

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 OR WGS 365 Black Feminist Thought OR

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 and/or WGS 399 Independent Internship

WGS 498 Senior Seminar

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

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

Choose one of the following to fulfill the global requirement:

WGS 208/Introduction to Latine/x Feminisms

WGS 215/AAH 215 Gender and Politics in Global Contemporary Art

WGS 222/HGS 210 Nonviolence and Peace Action

WGS 237/CLS 237 The Body and Monument in Ancient Greece

WGS 270: Introduction to Asian American and Pacific Island Feminisms

WGS 271/WLC 271 Gender and Language

WGS 308: Brujas and Blackness: Transnational Perspectives of AfroLatinidad

WGS 310/HIS 324/HON 337 Women in Eastern Europe

WGS 315/AAH 315 Decolonizing and Diversifying the Museum

WGS 321/CMP 321 Gender and Disability: Literary Perspectives

WGS 327/HIS 327 European History Since 1780
 WGS 360/LIT334 Literature by Latinas and Latin American Women
 WGS 375 Transnational Feminisms
 WGS 425: Graffiti and Social Movements
 WGS 376/LIT316 Global Women Writers
 WGS 377 Gender Politics of Development
 WGS 378/SOC 303 Women in World Perspective
 WGS 380/HON 338 Gender and Democracy
 SOC 303/WGS 378 Women in World Perspectives

- One elective must be cross-listed with African American Studies.
 The following courses fulfill this requirement.
 - AAS/WGS 150 Introduction to Social Justice
 - AAS/WGS 252 Gender, Race, and Cultural Production
 - AAS/WGS 270 Topics in AAS and WGSS
 - AAS 280/WGS 260 Women of African Descent in Global Perspective
 - WGS 308: Brujas and Blackness: Transnational Perspectives of AfroLatinidad
 - AAS 376/WGS 361 African American Women's History
 - AAS/WGS 362 The History of Black Lives Matter
 - AAS/WGS 370 Topics in AAS/WGSS
 - HIS/WGS 373 Slavery and Black Womanhood
 - WGS 377/AAS 366 Gender Politics of Development in Africa
 - AAS 385/WGS 365 Black Feminist Thought (taken in addition to rather than as a substitute for WGS 325 Feminist Theories)
 - AAS 470/WGS 470 Topics in AAS and WGSS
- **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 or WGS 365 Black Feminist Thought
 - WGS 350 Gender Equity in the Classroom OR EFN 457 Critical Pedagogy
 - WGS 498 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 208/Introduction to Latine/x Feminisms
 - WGS 215/AAH 215 Gender and Politics in Global Contemporary Art
 - WGS 222/HGS 210 Nonviolence and Peace Action
 - WGS 271/WLC 271 Gender and Language
 - WGS 308: Brujas and Blackness: Transnational Feminist Perspectives of AfroLatinidad
 - WGS 310/HIS 324/HON 337 Women in Eastern Europe
 - WGS 315/AAH 315 Decolonizing and Diversifying the Museum

WGS 321/CMP 321 Gender and Disability: Literary Perspectives
 WGS 327/HIS 327 European History Since 1789
 WGS 360/LIT 334 Literature by Latinas and Latin American Women
 WGS 375 Transnational Feminisms
 WGS 376/LIT 316 Global Women Writers
 WGS 377 Gender Politics of Development
 WGS 378/SOC 303 Women in World Perspective
 WGS 425: Graffiti and Social Movements

- One elective must be cross-listed with African American Studies.

The following courses fulfill this requirement.

AAS/WGS 150 Introduction to Social Justice
 AAS/WGS 252 Gender, Race, and Cultural Production
 AAS/WGS 270 Topics in AAS and WGSS
 AAS 280/WGS 260 Women of African Descent in Global Perspective
 AAS 376/WGS 361 African American Women's History
 AAS/WGS 362 The History of Black Lives Matter
 AAS/WGS 370 Topics in AAS/WGSS
 HIS/WGS 373 Slavery and Black Womanhood
 WGS 377/AAS 366 Gender Politics of Development in Africa
 AAS 385/WGS 365 Black Feminist Thought (**taken in addition to rather than as a substitute for WGS 325 Feminist Theories**)
 AAS 470/WGS 470 Topics in AAS and WGSS

- **Dual majors in Education/WGSS should select 2 English or writing courses, 1 VPA course, 1 American History course, and 1 other Social Science courses, either within the WGSS major or as non-major electives.**

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-), and WGS 365 Black Feminist Thought (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).

