Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Concentration

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary, academic course of study which lies at the intersection of the traditional academic disciplines such as literature, history, and philosophy in the humanities; psychology and sociology in the social sciences; and biology and geography in the natural sciences. Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies also has found a prominent place in areas such as education, communications, urban studies, and health sciences. Wherever issues of gender and sexuality are germane to a discipline, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies can be found, bringing new models of understanding to all areas of study.

The undergraduate concentration in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies brings together courses that provide a critical analysis of gender, sexuality, and the related categories of class, race, and other dimensions of social power. Gaining knowledge about women, men, and people of all genders helps students to move through a complex contemporary world.

For more information, please contact the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Requirements for a Concentration in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: 15 credits

Concentrators are required to take a total of fifteen Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) approved credits from at least two disciplines. It is recommended that students take an introductory course such as UR 103 or PH 150. Students are also encouraged to engage in some sort of specialized experience such as an independent study, a directed reading course leading to a major paper, a creative project or an internship. Students in WGSS may use courses to simultaneously count for a concentration in WGSS and other Worcester State University requirements.

The WGSS concentration provides recursive opportunities for students to encounter, develop, and master (a) the core knowledge of these interdisciplinary fields, (b) the practices needed to comprehend and communicate this knowledge to diverse audiences, and (c) the dispositions, habits of mind, and practices essential to advancing WGSS’s liberatory values and aspirations. Concentrators in WGSS will:

1. Compare, critique and challenge the formation of categories of gender, gender identity, and sexuality as they function in social, economic, cultural, and/or political contexts; and as they intersect with other categories of difference such as race, ethnicity, class, nationality, and ability.

2. Research, explain, and evaluate the historical development of feminist and queer theories, scholarship, and creative expression; engage in critical debates about those theories, scholarship, and creative expression; and apply feminist and queer critical perspectives to analyze meaningful questions across disciplines.

3. Learn and practice how to use intersectional gender- and sexuality-based frames of analysis as tools for academic research, creative production, collaborative work, and social change.

WGSS courses substantively address at least one of the program goals.

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary program drawing from the faculty of all departments at Worcester State University.

Courses

See LASC section for information on the Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum (LASC).

AR-225 Art Since Mid-20th Century
LASC Categories: CA, GP, WAC, DAC
Explores how artists have challenged the traditional definitions of the art object and the expanded materials, media and concepts employed by artists since 1950 to the present era.
Fall only and every year. 3 Credits

CM-213 Gender and the Media
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC, DAC, WAC
Prerequisites: CM-100 and EN-102
This course will explore how difference is socially constructed along gender lines and will explore the intersections of gender, identity, power and media representation.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

CM-350 Intercultural Communication
Prerequisites: CM-100
Introductory communication theory and practice across cultural groups defined by race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, nationality, politics and economics.
3 Credits

ED-330 Elementary Social Studies and Multiculturalism
Goals, curriculum, skills, issues, teaching strategies in educating diverse populations in a global context. 10 hours of fieldwork. Prerequisite: Admitted into Stage 2
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

EN-132 World Literature
LASC Categories: GP, DAC, TLC
Representative poems, stories, plays, both ancient and modern, from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
Fall and Spring and other or on demand. 3 Credits

EN-167 Literature and Human Rights
LASC Categories: GP, DAC
An analysis of international creative writing dealing with the subject of human rights. Resource persons from different fields will be utilized.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

EN-172 Women and Literature
LASC Categories: WAC, TLC, GP
Explores basic issues and problems in literature by and about women.
Every year. 3 Credits

EN-174 Women Poets
LASC Categories: TLC, WAC, GP
Prerequisites: Fulfillment of Writing II
A close reading and analysis of poetry written by women from a historical as well as a contemporary feminist perspective.
Other or on demand. 3 Credits

EN-345 American Women Writers
LASC Categories: USW, DAC
Prerequisites: EN-102
The course examines major works by American women writers in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama within applicable critical contexts.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits
EN-348 Postcolonial Women's Writing
LASC Categories: GP
Prerequisites: EN-102
Writing by women from colonized and formerly colonized countries on local and global issues shaping women's lives and creative expression.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

HC-234 Multiculturalism and Health
Examination of diverse ethnic/racial and cultural beliefs and practices affecting health and illness
Spring only and every year. 3 Credits

HE-210 Women's Health Issues
Overview of women's health issues: women in the health marketplace, a woman's right to control her body, media images and illness, eating disorders, therapy, alcohol, aging and the women's health movement.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

HE-230 Human Sexuality and Sex Education
Prerequisites: HE-100
Focus on the need for and understanding of sex education, along with the process of implementing sexuality education, with emphasis upon teacher preparation.
Every year. 3 Credits

HI-216 Economic History of the US
An introduction to United States economic development; particular attention will be paid to industrialization and the labor force. [Applicable to the Global Studies and Womens Studies Concentrations.]
Every year. 3 Credits

HI-217 US Social History
LASC Categories: TLC, USW, DAC, WAC
Prerequisites: EN-102 or EN-202
Survey of social and cultural history. Topics such as family, religion, education, popular literature, architecture, transportation, and reform. [Applicable to the Global Studies and Womens Studies Concentrations.]
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

HI-232 European Intellectual Hist II
Prerequisites: HI-103 or HI-104
The main theoretical works, philosophic, psychological and scientific, of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. [Applicable to the Womens Studies Concentration.]
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

HI-249 US Labor History I
The relationship between workers, their employers and the surrounding community between 1815 and World War II. [Applicable to the Global and Womens Studies Concentrations.]
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

