fulfilled by courses that examine feminist issues and theories in a global context. Choose one from the following:
 - WGS 222/HGS 210 Nonviolence and Peace Action
 - WGS 252/AAS 252 Gender, Race, and Cultural Production
 - WGS 271/WLC 271 Gender and Language
 - WGS310/HIS324/HON337 Women in Eastern Europe
 - WGS 321/CMP 321 Gender and Disability: Literary Perspectives
 - WGS 327 European History Since 1780
 - WGS360/LIT334 Literature by Latinas and Latin American Women
 - WGS375 Transnational Feminisms
 - WGS376/LIT316 Global Women Writers
 - WGS 377 Gender Politics of Development
 - WGS380/HON 338 Gender and Democracy
 - WGS381/ANT311 Women in Migration
 - SOC303 Women in World Perspectives
- WGS 325/Feminist Theories

- WGS 398/Feminism in the Workplace: Field Study in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- WGS 495 Senior Seminar: Methods and Theory or WGS 496 Women's Leadership and Social Change (Either can count as Senior Capstone)

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies course options

(for course descriptions see department listings):

AAH 320 Women, Art, and Society

AAH 343 Looking at Women: Representation, Feminism, and Film (same as WGS 305)

AAH 370 Topic: Women Artists

AAH 404 Women in Classical Art (same as WGS 404)

AAS 252 Gender, Race, and Cultural Production (same as WGS 252)

AAS 280 Women of African Descent in Global Perspective (same as WGS 260)

AAS 321 Race, Gender and the News

AAS 335 Caribbean Women Writers

AAS 375/Black Feminist Thought (same as WGS 365)

AAS 376/African American Women's History (same as WGS 361 and some instances of HIS 365/Topics)

ANT 311/Women and Migration (same as WGS 381)

CLS 325/Sex and Gender in Greco-Roman Antiquity (same as WGS 306)

COM 300/Intergender Communication

COM 343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminism, and Film (same as WGS 305)

CRI 256/Women in the Criminal Justice System

ECO 325/Women, Gender, and Work

EFN 457 Critical Pedagogy

HGS 210/Non-Violence and Peace Action (same as WGS 222)

HIS 114/Medieval Women

HIS 165/Topics: North America/US (When topic relates to WGS content)

HIS 195/ Western Sexualities

HIS 324/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848–Present (same as WGS 310)

HIS 327/European Social History Since 1789 (same as WGS 327)

HIS 350/Race and Gender in Latin America

HIS 365/Topics: African American Women's History (same as WGS 361 and AAS 376)

HIS 365/Topics: When Topic is Gender in 20th Century US (same as WGS 328)

HIS 384/Women in the 20th Century US (same as WGS 303)

HIS 385/Women in the US to 1900 (same as WGS 302)

HIS 397/Gay and Lesbian History (same as WGS 340)

HIS 45X/Reading Seminar (When topic relates to WGS content)

HON 332/Gender and National Identity in Latin America

HON 337/Women in Eastern Europe: 1848–Present (same as WGS 310)

HON 338/Gender and Democracy (same as WGS 380)

HON 362/Goodwives and Witches: Women in Colonial America

JPW 385/Literature of Literary Journalism

IDS 110/Race, Class, and Gender

LIT 211/British and American Women Writers (same as WGS 211)

LIT 212/Cultural Representation of Gender

LIT 255/Shakespeare and Gender (same as WGS 255)

LIT 313/Queer Literature (same as WGS 341)

LIT 315/Men and Masculinities (same as WGS 320)

LIT 316/Global Women Writers (same as WGS 376)

LIT 317/The Witch in Literature (same as WGS 317)

LIT 319/Women's Autobiographies, Diaries, and Letters (same as WGS 314)

LIT 334/Literature by Latinas and Latin-American Women (same as WGS 360)
LIT 335/Caribbean Women Writers (same as AAS 335)
LIT 370/Studies: American Feminist Literature: The 1960s–1980s
LIT 370/Studies: Childbirth in Women's Literature
LIT 370/Studies: Language, Gender, and Culture
LIT 370/Studies: Study of Medieval and Renaissance Women Writers
LIT 370/Studies: Shakespeare and His Sisters
LIT 370/Studies: Black Women Writers
LIT 379/Asian American Literature (same as WGS 379)
LIT 395/Topics in Women Writers
LIT 499/Seminar in Theory and Research: (When Topic is Gender Related)
MUS 355/Gender, Sexuality & Pop Music in the 1980s (same as WGS 307)
POL 215/Gender and Politics
PSY 350/Psychology of Women
PSY 351/Gender Gap in Science Careers (same as WGS 351)
PSY 353/Psychology of Gender
PSY 355/ Psychology of Power, Oppression and Privilege
PSY 356/Psychology of Personal Relationships
REL 373/Women & Spirituality: The Feminine Divine (same as WGS 373)
SOC 303/Women in World Perspective
SOC 333/Body Image, Culture, and Society
SOC 334/Gender in US Society
SOC 335/Courtship, Marriage, and the Family
SOC 365/Poverty and Welfare in the US