

# – Women’s and Gender Studies

INTERDISCIPLINARY

## Faculty

Bianca F.-C. Calabresi  
*Assistant Professor of English*

Miriam Dean-Otting  
*Professor of Religious Studies*

Kathryn L. Edwards  
*Professor of Biology*

Laurie A. Finke  
*Director, Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies*

Marla Kohlman  
*Assistant Professor of Sociology*

Michael P. Levine  
*Professor of Psychology*

Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky  
*Associate Professor of English*

Ellen S. Mankoff  
*Visiting Instructor of English*

Theodore O. Mason  
*John B. McCoy-Bank One Distinguished Teaching Professor of English (on leave, second semester)*

Clara Román-Odio  
*Associate Professor of Spanish*

Brook J. Sadler  
*Assistant Professor of Philosophy*

Linda M. Smolak  
*Professor of Psychology*

Kristen Van Ausdall  
*Assistant Professor of Art History*

The Women’s and Gender Studies Concentration offers students an opportunity to engage in two important and interrelated areas of study. Students in the concentration will examine those aspects of experience that have traditionally been underrepresented (if not invisible) in academic studies—for example, the lives and works of women, the experiences of gays and

lesbians. Students will also examine gender as a cultural phenomenon: as a system of ideas defining “masculinity” and “femininity,” delineating differences between “the sexes,” as well as “normal” expressions of sexuality. In the process, students will encounter some fundamental methodologies of women’s and gender studies, and work toward an increasingly rich understanding of gender as a social construction, one that intersects with class, race, age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, and sexual identity. In addition, students will explore the methods and concepts of women’s and gender studies in a variety of academic disciplines, integrating, for instance, sociology, psychology, literature, the biological sciences, and art history.

From the debates between Wollstonecraft and Rousseau to the homosocial worlds of Walker’s *The Color Purple* and Melville’s *Moby Dick*, from Barbara McClintock’s work in genetics to the gendered symbolism of Mozart’s *Magic Flute*, students will come to understand how questions of gender are deeply embedded in the liberal-arts tradition.

The Women’s and Gender Studies Concentration encourages and enables students to take responsibility for their own learning. Toward this end, courses in the concentration will

invite students to participate in a range of collaborative work. This culminates in the senior seminar, where students determine the content and intellectual direction of the course as a whole. Ultimately, students are encouraged to acquire a sophisticated insight into the consequences of the social construction of gender for both women and men, an insight that empowers them to engage and question the pervasive role of gender in their own lives and communities.

## First-Year and New Students

**Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies**  
WMNS 111

Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies (WMNS 111) is a wide-ranging interdisciplinary course designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender. Through a focus on a series of cultural artifacts, ranging from poems and films to legal cases and psychiatric disorders, students will examine the historical development of gendered public and private spheres, the relation of biological sex to sociological gender, and the difference between sex roles and sexual stereotypes. They will attempt to understand how racism, heterosexism, and homophobia intersect with the cultural constructions of masculinity and femininity, and consider ways to promote more egalitarian gender relations. Look for the ♦ symbol, which designates the courses appropriate for first-year students or upperclass students new to the Women’s and Gender Studies curriculum.

## Curriculum and Requirements

Three units are required for the program. Of these, 1 unit will consist of either Feminist Theory, WMNS 330, or Feminist Methodologies, WMNS 331—these are offered in alternating years—and a capstone senior seminar. The remaining 2 units will consist of four courses drawn from the Women's and Gender Studies program or departmental courses approved by the program's Advisory Board. (See the end of this section for the list of approved courses.) No more than 1 unit in a single department may count toward the requirements for the program, and at least two divisions of the College must be represented among the 2 elective units. The women's and gender studies Senior Seminar (WMNS 481) examines a topic central to feminist thought. It includes current feminist texts and incorporates multidisciplinary analyses of race, class, and sexuality, in addition to gender. The course culminates in a public presentation by seminar members.

