

# WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at The College of St. Scholastica offers a minor designed to cultivate critical thinking about women, sexuality, and gender as it engages with topics of immediate social and political concern. These issues include:

- Objectification of women in media and advertising
- Wars on women's bodies and reproductive health
- Trafficking of women and girls
- Systemic sexism within institutions
- Homophobia and racism in white middle-class feminist movements.

To introduce students to the history and complexity of these political, intellectual, and cultural issues, the program stresses the critical importance of feminist theory, intersectionality, and global engagement with women's and LGBT movements and lived experiences in the United States and around the world.

## Programs

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department offers these programs:

- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Minor (<http://catalog.css.edu/programs-az/arts-sciences/womens-gender-and-sexuality-studies/womens-gender-and-sexuality-studies-minor/>)

## Contact Information

wgs@css.edu

## Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Courses

**WGS 1010 - Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (Conceptions : VCOP - Electives) - 4 cr.**

Students analyze the varieties of women's experiences in contemporary American and global society, consider how gender relations may be changing, and investigate the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces that shape our lives relative to gender. We will explore relations of inequity organized along lines of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, sexuality, ability, appearance, age, and other categories of difference, in addition to gender, and consider how such categories of difference impede human flourishing. This exploration will culminate in the consideration of feminist theories of intersectionality and praxis to support the flourishing of all.

**WGS 1777 - Topics - 0-4 cr.**

Various departments offer topics courses which are applicable to women's studies. Check with the coordinator for current offerings on the schedule.

**WGS 2220 - Dance, Gender and Culture (Conceptions : VCFA - Fine Arts) - 4 cr.**

A study of the body as an expressive instrument, a site of social conditioning, and a means of shaping and conveying identity. It uses specific dance cultures to illustrate a set of dynamics ranging from desire and exoticism to empowerment and assertion of cultural or national identity. Our study of dance as a cultural phenomenon leads us to investigate history, politics, social dynamics, and the shifting categories of race, class, gender, sexuality, spirituality, and culture.

**Equivalent Course:** GSJ 2220

**WGS 2231 - Cultural Anthropology (Conceptions : VCSS - Social Science) - 4 cr.**

Addresses concepts, methods, and theories exploring social and cultural life across time and space, including the changing concept of culture itself. The course is an introduction to ethnographic fieldwork methods and to the practice of anthropology, with attention to the impact of contemporary social forces on the diverse societies that make up the modern world.

**Equivalent Course:** GSJ 2231

**WGS 2243 - Women and Religion (Conceptions : VCRS - Religious Studies) - 4 cr.**

Examines the historical and cultural understandings of women in religions of the world. The course emphasizes the work of contemporary women thinkers who are exploring various dimensions of the question of women's presence, exclusion and contribution to religion. Through historical and comparative study the course will provide both a critical and a constructive understanding of the contributions that women make to religions, as well as the influence of religions on the situation of women in the world. This course will acknowledge the heritage of women's strength, resistance and celebration in responding to exclusion and oppression and look at some of the ways in which women today are seeking full and authentic participation in the life of their religious traditions and their communities.

**Equivalent Course:** TRS 2243

**WGS 2332 - Reading Ida B. Wells - 2 cr.**

Examines the life and work of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, with emphasis on close study of her autobiography. The course places the life and work of this major figure in the historical and cultural context of the Civil Rights Movement and the history of social movements in the United States.

**Equivalent Course:** HON 2332

**WGS 2525 - The Media, Race, Gender and Sexuality (Conceptions : VCSS - Social Science) - 4 cr.**

This course introduces students to mass-mediated representations of race, class, gender, and sexuality. We survey historically and/or culturally significant artifacts in this course in order to interpret evolving representations.

**Equivalent Course:** CME 2525

**WGS 2777 - Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies - 2-4 cr.**

Various departments offer topics courses which are applicable to women's studies. Check with the coordinator for current offerings on the schedule.

**WGS 2999 - Women's Studies - 0-4 cr.**

Independent Study.

**WGS 3101 - Advanced Social and Cultural Theory - 4 cr.**

Focuses specifically on the investigation of culture at a level of depth suited to juniors and seniors. Participants investigate language, culture, media, representation, and power through a variety of disciplinary and theoretical lenses. Frameworks to be analyzed include subaltern, transcultural, and dependency theory alongside Western theories and tools such as postcolonial, poststructuralist, Marxist, and feminist theory.