HI-274 Sex, Marriage and the Family
LASC Categories: TLC, DAC
This course will undertake a study of courtship, marriage, and family lifecycle patterns in comparative perspective. [Applicable to the Womens Studies Concentration.]
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

HI-333 Women in Latin America
Prerequisites: HI-213 HI-214 HI-226 or HI-247
Examines the roles of women in diverse societies including Mexico, Brazil and Caribbean nations. Emphasis on the modern period. [Applicable to the Global and Womens Studies Concentrations.]
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

HI-350 Native American Women
Prerequisites: HI-205 or equivalent.
Examines Indian women from the time of European contact to the modern era. Emphasizes culture, community and arenas of power. [Applicable to the Womens Studies Concentration.]
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

HI-353 The Age of Reform: 1877-1920
Prerequisites: HI-111 and HI-112
An analysis of the transformation of America, including reform response to the Gilded Age's industrialization, urbanization and immigration patterns. [Applicable to the Womens Studies Concentration.]
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

MU-231 Women in Music
LASC Categories: CA, TLC
A survey of the role of women in music, particularly the great composers from Medieval to Contemporary times.
3 Credits

NU-310 Nursing Science I: Medical-Surgical Nursing (track I)
LASC Categories: NLL
Prerequisites: NU-210 and NU-216
Students will apply the nursing process when caring for the adult medical-surgical patients. Concepts of wellness, disease and health behaviors will be examined as the nursing process is operationalized in the care of adult medical-surgical patients. Lecture and off-campus clinical experiences in medical-surgical nursing are included in this course.
Fall only and every year. 4.5 Credits

NU-340 Nursing Science II: Pediatrics (track I)
LASC Categories: DAC, NLL
Prerequisites: # NU-210 NU-216 NU-309 NU-310 NU-430 # Take EN-250 EN-202 or EN-102;
Prerequisites or Corequisite: NU-315
Concepts of wellness, disease, and health behavior are examined as the nursing process is operationalized in the care of acutely ill pediatric patients. Lecture and an off-site clinical experience are included in this course.
Spring only and every year. 4.5 Credits

PH-150 Women in Western Ideas
LASC Categories: HBS, TLC, DAC
Investigates the concept of "woman" from ancient Greece to the present.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-152 Philosophy of Love and Sex
LASC Categories: HBS, ICW, DAC
Investigates the concepts of love and sex and structural and discursive factors contributing to our daily experiences of these phenomena.
Every year. 3 Credits

PH-178 Africana Philosophy
LASC Categories: TLC, USW, DAC
Explores the philosophy of the African diaspora in African, African American and Caribbean writings. The course addresses both historical and contemporary material across intersections of race, gender, and class using philosophy, history, and literature.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-240 Political Theory
LASC Categories: USW, TLC
Investigates concepts including political power, equality, revolution, liberties, slavery, socialism and patriarchal power, race and gender.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits
PH-241 Genocide and Human Rights
LASC Categories: USW, GP
This course treats the ethical, political, and other dimensions of systematic mass violence through case studies and general theoretical analyses.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PH-250 Global Feminisms
LASC Categories: TLC, GP
Investigates the theoretical underpinnings of women's movements for equal rights around the globe.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PS-255 Psychological Foundations of Diversity
Prerequisites: PS-101 with a C- or above.
Explores the gender, racial/ethnic, multiple-group membership, cultural, social class, religious, disability and sexual orientation facets of diversity.
Other or on demand and every year. 3 Credits

PS-260 Psychology of Human Sexuality
Prerequisites: PS-101 with a C- or above.
Sexuality as a foundation of personality. The wide range of human sexuality is explored; sexual development, roles, attitudes and behaviors.
Other or on demand and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PS-263 Psychology of Women
Prerequisites: PS-101 with a C- or above.
Women's psychological development throughout the lifespan will be examined, including female development, achievement, stereotyping, stress, violence and psychological disorders.
Other or on demand and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

SO-285 Race, Class and Gender
LASC Categories: HBS, DAC
An introduction to dominant-minority group relations through the investigation of the patterns and dynamics of differentiation, inequality and discrimination.
Fall and Spring. 3 Credits

SO-355 Gender and Sexuality
LASC Categories: HBS, ICW, DAC
This course introduces the sociologist study of gender and sexuality. This course examines how social institutions and cultural norms construct particular gender roles and sexual identities within society.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

SP-292 Spanish for Women's Health
LASC Categories: GP, ICW, DAC
Prerequisites: SP-211 or above, or 3 years of language instruction.
In this course, students will develop communication skills in Spanish using information and vocabulary related to women's health. The content of this course focuses on language used in health professions as well as cultural situations. By familiarizing students with conversational Spanish and medical Spanish, this course will enable students to apply their learning to real-world situations, to assist in communications, and ultimately to break down the barrier between professionals and Spanish-speakers. Finally, the course’s focus on cultural competency interrogates intersections between women’s health and topics including but not limited to politics, economics, gender, sexuality, race and age.
Spring only and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

SP-349 Spanish-American Literature
Prerequisites: SP-321
Representative works from South and Central American authors from the colonial period to the present.
Fall only and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

UR-103 Introduction to Women's Studies
LASC Categories: DAC, ICW, HBS
This course uses a variety of academic disciplines to study the situation of women around the world.
Every year. 3 Credits

UR-216 Woman and Aging in the Urban Environment
LASC Categories: HBS, WAC
Prerequisites: EN-102
Investigation of the Aging process for women in urban society, focusing on their great longevity, lower income status, and major care giving role.
Fall and Spring and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

UR-290 Gender and the City
LASC Categories: WAC, GP, HBS
Prerequisites: EN-102
Exploration of the ways in which gender, both male and female, structures responses of individuals to urban life and spaces.
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits