

WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES MAJOR

Department Chair: Neda Atanasoski, Ph.D.

Rooted in the liberatory traditions of Women's Studies, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies B.A. challenges structural inequities based on intersecting hierarchies of colonialism, gender, caste, race, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, and ability. The WGSS major offers students opportunities to develop community-centered knowledge and practices for collective liberation, with the aim of transforming systems of oppression and imagining freer futures. Students will take courses informed by intersectional and anti-colonial scholarship and methodologies from the arts and humanities, social sciences, and many other fields. Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies offers students a flexible program of study in which there is focused attention on building students' analysis of varied modes of structural and interlinked oppressions and devising visions for critiquing, resisting, and dismantling such modes of systemic violence.

Our introductory courses equip students with the tools and vocabulary to both analyze and respond effectively to social problems. Upper-division courses, typically structured as small seminars, focus on cultivating students' research and writing skills, critical analysis, and synthesis of different disciplines and ways of knowing rooted in topics of deep personal and community relevance. Advanced students will take our advanced research capstone where they will create and carry out a research project that ties together the work done throughout the major, developing methods that students will carry into a variety of careers and into communities beyond the University. The courses and experiences students undertake throughout the major are designed to support students in shaping futures in areas such as community organizing, social justice advocacy, transformative media, care work, medicine and public health, law, public policy, academia and more. The program engages students' critical thinking and develops their analysis of society's power structures while centering the importance of relational accountability to the communities we research alongside and serve. We seek to shape a new generation of scholars and leaders who, with us, will work to acknowledge, understand, and critically interrogate hierarchies of difference, while imagining more just futures.

Courses offered by this department may be found under the following acronyms: WGSS, LGBT. They were previously also offered under WMST.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to fully engage with the curriculum and the opportunities presented for learning and research. Having completed the program, students should have acquired the following knowledge, skills, and practices:

1. Students will be able to critically analyze issues of power related to women, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class.
2. Students will understand and be able to critique key developments in gender, critical race, and queer thought as strategies for social change.
3. Students will demonstrate familiarity with major concepts and vocabulary of gender, critical race, and queer thought in the field of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

REQUIREMENTS

Students will earn a total of 33 credit hours, distributed as indicated below. Drawing from more than 50 courses, including many cross-listed with other academic units, students will have the opportunity to explore broadly within the field and to create their own path through the major relevant to their special interests. At least 24 credits must be at or above the 3xx level. No course with a grade less than "C-" may be used to satisfy the major. An overall GPA of 2.0 in the major is required for graduation. Students will design their programs in consultation with a Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies advisor.

Course	Title	Credits
College Requirements (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/#collegerequirementstext)		
Introductory Course		3
Select one of the following courses:		
LGBT200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
WGSS105	Introduction to Disability Studies (Introduction to Disability Studies)	
WGSS200	Introduction to WGSS: Gender, Power, and Society	
WGSS205	Reproductive Justice: An Introduction	
WGSS250	Introduction to WGSS: Art and Culture	
WGSS263	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	
Lower Level Requirements		6
Lower Level Core (LLC)		
Minimum 3 credits from LLC		
LGBT200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
LGBT264	Queer/Queer Contentions: Exploration of Sexualities in the Black Community	
LGBT298	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
WGSS105	Introduction to Disability Studies (Introduction to Disability Studies)	
WGSS115	Gender, Race and Computing	
WGSS200	Introduction to WGSS: Gender, Power, and Society	
WGSS205	Reproductive Justice: An Introduction	
WGSS250	Introduction to WGSS: Art and Culture	
WGSS263	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	
WGSS265	Constructions of Manhood and Womanhood in the Black Community	
WGSS267	Introduction to Black Women's Cultural Studies	
WGSS271	Monsters and Racism: Black Horror and Speculative Fiction	
WGSS280	Gender and Science in Film and Media	
WGSS290	Bodies in Contention	
WGSS291	Racialized Gender and Rebel Media	
Lower Level Electives (LLE)		
Maximum of 3 credits of LLE		
Students may also take a second course from the Intro or LLC list instead of from the LLE list		
LGBT265	LGBTQ+ Literatures and Media	

