

# Gender & Women's Studies

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## College of Arts & Sciences

The Department of Gender and Women's Studies offers Ph.D., M.A. and Graduate Certificate degree programs. Students are accepted only into the Ph.D. and Graduate Certificate programs. All degree programs share a core curriculum of courses. Information about the specific requirements for each degree is available on the Department of Gender and Women's Studies website <http://gws.as.uky.edu/>.

Applicants for the Ph.D. degree program may be accepted from any undergraduate degree field. Applicants will be accepted into the program with or without an M.A. or equivalent advanced degree. For students without an M.A., the degree will be earned as part of their Ph.D. program.

The Ph.D. program includes required coursework and specialized coursework. The purposes of the required coursework are (1) to familiarize students with fundamental concepts, theories and frameworks for scholarly feminist inquiry, and (2) to familiarize students with different approaches to inquiry and research in gender and women's studies.

The Ph.D. program allows students to establish mentoring relationships with the faculty and their advisory committee members. The advisory committee will assist students in designing a specific program of study to prepare the student for their qualifying exams and to write their dissertation within an area of study.

The Graduate Certificate program is a 12 hour curriculum that students take as a complement to a graduate disciplinary degree program or as a stand-alone curriculum. The aim of the Graduate Certificate curriculum is to provide a coherent, graduate-level interdisciplinary grounding in Gender and Women's Studies scholarship and to create an intellectual community among faculty and graduate students who share a scholarly interest in Gender and Women's Studies.

The M.A. program is connected to the Ph.D. program and does not admit students for M.A. study only.

### Course Descriptions

#### GWS 506 HISTORY OF SEXUALITY IN THE U.S. (3)

An overview of the history of beliefs about sexuality, sexual cultures and norms, and sexuality's relationship to power in American society from the colonial period to the present.

#### GWS 595 ISSUES IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (Subtitle required). (3)

Discussion, readings, and papers focusing on relevant topics in Women's Studies directed by a faculty member with expertise in the topic under study. Courses will be interdisciplinary, although they will also include materials from particular relevant disciplines. May be repeated under different subtitles to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: GWS 200 or GWS 201 or permission of instructor.

#### GWS 599 SENIOR SEMINAR (Subtitle required). (3)

This course provides a space for students to synthesize what they have learned about the methods and theories of GWS in a few different ways. Students will reflect on the ways in which one puts together an argument and writes as an interdisciplinary scholar on gender or women. Students will do this by writing a senior thesis and editing the theses of other students, and reading and discussing some materials which deal with research and writing in GWS. This course is a Graduation Composition and Communication

Requirement (GCCR) course in certain programs, and hence is not likely to be eligible for automatic transfer credit to UK. Prereq: GWS 400 or permission of instructor.

**GWS 600 TOPICS IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (Subtitle required). (3)**

Selected topics of theoretical or substantive interest in women's studies with special attention to topics of contemporary relevance. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits under a different subtitle. Prereq: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

**GWS 610 WOMEN AND "MADNESS". (3)**

This course explores the social construction of mental illness as it pertains to gender. We will consult narratives from different disciplines: Literature, Psychology, Cultural Studies, Anthropology, History and Feminist Theory. Our focus will concern the ways in which all women are constructed as "sick" as well as the perspectives of women who feel a sense of psychic dislocation and disability in their lives. Readings by women of color and lesbians will suggest the particular ways culture defines such women as "abnormal."

**GWS 616 COLONIALISM/POST-COLONIALISM AND GENDER. (3)**

This course is designed to expose students to a range of theories and debates centering on or pertinent to women, gender, and sexuality in the field of postcolonial studies. Here, the field is understood in its widest and most interdisciplinary sense, inclusive of studies of Empire, the independent so-called "Third World", and diasporas. Topics for study will include classical texts in the field, current postcolonial readings on gender and sexuality in empire, representation, trans/nationalism, and diasporas. Course credit may be used to help satisfy the international component of the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate requirements.

**GWS 620 COMPARATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY. (3)**

This course is designed to give students an understanding of an array of diversely situated theories and debates about gender and sexuality mainly outside of mainstream U.S. culture. Countries/communities of focus will vary.

**GWS 630 SEMINAR IN FEMINIST RESEARCH METHODS. (3)**

This course presents a variety of research methods used by Gender and Women's Studies scholars. The course examines how research has been conducted in a range of fields within Gender and Women's Studies, presents basic skills, commonly used methods, ethical issues, and social applications.

**GWS 640 HISTORY OF FEMINIST THOUGHT AND ACTION (Subtitle required). (3)**

Course provides a historically organized, thematically focused examination of pioneering works of feminist argument and analysis, creative writing, art, memoir, and politics. Theme and time-period vary according to instructor, but time-span covers at least fifty years and content includes at least two national, ethnic, or geographical contexts. May be taken up to six credit hours under different subtitles.

**GWS 650 FEMINIST THEORY. (3)**

An interdisciplinary course addressing issues in contemporary feminist theory (such as intersections of race and gender, the body, ideology and representation, sexuality, etc.).

**GWS 675 ADVANCED FEMINIST THEORY. (3)**

An advanced topics course in feminist theory. Prereq: Permission of instructor.

**GWS 690 GRADUATE RESEARCH IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES. (3)**

The purpose of this course is to provide graduate students the opportunity to engage in independent faculty-directed research in Women's Studies. Prereq: Written agreement of a Women's Studies Affiliated

Faculty Member, who will direct the study.

**GWS 700 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (Subtitle required). (3)**

Intensive work in particular topics in Gender and Women's Studies. May be repeated four times with different subtitles. Prereq: Graduate standing in GWS, or consent of instructor.

**GWS 710 LATIN AMERICAN AND U.S. LATINA WOMEN'S LIVES. (3)**

This course employs an interdisciplinary perspective to critically examine the various identities and spaces created by, and imposed on, women in Latin America and Latinas in the U.S. We explore connections and divergences within and between these two groups of women, but begin by examining how the legacies of conquest in Latin America and the U.S. have shaped women's experiences in the past. This background will also help us understand how women's experiences have differed given the specific contexts in which their lives unravel.

**GWS 748 MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH. (0)**

Half-time to full-time work on thesis. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: All course work toward the degree must be completed.

**GWS 767 DISSERTATION RESIDENCY CREDIT. (2)**

Residency credit for dissertation research after the qualifying examination. Students may register for this course in the semester of the qualifying examination. A minimum of two semesters are required as well as continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring) until the dissertation is completed and defended. Prereq: Successful completion of the qualifying examination.

**GWS 775 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACROSS CULTURES. (3)**

This course focuses on domestic violence cross-culturally and from an interdisciplinary perspective. We discuss theories of domestic violence and how research and popular representations influence ideas regarding this phenomenon. We draw on specific experiences of intimate partner violence in different parts of Latin America, North America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Topics include the impact of migration on women's experiences of violence, state responses and law enforcement, women's use of violence, the role of in-laws in women's experiences of violence, and women's resistance.