## First-Semester Courses

### Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

- ◆ WMNS 111 (1/2 unit)  
*Finke*

This course is designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender, including such important contemporary issues as sex discrimination and harassment, women's health, and developmental issues. In addition, the course will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in modern scholarship are arising. Emphasis will be placed on women's significant contributions to knowledge and culture. The course is organized around a series of cultural

artifacts which students will examine for what they say about a particular culture's organization of gender.

Artifacts may include contemporary legal cases, such as *Sears v. EEOC*, or cases involving gay parents' custody of minor children, films like *Daughters of the Dust*, historical documents, or diagnostic tools like the DSM-IV. The emphasis will be on developing students' critical thinking and research skills. Enrollment limited.

### Feminist Theory

- WMNS 330 (1/2 unit)  
*Finke*

In this course, we will read both historical and contemporary feminist theory with the goal of understanding the multiplicity of feminist approaches to women's experiences, the representation of women, and women's relative positions in societies. Theoretical positions that will be represented include liberal feminism, cultural feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, socialist feminism, and poststructuralist feminism. In addition, we will explore the relationship of these theories to issues of race, class, sexual preference, and ethnicity through an examination of the theoretical writings of women of color and non-Western women.

Prerequisite: WMNS 111, any approved departmental course, or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

### Individual Study

- WMNS 493 (1/2 unit)  
*Staff*

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

## Second-Semester Courses

### Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

- ◆ WMNS 111 (1/2 unit)  
*Finke*

See first-semester course description.

### Lesbian and Gay Cultures

- ◆ WMNS 121 (1/2 unit)  
*Finke*

This course will examine topics in the lesbian and gay cultures from theoretical, historical, literary,

artistic, multicultural, and political perspectives. The class will focus primarily on American lesbian and gay history and culture, drawing upon legal, psychological, biological, cultural, ethical, and philosophical frameworks to explore the contemporary experience of gays and lesbians. No prerequisite. Enrollment limited.

### Senior Seminar

- WMNS 481 (1/2 unit)  
*Finke*

The seminar will be organized around a theme to be determined by students registered for the course in consultation with the instructor during the semester prior to the beginning of the course. Previous topics include "Multicultural Feminism," "The Streets," "Transgressing Gender," and "The Girl." Prerequisite: WMNS 330 or 331 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

### Individual Study

- WMNS 494 (1/2 unit)  
*Staff*

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

## The following courses have been approved for the Women's and Gender Studies Concentration and will be offered in 2002-2003:

### First Semester

- BIOL 104 Women's Health
- ENGL 288.00 Introduction to African-American Literature
- ENGL 319 Mean Streets, American Dreams: Hard-boiled Crime Fiction and Film Noir
- ENGL 320.01 Shakespeare: Queer Shakespeare
- ENGL 320.02 Shakespeare: Strange Fish and Bearded Women
- ENGL 488 Richard Wright and Toni Morrison
- SOCY 231 Issues of Gender and Power
- SOCY 463 Intersection Theory

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## **Second Semester**

- ARHS 375 Topics in Renaissance  
and Baroque Art: Women in  
Italian Art and Society in the  
Sixteenth and Seventeenth  
Centuries
- ENGL 254 Nineteenth-Century  
British Literature: Literary  
Women
- ENGL 433 Women in Renaissance  
Literature: Masculine/Feminine:  
Bodies/Voices
- PHIL 355 Philosophy and Feminism
- PSYC 346 Psychology of Women
- PSYC 443 Psychology of Eating  
Disorders
- RELN 103 First-Year Seminar:  
Introduction to the Study of  
Religion: Women and Religion
- SOCY 225 Marriage and the Family
- SPAN 371 Art, Identity, and Power  
in Women's Works from Latin  
America

## **The following courses will be offered in 2003-04:**

- WMNS 331 Feminist Methodologies
- WMNS 333 Language, Gender, and  
Power