

Women's and Gender Studies

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Faculty

Eliza J. Ablovatski
Instructor of History

Bianca F.-C. Calabresi
Assistant Professor of English

James P. Carson
Associate Professor of English

Ruth Dunnell
Storer Associate Professor of Asian History

Kathryn L. Edwards
Professor of Biology

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

Paul Gebhardt
Visiting Assistant Professor of German

Marla H. Kohlman
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Kathy Krynski
Associate Professor of Economics

Ellen Mankoff
Instructor of English

Theodore O. Mason
Associate Professor of English

Judy R. Smith
Professor of English

Linda M. Smolak
Professor of Psychology

Mary Suydam
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Jan Thomas
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Patricia A. Urban
Professor of Anthropology

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 curriculum of the Women's and Gender Studies Concentration.

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 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.

Second-Semester Courses

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

◆ WMNS 111 (1/2 unit)
Smolak

See first-semester course description.

Special Topics in Women's and Gender Studies: Film

WMNS 336 (1/2 unit)
Finke

This course examines both images of gender in film (from the silent era to the present) and women's participation in the production of film. Readings and discussions will focus on film's subversion and endorsement of traditional images of women and men in society. Exploration of films will include narrative structure, mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, and film genres as they have been used and advanced in the history of cinema. This course requires attendance at weekly film showings in addition to regular class meetings.

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.

Approved Courses

The following courses have been approved for the Women's and Gender Studies Concentration and will be offered in 2003-04:

First Semester

ANTH 346 Women in Latin-American Culture
ENGL 254 Nineteenth-Century British Literature: Literary Women
ENGL 270 American Fiction
ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature
ENGL 369 Canadian Literature and Culture

ENGL 382 The Jazz Age
ENGL 388 Twentieth-Century
African-American Women's
Fiction
ENGL 420 Shakespeare: Queer
Shakespeare
HIST 232 Modern European
Women's History
HIST 452 Women and Gender in
Chinese History
SOCY 232 Sexual Harassment:
Normative Expectations and Legal
Questions
SOCY 421 Gender Stratification

Second Semester

AAAS 388 Black British Cultural
Studies
BIOL 104 Women's Health
ECON 378 Economics of Women
and Work
ENGL 240 Early Eighteenth-Century
Literature
ENGL 271 American Victorian
Literature
ENGL 333 Women in Renaissance
Literature: Masculine/Feminine:
Bodies/Voices
ENGL 339 Restoration Drama
ENGL 372 The Gilded Age
ENGL 433 Jane Austen
GERM 323 German Women Writers
PSYC 346 Psychology of Women
RELN 328 Women in Christianity
SOCY 464 Women in Sociology

Courses offered in other years

The following courses will be offered in 2004-05:

WMNS 330 Feminist Theory
WMNS 333 Language, Gender, and
Power

The following course will be offered in 2005-06

WMNS 121 Lesbian and Gay
Cultures