**WGS 3202 - Art and Protest (Integrations : VIFA - Fine Arts) - 4 cr.**

Examines socially engaged visual art through historical and contemporary lenses. Looking at a range of works from the art of John Heartfield and Kathë Kollwitz in response to war in Germany to anonymous contemporary artists commenting on systems of oppression like The Guerilla Girls and Banksy, students will employ critical analysis through reading, writing and discussion. Examining how or why art could be considered "an instrument of war," as Picasso so famously intoned, will be a primary focus as students culminate their studies through researching a contemporary issue and creating work in response.

**Equivalent Course:** ART 3202, HON 3202

**WGS 3324 - African American History I - 4 cr.**

Examines significant topics in African American history from the period of forced migration to the Americas through Reconstruction. Analyzes the roles African Americans of different classes and genders have played in shaping U.S. history.

**Equivalent Course:** HIS 3324

**WGS 3325 - African American History II (Integrations : VIHI - History) - 4 cr.**

Examines significant topics in African American history from Reconstruction through the current experience of diverse members of the African Diaspora living in the U.S. Analyzes the roles African Americans of different classes and genders have played in shaping U.S. history.

**Equivalent Course:** HIS 3325

**WGS 3340 - Psychology of Gender - 2 cr.**

Introduces students to the research methods, findings, and theories of psychology of gender. Students examine evidence for gender differences and similarities in cognitive abilities, personality, social behavior and mental health, and explore nature and nurture explanations. Gender stereotypes and their impact are discussed. Women's and men's experiences in the workplace, in relationships, and in parenting are major focuses.

**Prerequisite Courses:** one psychology course or consent of instructor.

**Equivalent Course:** PSY 3340

**WGS 3350 - Feminism & Globalization: Women, Religion and the Body - 4 cr.**

Explores how European imperialist accounts of experiences by non-European women have been crucial to the formation of culturally dominant ideas about feminism, globalization and the legacy of the colonial state throughout the so-called "Third World." Beginning with a critical and historical overview of feminist theory and practice, the course will trace recent studies, both historical and ethnographic, of how terms such as "women," "religion" and "the body" were radically changed by the colonial projects of the 19th century (e.g. in South Asia and Africa)-projects that are intimately related to contemporary debates on transnational women's movements and globalization.

**Equivalent Course:** HIS 3350

**WGS 3355 - Islam and the Modern World (Integrations : VIHI - History) - 4 cr.**

Introduces the history of Islam and the modern world from Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798 to the present day. The course traces the history of Islam as one of the Abrahamic religions and explores the theological tensions within the many Islamic traditions (in theology and philosophy, mysticism and law). We will focus on the impact of WWI on the Middle East as well as the legacy of colonialism in the Islamic world, including the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of Arab nationalism, and the origins of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. In the concluding section, we will also take a critical and historical look at sex and gender in Islam, focusing on the widespread belief in Europe and the United States that Muslim women are in need of rescue by the West.

**Equivalent Course:** HIS 3355

**WGS 3777 - Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies - 0-8 cr.**

Various departments offer topics courses which are applicable to women's studies. Check with the coordinator for current offerings on the schedule.

**WGS 3999 - Independent Study in Women's and Gender Studies - 1-8 cr.**

Independent study.

**WGS 4555 - Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Fieldwork/ Scholarship Capstone - 0-8 cr.**

Provides students with an opportunity to build on coursework in the minor through one of two tracks. The first track is advised by the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Director and involves fieldwork in an off-campus organization relevant to the minor. The second track is advised by a Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies faculty member and involves generation of scholarship relevant to the minor. In addition to site or scholarship work, both tracks require a brief proposal, monthly class discussions with the Director and other enrolled students, a 15-20 page paper, and an oral presentation. WGS 4555 is the capstone course for minors.

**Prerequisite Courses:** WGS 1011 and WGS 1012, two elective courses from the minor completed or in progress, and consent of the Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies Program Director.

**WGS 4777 - Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies - 0-4 cr.**

Various departments offer topics courses which are applicable to women's studies. Check with the coordinator for current offerings on the schedule.

**WGS 4999 - Independent Study - 0-8 cr.**

Independent Study.