

Women's and Gender Studies

Interdisciplinary

The major and concentration in women's and gender studies offer students an opportunity to engage in two important and interrelated areas of study. Students will examine aspects of experiences that have traditionally been underrepresented in academic studies. For example, the lives and works of women and the experiences of gay, lesbian and trans individuals. Students will examine gender as a cultural phenomenon; as a system of ideas defining "masculinity" and "femininity" and 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 will 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. Students also 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. Students will come to understand how questions of gender are deeply embedded in the liberal arts tradition.

THE MAJOR AND CONCENTRATION

The major and concentration encourage and enable students to take responsibility for their own learning. Toward this end, courses will invite students to participate in a range of collaborative work. This culminates in the senior colloquium, 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. Students construct their major by choosing courses from the offerings of both the Women's and Gender Studies Program and more than 15 other departments and programs across the College.

FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

WGS 111, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, is a wide-ranging interdisciplinary course designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender. 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 will consider ways to promote more egalitarian gender relations. Students also are encouraged to explore more specialized areas of gender studies in courses specifically designed for students at

all levels, including first-year students. These include WGS 121, 221 and 232. Students completing WGS 111 can enroll in WGS 242 to explore gender studies in a more global context.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR - MINIMUM OF FIVE (5) UNITS IS REQUIRED FOR THE MAJOR

1. Introductory requirement

- Any 100 level WGS course

2. Mid-level requirements

- WGS 330 Feminist Theory
- WGS 331 Gender, Power and Knowledge: Research Practices

3. Diversity and globalization

- Must take two courses that focus on the social and cultural issues of U.S. and/or world peripheral communities. Consult the director for a list of courses that may be applied to this requirement.

4. Cluster

- Must have 2 (two) units of elective courses which must be drawn from at least two departments (including WGS). Students should consult the four year listing of all approved courses at <http://www.kenyon.edu/academics/departments-programs/womens-gender-studies/academic-program-requirements/four-year-course-listing-2/>. For approval of transfer credit and study abroad courses, students should consult the program director.

5. Senior Colloquium

- WGS 481 Senior Colloquium, during fall semester, 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 colloquium members.
- WGS 491, during the fall semester, a .25 unit class meeting once a week to design the colloquium.

6. Senior Exercise

REQUIREMENT FOR THE CONCENTRATION - THREE (3) UNITS IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

1. WGS 330 Feminist Theory OR WGS 331 Gender, Power and Knowledge: Research Practices
2. WGS 481 Senior Colloquium

3. WGS 491 (See description listed in #5 of major requirements)
4. Two (2) units of approved elective courses which must be spread over at least two divisions of the College. No more than one (1) unit in a single department may count toward this requirement.

SENIOR EXERCISE

As part of the fall planning process for the spring colloquium, majors will produce a paper that reflects on their experience of the major, articulates its coherence, connections, and disconnections, and evaluates the colloquium planning process, looking forward to the colloquium. This paper will require them to synthesize their learning in the major.

HONORS

The major who wishes to participate in the Honors Program must have an overall GPA of 3.33, and 3.5 in the WGS major. The candidate in honors will complete all requirements for the major as well as the Senior Exercise. He or she will take two semesters of independent study and will design and complete a research project. This project should integrate both feminist theory and methodologies, as well as the student's chosen disciplinary or interdisciplinary cluster. Each honors student will prepare an annotated bibliography on her or his chosen project during the fall term. After approval, the senior honors project will be undertaken in consultation with a project advisor.

We encourage students to think boldly and innovatively about the kinds of projects they undertake and about how those projects interact with and benefit their communities. Senior honors projects might include gender-focused sociological or historical studies undertaken locally; exhibitions, productions or installations of gender-exploratory art, music or theater; or political, social and/or environmental service-oriented or activist work. Students will be closely mentored throughout their projects and, in the spring, will be evaluated by an external evaluator and by faculty in the program and in relevant disciplines. The evaluators will assess the strength of the students' overall work, as well as the strength of their self-designed, project-appropriate public presentations of that work.

TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

WGS 221 paired with any other WGS course will satisfy the humanities diversification requirement.

Any two WGS courses, not including WGS 221, paired will satisfy social sciences diversification.

ADDITIONAL COURSES THAT MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS MAJOR/CONCENTRATION

Below are listed the departmental courses that count toward the WGS major and concentration between Fall 2013 and Spring 2016.

* indicates the courses that count toward the diversity and globalization requirement.

Fall 2013

- ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture*
- ECON 378 Economics of Women and Work
- ENGL 103 What's Love Got to Do with It
- ENGL 103 Queer Identities*
- ENGL 386 Toni Morrison*
- ENGL 391 ST:US Fiction in 19th Century
- ENGL 469 Atwood and Ondaatje
- HIST 373 Women of the Atlantic World*
- PSYC 321 Abnormal Psychology
- PSYC 342 Clinical Psychology

Spring 2014

- ENGL 103 What's Love Got to Do with It
- ENGL 284 Demons, Great Whites and Aliens: Representing American Fear*
- ENGL 291 ST:Love, Sex, and Desire in Medieval Romance
- ENGL 384 Imagining America in the Novel, 1900-1952
- PSYC 328 Latino Psychology*
- RLST 491 ST:Blood, Power, and Gender in Christianity
- SPAN 353 The Literature of National Experience: Argentina
- SPAN 371 Gender Identity and Power in Women's Literature

Fall 2014

- ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture*
- BIOL 103 Biology in Science Fiction
- BIOL 104 Biology of Female Sexuality
- CHNS 326 Women of the Inner Chambers*
- ENGL 214 Gender Benders*
- ENGL 286 Transgressive Friendships in American Literature*
- ENGL 375 From Cooper to Crane
- ENGL 391 ST:The Fourth Genre: Explorations in Literary Journalism
- HIST 341 African Women in Film and Fiction*
- JAPN 391 ST:Exploring Cultures in Japan through Gender and Sexuality
- GERM 366 Cinema & Sexuality in German Film after 1990
- SPAN 360 The Power of Words: Testimonial Literature In L.A.*
- SOCY 422 Topics in Social Stratification*

Spring 2015

- ANTH 291 ST: Gender Archaeology
- BIOL 102 HIV/AIDS in a Global Context*
- ENGL 104 Queer Tales, Queer Texts: Reading GLBT Literature*
- ENGL 210 Proper Ladies and Women Writers
- ENGL 381 Narratives of the Hemisphere*
- ENGL 384 Imagining America in the Novel, 1900-1952
- ENGL 388 Black Women Writers*
- ENGL 453 Jane Austen
- HIST 236 Modern Germany: Gender, Race, and Class*
- JAPN 391 ST:Women, Natives, and Others: Japanese Literature as World Literature
- PSYC 346 Psychology of Women
- SOCY 225 Notions of the Family

Fall 2015

- ANTH 391 ST:Engendering the Past
- BIOL 104 Biology of Female Sexuality
- ENGL 103 Queer Texts, Queer Texts*
- ENGL 211 Autobiographical Theory and Practice
- ENGL 266 Decolonization and Violence*
- ENGL 369 Canadian Literature
- ENGL 371 Whitman and Dickinson
- FILM 291 ST:Women in Asia in Film*
- HIST 232 Modern European Women's History
- PSYC 344 Human Sexual Behavior
- SOCY 241 Sociology of Gender
- SOCY 291 ST:Women, Crime, and the Law
- SPAN 380 Introduction to Chicano/a Cultural Studies*
- WGS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
- WGS 121 Human Sexualities*
- WGS 150 Gender and Popular Culture
- WGS 291 ST: Gender and Domesticity in the U.S.*