Any WGSS major with a GPA of at least 3.5 in the major and the permission of the department chair may pursue departmental honors by extending the projects they develop in WGS 498 into a second semester by enrolling in WGS 496. The second semester

product may be an extended research paper or another kind of research-based project produced under the supervision of a faculty mentor. 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.

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Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major Learning Goals

Students who complete the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major at The College of New Jersey are expected to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of central concepts, terms, distinctions, questions, arguments, and theories in the discipline of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
2. Explain intersectional theory and apply intersectional analyses across categories of social differences and systems of power.
3. Critically analyze how cultural assumptions, social norms, practices, and institutions produce structural inequalities in societies; develop and evaluate intersectional practices for access and inclusion.
4. Analyze feminist theories and praxis on a historical and transnational scale, with reference to central questions, arguments, and movements in the discipline of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
5. Undertake original intersectional, interdisciplinary research, demonstrating an ability to apply feminist theories, methodologies, and ethics to the production of knowledge privileging marginalized standpoints across a range of academic disciplines.
6. Practice civic engagement informed by ethical feminist praxis with a focus on social justice.

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

First Year

HSS 099/ Orientation to Humanities and Social Sciences

FYS/First Year Seminar

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

Two WGS options (by advisement)

College Core courses*

Electives

** Chinese 151 and 152 and Japanese 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 208/Introduction to Latine/x Feminisms

WGS 215/AAH 215 Gender and Politics in Global Contemporary Art

WGS 222/HGS 210 Nonviolence and Peace Action

WGS 271/WLC 271 Gender and Language
 WGS 308 Brujas and Blackness: Transnational Feminist Perspectives of AfroLatinidad
 WGS 310/HIS324/HON337 Women in Eastern Europe
 WGS 315/AAH 315 Decolonizing and Diversifying the Museum
 WGS 321/CMP 321 Gender and Disability: Literary Perspectives
 WGS 327 European History Since 1780
 WGS 360/LIT334 Literature by Latinas and Latin American Women
 WGS 375 Transnational Feminisms
 WGS 376/LIT316 Global Women Writers
 WGS 377 Gender Politics of Development
 WGS 380/HON 338 Gender and Democracy
 SOC 303 Women in World Perspectives
 WGS 425 Graffiti and Social Movements
 AAS/WGS cross-listed course--choose one:
 AAS/WGS 150 Introduction to Social Justice
 AAS/WGS 252 Gender, Race, and Cultural Production
 AAS/WGS 270 Topics in AAS and WGSS
 AAS 280/WGS 260 Women of African Descent in Global Perspective
 AAS 376/WGS 361 African American Women's History
 AAS/WGS 362 The History of Black Lives Matter
 AAS/WGS 370 Topics in AAS/WGSS
 HIS/WGS 373 Slavery and Black Womanhood
 WGS 377/AAS 366 Gender Politics of Development in Africa
 AAS 385/WGS 365 Black Feminist Thought (taken in addition to rather than as a substitute for WGS 325 Feminist Theories)
 AAS 470/WGS 470 Topics in AAS and WGSS

One WGS option (by advisement)

College Core courses*

Electives

** 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 OR WGS 365/Black Feminist Thought WGS
 326/Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods (or similar course by advisement)
 WGS 398/399 Internship Course

College Core courses*

Electives

**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 498/Senior Seminar

College Core courses

Electives

** 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, the College Core, 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 courses must be at the 300 or above level) or courses from other departments that offer Gender credit.

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: LGBTQ History in the US

WGS 341/LIT 313: Queer Literature

WGS 342: LGBTQ Issues in K-12 Education

WGS 343: Queer Studies

WGS 344: Transgender Studies

WGS 366: Sexual and Gender Minority Mental Health

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)