Associate Professor Jennifer Koosed, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor Katherine Lehman, Ph.D., Coordinators

Affiliated Faculty: Kristen Woodward, Barty Thompson, Guillaume de Syon, Brent Harger, and Hillary Aquino

• What Can I Do With A Major In Women's Studies?
• Women's and Gender Studies Alumni: Where are they Now?

In both the WGS program and the WGS co-concentration, students will learn

1. To use gender as an analytical category
2. The history of women
3. The principles and varieties of feminism both as a political philosophy that shapes activism and a method of analysis in academia
4. To explore the diversity of women’s experiences and how race, class, and other aspects of identity interact with gender and sexuality
5. How understandings and expressions of masculinity, femininity, gender roles and sexuality are contingent and have changed over time and across culture

Since its inception in 1989, the women's and gender studies curriculum has incorporated a growing number of courses on men and masculinities. Although the majority of women's and gender studies courses emphasize gender in Western societies, one of the goals of this program is to provide a global context and to offer students courses which will define the roles and issues of women and men in non-Western societies.

Co-Concentration in Women's and Gender Studies

Students interested in women's and gender studies will combine the concentration with another discipline such as English, history, political science, psychology, religious studies or sociology. As faculty from multiple departments teach courses for the program, we emphasize an interdisciplinary approach to studying women's and gender issues. We encourage students to seek advising on coursework as the course offerings vary greatly by semester and a variety of courses across disciplines may qualify for women's and gender studies credit.

Requirements:

• Sex Roles: An Introduction to Women's Studies (IDS 303)
• Seminar in Women's Studies (WMS 400)
• Five other women's studies courses (It is important to understand that students electing the co-concentration in women's and gender studies can not earn general studies credit for the courses which are part of their concentration.) The listings and topics vary from year to year, but among the courses offered on a regular basis for either the program or the co-concentration are:
• Sex Roles: Introduction to Women's Studies (IDS 303)
• Race, Class & Gender (PHI 135)
• Sex, Love & Friendship (PHI 206)
• Feminism & Philosophy (PHI 228)
• Women in the Biblical World (REL 244)
• Sex, Gender, Bible (REL 249)
• Women in Religion (REL 286)
• US Women's History (HIS 204)
• Women's Work (HIS 275)
• Women in Latin America (LAS 340)
• U.S. Social History: The American Family 1600-1900 (HIS 311)
• Sex, Gender and Culture (ANT 320)
• The Family (SOC 261)
• Social Stratification (SOC 262)
• Global Families (SOC 265)
• Domestic Violence (SOC 311)
• Women Writing in America (ENG 235)
• Black Women Writers (ENG 235)
• Women Writers: Africa & the Caribbean (ENG 235)
• Women's Texts (ENG 390)
• Women & Art (IDS 214)
• Men in Transition: Mad Men & Wild Men (IDS 220)
• Women, Gender & Mass Media (COM 283)

The Women's and Gender Studies Program

Requirements:
• IDS 303  • Four other women's and gender studies courses

Courses

WGS 400 Seminar in Women's Studies
Addressing developments in the new scholarship on women and in feminist theory and methodology, the seminar focuses on topics from different disciplines and affords students the opportunity to present their own scholarly work in the field. Topics vary from year to year and take advantage of the wide range of expertise of faculty specializing in women's studies fields. Major focus in this seminar course is on issues related to past, present and future constructions of gender in the United States.

The voices of both women and men representing various viewpoints and disciplines are reviewed and studied in order to interpret and understand the concepts of sex, gender, gender roles and gender identity (psychological based theories are emphasized). The meanings of these concepts are examined critically as a function of changing perspectives associated with biological determinism, technology, economics, politics and social construction within the Romantic, Modern and Postmodern periods of history. Special topics are researched. In addition, part of the focus is on our construction of human sexuality and the relationship among gender, sex and sexuality.