

Faculty

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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 multi-disciplinary 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 the student develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender, including such extremely important contemporary issues as sex discrimination and harassment, women's health, and developmental issues. In addition, the course will introduce students to the interdisciplinary fields of Women's and Gender Studies, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in recent scholarship are arising. Emphasis will be placed on women's significant contributions to knowledge and culture, but we will also survey other areas of gender studies, including men's studies, family

studies, and the study of sexuality. Central to the course will be an examination of personal narratives—memoirs, autobiographies, oral histories, ethnographies, photographs—and their relation to larger social issues. 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

Gender and Film

- ◆ WMNS 221 (1/2 unit)
Finke

This course explores the representation and construction of gender in and through film. Adopting both an historical and theoretical approach, we will focus on how masculinity and femininity, in their various forms and combinations, are signified, how the gender of both the character and the spectator is implicated in the cinematic gaze, and how gender characterizations inform and reflect

the larger culture/society surrounding the film. A wide variety of cinematic traditions will be discussed, and although Hollywood films will form the base of the course, other national and regional cinemas will be explored, through both the screening of full-length films and numerous excerpts of others. This course requires attendance at weekly film showings in addition to regular class meetings. 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 "Gender and Politics," "Motherhood," "Race and Gender," "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 2004-05:

First Semester

- AAAS 490 Senior Seminar
- ENGL 240 Early Eighteenth-Century Literature
- ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature
- ENGL 369 Canadian Literature and Culture
- ENGL 378 Race in the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination
- ENGL 382 The Jazz Age
- GERM 391 German Drama: Heroines
- HIST 232 Modern European Women's History

RLST 103 First-Year Seminar:
Introduction to the Study of
Religion: Women and Religion
SOCY 231 Issues of Gender and
Power

Second Semester

ANTH 292 Zora Neal Hurston,
Anthropologist
ARHS 375 Women in Italian Art
and Society in the Sixteenth and
Seventeenth Centuries
BIOL 104 Women's Health
ENGL 270 American Fiction
ENGL 280 American Modernist
Literature
ENGL 388 African American
Literature, 1945-1980: From
Ellison to Black Feminism
ENGL 469 Margaret Atwood and
Michael Ondaatje
PSCI 380 Women and Politics
PSYC 346 Psychology of Women
SOCY 492 Women, Health, and
Medicine

Courses offered in other years

The following courses will be offered
in 2005-06:
WMNS 330 Feminist Methodology
WMNS 121 Lesbian and Gay
Cultures