The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program offers graduate-level course work, but no graduate degree programs.

Graduate Faculty
Rose-Marie Avin, Ph.D. (Program Director)
Josephine Kipgen, Ph.D.
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No graduate degree programs offered.

All 500- and 600-level graduate courses include requirements or assignments which differentiate them from their companionate 300- and 400-level undergraduate offerings. Students who have taken a course at the 300 or 400 level may not include that course at the 500 or 600 level in a graduate program, except in the case of special topics courses when the topic is not the same as that taken at the undergraduate level.

WGSS 508 Topics in LGBTQ Studies (3 crs)
Prerequisite: WGSS 206 or WGSS 406 or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with WGSS 308

This course provides students with an opportunity to investigate a specific topic in LGBTQ Studies. Topics studied vary from semester to semester.

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: A-F Grades Only
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

WGSS 513 Gender, Sex, and Science in European History (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with WGSS/HIST 313/513. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

This course examines recent scholarship in European history on gender, sexuality, science, and the body. It focuses on the historical construction of gender and sexuality, the gendering of science, inclusion/exclusion in academic and scientific work.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

WGSS 535 Transnational Feminism (3 crs)
Prerequisite: WGSS 100 or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with WGSS 335. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Transnational feminism offers critical tools for analyzing systems of oppression and the exercise of power in a globalizing world.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
Seminar Hours: 3

WGSS 536 Psychology of Women (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with PSYC/WGSS 336/536. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

Advanced undergraduate/graduate seminar designed to examine how both traditional and feminist psychological theories and research apply to women's lives. Topics include sexuality, violence, gender roles, work, relationships, body image, reproduction, motherhood, and sexual orientation.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

WGSS 544 Women, Work and Family (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with WGSS 344. Credit may not be earned in both courses. No credit if taken after WGSS 433 when offered as Women & Work-Family Issues.

Feminist analysis of work-family issues with emphasis on women’s experiences. Contemporary and/or historical perspectives on intersections of work and family, potentially including multicultural, social, psychological, economic, queer, and/or additional perspectives will be explored.

Grading Basis: A-F Grades Only
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

WGSS 548 Black Psychology (3 crs)
Prerequisite: PSYC 100
• Cross-listed with WGSS/PSYC 348/548. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses. No credit if taken after PSYC 491 when offered as Black Psychology.

An in-depth study of theories and research concerning the Black lived experience in modern American society from a culturally relevant and appropriate perspective. A range of topics that pertain to the psychological experiences of African Americans such as racism and discrimination, achievement and schooling, kinship and family, racial identity, religion and spirituality, and African American mental health will be discussed.

Attributes: Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Grading Basis: A-F Grades Only
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
WGSS 551 Women and Politics (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with WGSS/POLS 351/551. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

  Analysis of women’s roles and participation in politics: as citizens, voters, candidates, and officeholders. The impact of feminism and the women’s movement on issues and policymaking.

  Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
  Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
  Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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WGSS 556 Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with WGSS/ANTH 356/556. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

  Study of women’s domestic, social, economic, political, and religious roles in a broad range of the world’s societies. Examination of the historical development of women’s roles and contemporary changes.

  Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
  Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
  Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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WGSS 557 Women and Economic Development (3 crs)
  Consent: Department Consent Required
  • Cross-listed with WGSS/ECON 357/557. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses. No credit if taken after WNNS 480 in summer of 2001.

  Provides economic, institutional, and feminist frameworks for understanding socio-economic realities of women in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Topics analyzed include changing roles of women in economy and household during the process of economic development.

  Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
  Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
  Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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WGSS 573 American Women’s History to 1870 (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with WGSS/HIST 373/573. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

  Examines the history of black, white, and red women, including gender politics; women as the co-creators of culture; changes related to education, religion, work, sexuality, and marriages; and women and revolution and war.

  Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
  Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
  Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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WGSS 578 American Women’s History Since 1870 (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with WGSS/HIST 378/578. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

  Explores women’s relationship to the economy and to political movements; changing ideals of womanhood; the demographic and sexual revolutions; and class, race, ethnic, and regional variations in women’s experience.

  Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
  Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
  Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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WGSS 594 Studies in the History of Women (1-3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with WGSS/HIST 394/594.

  Selected aspects depending on student interest and staff. Number of credits assigned will vary according to nature of topic. Possible topics include a survey of entire history of women in Western world or women in American history. Consult Class Schedule or department office for current offering.

  Repeat: Course may be repeated
  Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

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WGSS 595 Directed Studies (1-3 crs)
  Consent: Department Consent Required
  • Cross-listed with WGSS 395.

  Study of a women’s, gender, and sexuality studies problem or topic approved by supervising instructor and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies director. May address individual or group projects for exploration of topical issues or questions confronted in other courses. Ordinarily, this course will involve only students who have completed some Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies coursework.

  Repeat: Course may be repeated
  Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

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WGSS 606 Queer Theories and Sexual Politics (3 crs)
  Prerequisite: WGSS 200 or WGSS 206 or three credits from WGSS or consent of instructor.
  • Cross-listed with WGSS 406. Credit may not be earned in both courses. With permission of the instructor, a feminist theory course in another discipline may fulfill the prerequisite.

  Seminar addresses theoretical and political debates that confront the institution of heterosexuality. Queer theorists contextualize gender and sexualities within LGBTQ social movements for civil rights. Explores intersectionality of LGBTQ oppression (heterosexism) with other social forces.

  Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
  Lab/Studio Hours: 0
  Seminar Hours: 3
WGSS 636 Education of Girls and Women in the United States (2 crs)
- Cross-listed with WGSS 436 and ES 436/ES 636. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses. No credit if taken after special topics or directed study with the same title.

This course will focus on both informal and formal definitions of schooling and explore a wide array of influences and choices that contribute to the preparation of resilient women who grow and change through their lifetime.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 2
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

WGSS 682 Women in Latin American Literature (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SPAN 363/SPAN 563 or SPAN 367/LAS 367 / SPAN 567/LAS 567.
- Cross-listed with WGSS/SPAN 482/682. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

This course is an in-depth study of the representation of women in contemporary Spanish American literature in their historical, cultural, and social contexts. Taught entirely in Spanish.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

WGSS 690 Feminist Analysis and Practices: Interdisciplinary Themes (3 crs)
Prerequisite: WGSS 100 or WGSS 301, and WGSS 200, and WGSS 250; or consent of instructor
Consent: Instructor Consent Required
- Cross-listed with WGSS 490. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Comparative study of the theories and methods of feminism, from historical, multidisciplinary, and cross-cultural perspectives. Examines theoretical foundations, current debates and advances in feminist scholarship.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

WGSS 696 Capstone: Social Justice Practicum (3 crs)
Prerequisite: WGSS 100 or WGSS 301, WGSS 300.
Consent: Department Consent Required
- Cross-listed with WGSS 496. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

As a culminating experience, students work collectively to understand and address community needs. Collaborating with a community organization and guided by feminist approaches to social justice, students strategize, implement and assess a plan of action.

Attributes: Capstone Course, Field Trip(s) Required
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Seminar Hours: 3

WGSS 698 Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Internship (1-3 crs)
Prerequisite: At least 6 credits in WGSS-only prefix courses.
Consent: Department Consent Required
- Cross-listed with WGSS 498.

Supervised application and examination of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies theory in a professional setting related to the student’s area of interest.

Attributes: Internship
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option