Spring 2016

- ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture*
- ARHS 375 Women in Renaissance and Baroque Art
- ENGL 104 What's Love Got to Do With It?
- ENGL 223 Writing Medieval Women
- ENGL 240 Early 18th Century Literature
- ENGL 391 ST:Reading South Asia*
- ENGL 491 ST:The Gothic
- HIST 232 Modern European Women's History

ENGL 284 American Fear
FREN 340 Identity in the Francophone Novel*
HIST 370 Women and Gender in the Middle East*
PHIL 291 ST: Feminist Philosophy
PSYC 346 Psychology of Women
SOCY 421 Topics in Social Stratification*
WGS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender St.
WGS 221 Gender and Film
WGS 331 Gender, Knowledge, and Power
WGS 481 Senior Colloquium

Courses

WGS 111 INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Credit: 0.5

This 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 recent scholarship are arising. It will provide students with critical frameworks for thinking about the social construction of gender at the personal and institutional levels. Emphasis will be placed on diverse women's significant contributions to knowledge and culture; to other areas of gender studies, including men's studies, family studies and the study of sexuality; and to the intersections of various forms of oppression both within and outside of the U.S. The course will include both scholarly as well as personal texts, visual as well as written text. Offered every semester.

WGS 121 HUMAN SEXUALITIES

Credit: 0.5

This course is designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking and writing about issues related to sexual orientation. The course will take a broad view, examining sexuality from legal, psychological, biological, cultural, ethical, philosophical and phenomenological frameworks. We will look at the emerging fields of the history of sexuality and queer theory, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in modern cultural studies are arising. No prerequisite. Offered every other year.

WGS 150 GENDER AND POPULAR CULTURE

Credit: 0.5 QR

In this class we will examine how popular culture (e.g., media) represents gender through making observations, reading background theory, examining content analysis research and conducting our own research. We will examine the extent to which popular culture depicts gender-stereotyped behavior, the content of the gender stereotypes, the possible reasons why stereotypes are portrayed and the likely effects of these stereotypes on the behavior of individuals and the structure of society. To the extent that it is possible, we will examine the intersection of stereotypes about gender with those associated with race/ethnicity, social class, age and sexuality. This course satisfies the quantitative reasoning requirement because students

will learn about descriptive statistics and put them to use by conducting their own content analysis (in a small group) and presenting and writing about the results of their research. In a service-learning component to the course students will develop a media literacy lesson for high school students based on what they learn about their topic. This course satisfies a requirement in the women's and gender studies major and concentration. This course is designed for first-year students. No prerequisite.

Instructor: Murnen

WGS 221 GENDER AND FILM

Credit: 0.5

This course explores the representation and construction of gender in and through film. Adopting both a 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. Note: This course requires attendance at weekly film showings in addition to regular class meetings. No prerequisite. Offered every other year.

WGS 232 TOPICS IN MASCULINITY

Credit: 0.5

Through focus on a specific topic, this course will explore how men's lives are shaped by and shape the gendered social order. Macro and micro perspectives will guide discussions focusing on how men behave in particular contexts and how they perceive themselves, other men, and women in diverse situations. Specific topics investigating the production of masculinities will take into account the interplay among the cultural, interpersonal and individual layers of social life while considering how men's efforts are enabled or constrained by key socially relevant characteristics (primarily age, race/ethnicity, class and sexual orientation) through investigations, for instance, of particular sites (e.g., playgrounds, work space, home, schools, athletic venues, prisons). No prerequisite.

WGS 242 TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISMS

Credit: 0.5

This course examines the impact of globalization on feminist discourses that describe the cross-cultural experiences of women. Transnational feminist theories and methodologies destabilize Western feminisms, challenging notions of subjectivity and place and their connections to experiences of race, class, and gender. The course builds on four key concepts: development, democratization, cultural change and colonialism. Because transnational feminisms are represented by the development of women's global movements, the course will consider examples of women's global networks and the ways in which they destabilized concepts such as citizenship and rights. We also will examine how transnational feminisms have influenced women's productions in the fields of literature and art. Key questions include: How does the

history of global feminisms affect local women's movements? What specific issues have galvanized women's movements across national and regional borders? How do feminism and critiques of colonialism and imperialism intersect? What role might feminist agendas play in addressing current global concerns? How do transnational feminisms build and sustain communities and connections to further their agendas? Prerequisite: Any WGS course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

WGS 330 FEMINIST THEORY

Credit: 0.5

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, cultural, psychoanalytic, socialist, 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: any WGS course, any approved departmental course or permission of instructor. Offered every year.