WGSS210	Love, Labor, and Citizenship: Women in America to 1880
WGSS211	Women in America Since 1880
WGSS212	Women in Western Europe 1750-Present
WGSS230	Introduction to Humanities, Health, and Medicine
WGSS255	Reading Women Writing
WGSS275	World Literature by Women
WGSS298	Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
FMSC190	Man Up! Where Are The Fathers?
HIST215	Women in Western Europe to 1750
KNES225	Hoop Dreams: Black Masculinity and Sport
Foundation Courses	
6	
WGSS301	Introduction to Research in Gender, Race, and Queer Studies
WGSS487	Advanced Research Seminar in Gender, Race, and Queer Studies
Upper Level Requirements	
18	
9 of the 18 credits are required to be ULC, 6 are required to be ULE, the remaining 3 credits can come from either the ULC or ULE lists	
Upper Level Core (ULC)	
Minimum of 9 credits	
LGBT310	Transgender Studies
LGBT327	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Film and Video
LGBT350	LGBTQ+ Public Speaking and Facilitation
LGBT386	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Organization Internship
LGBT398	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
LGBT411	(Black Queer Studies)
LGBT448	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
LGBT488	Seminar in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
LGBT499	Independent Study
WGSS302	Feminist, Critical Race, and Queer Theories
WGSS315	Intro to Fat Studies: Fatness, Blackness and Their Intersections
WGSS319	Workshops in Gender, Race, and Queer Studies
WGSS330	(Indigenous Feminisms)
WGSS358	Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship
WGSS360	Caribbean Women
WGSS368	Undergraduate WGSS Internship
WGSS370	Black Feminist Thought
WGSS378	Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Assistantship
WGSS379	Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
WGSS410	Women of the African Diaspora
WGSS428	Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
WGSS468	Feminist Cultural Studies
WGSS486	Advanced Feminist, Critical Race, and Queer Theories
WGSS488	Senior Seminar

WGSS489	Individual Research in Gender, Race and Queer Studies
WGSS497	Professional Development
WGSS498Z	(Black Women's Art and Culture)
WGSS499	Independent Study
Upper Level Elective	
Minimum of 6 credits	
LGBT359	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Literatures and Media
or ENGL359	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Literatures and Media
LGBT448C	(Sex and the City)
LGBT448W	Sex, Gender, and Jewish Identity
LGBT448Y	(Spotlight on Major Writers Dickinson, Erotics, Poetics, Biopics: Some (Queer) Ways We Read Poetry)
or ENGL439I	
WGSS314	Black Women in United States History
WGSS320	Women in Classical Antiquity
WGSS325	The Sociology of Gender
WGSS326	Biology of Reproduction
WGSS336	Psychology of Women
WGSS348	Literary Works by Women
or ENGL348	Literary Works by Women
WGSS408	Literature by Women Before 1800
or ENGL408	Literature by Women Before 1800
WGSS420	Asian American Women: The Social Construction of Gender
WGSS425	Gender Roles and Social Institutions
WGSS444	Feminist Critical Theory
or ENGL444	Feminist Critical Theory
WGSS448	Literature by Women of Color
or ENGL448	Literature by Women of Color
WGSS452	Women in the Media
WGSS455	Women in Medieval Culture and Society
WGSS456	Women and Society in the Middle East
WGSS457	Redefining Gender in the U.S., 1880-1935
WGSS458	Literature by Women After 1800
WGSS469	Study Abroad Special Topics IV
WGSS471	Women's Health
WGSS491	Judaism and the Construction of Gender
WGSS492	Sex, Gender, and Jewish Identity
WGSS498	Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
AASP493	Feminist and Nationalist Thought in Black Communities
AMST320	(Dis)ability in American Film
ANTH403	(Queer Anthropology)
CCJS346	Domestic Violence
CINE423	Women and French Cinema
COMM324	Communication and Gender
ENGL329A	(Cinema of Liberation)
ENGL329C	(Sexuality in the Cinema)
or CMLT398L	
ENGL329Y	(A Cinema of Migration as Message)

ENGL362	Caribbean Literature in English
ENGL388D	
FMSC310	Maternal, Child and Family Health
FMSC330	Family Health: Health Happens in Families
HESI422	Women and Leadership
HIST338A	(Civil Rights Movement)
HIST360	Women and the Civil Rights Movement
	or WGSS498M
HIST412	History of Women and Gender in Africa
HIST467	Women and Reform Movements in the Twentieth-Century United States
HLTH377	Human Sexuality
HLTH424	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Health
JAPN316	Women and Japanese Literature: Japanese Literature in Translation
JWST373	Sexuality in Jewish Literature and Culture
PLCY311	Women in Leadership
PSYC354	Multicultural Psychology in the U.S.
SOCY335	Sociology of Health and Illness
SOCY435	Society, Biology, and Health
SOCY470	Pregnancy and Parenthood in an Unequal Society
SPAN412	Women in the Middle Ages: Myths and Daily Life
SPAN433	Women and Culture in Colonial Latin America
SPAN471	United States Latina Fiction
Total Credits	
33	

GRADUATION PLANS

Click here (<https://www.arhu.umd.edu/academics/advising/academic-plans/>) for roadmaps for graduation plans in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Additional information on developing a graduation plan can be found on the following pages:

- <http://4yearplans.umd.edu>
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/#success>) section of this catalog