BA in Interdisciplinary with Emphasis in Women’s and Gender Studies

Degree Program Description

Women’s and Gender Studies is the interdisciplinary, feminist study of the social, cultural, and historical processes that effect gender human identity. The BA in Interdisciplinary with an emphasis in Women’s and Gender Studies combines a broad range of approaches and methods with innovative classroom experiences and teaching. Students learn to integrate women's, gender, and/or queer studies with analyses of race, ethnicity, religion, spirituality, nationality, and class, and to think critically and synthetically about the multiple axes of power through which sexual and gendered identities are constructed. Courses encourage students to analyze the world in which they live, in order that they might act to transform it. An emphasis in Women's and Gender Studies prepares students for many different employment opportunities. Some fields include arts, business, education, healthcare, media, politics, law, social work and social services.

Major Program Requirements

Department in the College of Arts and Science
Linda Reeder, Chair
Srirupa Prasad, Director of Undergraduate Studies
325 Strickland Hall
(573) 882-2703

Students may earn a Bachelor of Arts in the College of Arts and Science with an Interdisciplinary Studies major and an emphasis in Women’s and Gender Studies. A minor is also available as are departmental honors. Please consult the Women’s and Gender Studies department for more information.

Advising of students and assistance in designing student-tailored academic plans is available from the Women’s and Gender Studies department office.

The curriculum includes Women's and Gender Studies core courses as well as cross-listed courses from several departments throughout the University. These courses assume that knowledge cannot be separated from the study of women and gender, and that gender and sexuality are fundamental categories of analysis in all disciplines. The department stresses interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching that are broadly comparative and range across multiple cultures, national and transnational contexts, and historical periods. Its faculty employ a broad range of theoretical approaches and methods.

When students graduate with an emphasis in Women's and Gender Studies, they should be able to:

- Apply cross-cultural and global awareness to “big questions” about women and gender
- Have a comprehensive grasp of intersectionality and matrices of domination
- Think critically: i.e. consider an issue from multiple perspectives; locate, evaluate and interpret diverse sources, including statistics; engage in critical self-reflection
- Construct arguments with evidence obtained from research
- Work collaboratively
- Recognize sexist/racist writing and thinking
- Connect knowledge and experience, theory and activism, Women's and Gender Studies materials with other courses
- Communicate effectively in writing and speech
- Apply knowledge for social transformation, citizenship
- Use gender (and other identity categories) as a category/ies for analysis

An emphasis in Women's and Gender Studies prepares students for many different employment opportunities. Some fields include arts, business, education, healthcare, policy, media, politics, law, social work and social services. Because of the diversity of Women's and Gender Studies, the WGST emphasis can be combined with a number of other potential majors to create a dual degree. Many students choose to combine two areas of study, such as Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology, or Women's and Gender Studies and Journalism. This results in a student receiving one degree with two areas of specialization that reflect the student's unique academic interests and his/her individually-designed course of study.

Thirty hours are required in Women's and Gender Studies. In addition to degree requirements, college and university requirements (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements), including university general education requirements (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements), must be met.

Required Core Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGST 1120</td>
<td>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 2010</td>
<td>Gender and Identity: Understanding Intersectionality</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 2020</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 3450</td>
<td>Feminist Methodologies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 4990</td>
<td>Capstone: Senior Research Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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Additional courses

Students take an additional 15 hours selected from the lists of courses below. Students are encouraged to select the bulk of their elective coursework from the first list, Emphasis Core Courses, and must take a minimum of 9 hours from this list. Courses from the third list, Special Semester Topics Courses, may be either Emphasis Core Courses or Cross-listed Courses. Please seek advise from the department on which requirement these courses fulfill. 12 hours must be at 2000 level or above.

Emphasis Core Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 2040</td>
<td>Perspectives on Empowerment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 2050</td>
<td>Gender Perspectives: Issues in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 2080</td>
<td>Perspectives on Sexual and Gender Diversity</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 2250</td>
<td>Perspectives on Gender, Race, Class and Sexuality in the Americas</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 2260</td>
<td>Perspectives on Mass Media: Constructions of Gender, Race and Sexuality</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 2340</td>
<td>Perspectives on Gender and Popular Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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Special Semester Topics Courses

WGST 1004  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Social Science  1-3
WGST 1005  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Humanities  1-3
WGST 2003  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Behavioral  1-3
WGST 2005  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Humanities  1-3
WGST 3003  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Behavioral Sciences  1-3
WGST 3004  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Social Sciences  1-3
WGST 3005  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Humanities  1-3
WGST 4001  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-General  1-3
WGST 4003  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Behavioral Sciences  1-3
WGST 4005  Topics in Women's and Gender Studies-Humanities  1-3
WGST 4873  Women's and Gender Studies Abroad - Behavioral Science  3
WGST 4874  Women's and Gender Studies Abroad - Social Science  3
WGST 4875  Women's and Gender Studies Abroad - Humanities  3

Semester Plan

First Year

Fall  CR  Spring  CR
WGST 1120 (_diversity intensive designation)  3  WGST 2010 (diversity intensive designation)  3
ENGLISH 1000  3  Foreign Language  5
Social Science (MO State Law)  3  MATH 1100  3
Foreign Language  5  General Elective  3

Second Year

Fall  CR  Spring  CR
WGST Major Course  3  WGST 2020  3
Science with a Lab  5  Minor  3
Foreign Language  3  Humanities/Fine Arts (writing intensive)  3
Behavioral Science  3  Behavioral Science  3
Social Science  3  Science  3

Third Year

Fall  CR  Spring  CR
WGST 2010 (Diversity Intensive Designation)  3  WGST 2020  3
Science with a Lab  5  Minor  3
Foreign Language  3  Humanities/Fine Arts (Writing Intensive)  3
Behavioral Science  3  Behavioral Science  3
Social Science  3  Science  3
General Elective  3  General Elective  3

Fourth Year

Fall  CR  Spring  CR
WGST Major Course  3  WGST 4990  3
WGST Major Course  3  Minor  3
Minor  3  Humanities/Fine Arts  3
Humanities/Fine Arts  3  General Elective  3
General Elective  3  General Elective  3

Total Credits: 120