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 (30), or Feminist Methodologies, WMNS 331 (31)—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.

Second-Semester Courses

Feminist Methodologies

- WMNS 331 (1/2 unit) Finke

This course is designed not necessarily to teach students what feminist methodologies are (as if this were an already settled issue) but rather for us to explore together the question of feminist methodology. Are there any specifically feminist methodologies, and if so what are they? This exploration will be practical (exploring research methods) as well as open-ended and exploratory (exploring methodological issues). The following three questions will structure the class: 1) Does feminist research begin with different questions from traditional disciplinary research? 2) Does feminist research draw upon significantly different kinds of evidence from traditional disciplinary research? 3) How is that evidence gathered? What is the context within which feminist research is done? How does that context differ from discipline-based research?

Individual Study

- WMNS 493 (1/2 unit) Staff

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies

- WMNS 111 (1/2 unit) Finke

See first-semester course description.

Gender, Language, and Power

- WMNS 333 (1/2 unit) Calabrese

Is the use of “he” and “man” to stand for the generic human being simply a convenient means of avoiding awkward locutions or does it deny humanity to women? Do women use language to establish relationships, while men use it to establish hierarchies? Is there such a thing as a “woman’s language”? Can we eradicate sexism from our language or is it a structural element of language in a patriarchy? These are just a few of the questions this course will explore. Readings and lectures will acquaint students with some basic linguistic theory, offering feminist critiques of linguistic theorists like Ferdinand de Saussure, Noam Chomsky, and M. M. Bakhtin. Drawing upon feminist analyses of the relationships between gender and language, we will explore both the ways in which gender affects how we use language and the ways in which language participates in the unequal construction of gender difference. Cross-cultural comparisons with languages other than English will ensure that we do not overgeneralize gender difference at the expense of other cultural differences.

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 (30) or 331 (31) 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
ENGL 280 American Modernist Literature
ENGL 388 Post-1945 African-American Literature
PSYC 447 Gender and Race Issues in Sports
SOCY 464 Women in Sociology

Second Semester
ANTH 351 Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
CLAS 240 Women and Men in Antiquity
ENGL 320.01 Queer Shakespeare
ENGL 234 City, Court, and Country House
ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature
PSYC 346 Psychology of Women
PSYC 425 Research Methods for Studying Gender
PSYC 446 Sexual Violence Seminar
SOCY 241 Sociology of Gender
SPAN 371 Art, Identity, and Power in Women’s Works from Latin America

The following courses will be offered in 2002-03:

WMNS 121 Lesbian and Gay Culture
WMNS 330 Feminist Theory