WGS 331 GENDER, POWER, AND KNOWLEDGE: RESEARCH PRACTICES

Credit: 0.5

This class will examine feminist critiques of dominant methodologies and theories of knowledge creation in the sciences, social sciences and humanities. It will focus on the following questions: How do we know something? Who gets to decide what counts as knowledge? Who is the knower? In answering these questions this class will explore how power is exercised in the production of knowledge, how the norms of objectivity and universalism perpetuate dominance and exclusion, why women and other minority groups are often seen as lacking epistemic authority and what it means to have knowledge produced from a feminist standpoint. Participants in the class will learn a variety of methods and use these methods in a group research project. In addition, we will discuss various ethical issues that feminist researchers often encounter and what responsibilities feminist researchers have to the broader political community. Prerequisite: any WGS course, any approved departmental course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

WGS 481 SENIOR COLLOQUIUM

Credit: 0.5

The senior colloquium is organized around a theme determined by senior majors and concentrators in consultation with the instructor during the semester prior to the beginning of the course. Previous topics include "Women and Madness," "The Politics of the Bathroom" and "Gender and Tourism." Prerequisite: WGS 330 or 331 or permission of instructor. Offered every spring.

WGS 493 INDIVIDUAL STUDY

Credit: 0.25-0.5

Individual study enables students to examine an area not typically covered by courses regularly offered in the program. Typically, such students are juniors or seniors who have sufficient research and writing skills to work very independently. The course can be arranged with a faculty member in any department but must conform to the usual requirements for credit in the program: gender is a central focus, and the course draws on feminist theory and/or feminist methodologies. The amount of work should be similar to that in any other 400-level course. To enroll, a student should first contact a faculty member and, in consultation with that professor, develop a proposal. The proposal, which must be approved by the program director, should provide: a brief description of the course/project (including any previous classes that qualify the student), a preliminary bibliography or reading list, an assessment component (what will be graded and when), and major topical areas to be covered during the semester. The student and faculty member should plan to meet approximately one hour per week or the equivalent, at the discretion of the instructor. Proposals should be planned well in advance, preferably the semester before the proposed project.

WGS 497 SENIOR HONORS

Credit: 0.5

The major who wishes to participate in the honors program must have an overall GPA of 3.33 and a GPA of 3.5 in the major. The candidate in honors will complete all requirements for the major, the Senior Exercise, and two semesters of independent study, and will design and complete a research project. This project should integrate feminist theory and methodologies as well as the student's chosen disciplinary or interdisciplinary cluster. Each honors student will prepare an annotated bibliography on her or his chosen project midway through the fall semester. After approval, the senior honors project will be undertaken in consultation with a project advisor. Students are encouraged to think boldly and innovatively about the kinds of projects they undertake and about how those projects interact with and benefit their communities. Senior honors projects might include gender-focused sociological or historical studies undertaken locally; exhibitions, productions or installations of gender-exploratory art, music or theater; or political, social and/or environmental service-oriented or activist work. Students will be closely mentored throughout their projects and, in the spring, will be evaluated by an external evaluator and by faculty in the program and in relevant disciplines. The evaluators will assess the strength of the students' overall work, as well as the strength of their self-designed, project-appropriate public presentations of that work.

WGS 498 SENIOR HONORS

Credit: 0.5

See the course description for WGS 497.

ADDITIONAL COURSES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CONCENTRATION:

ARHS 375: Topics in Renaissance and Baroque Art

BIOL 102: HIV/AIDS in Global Context

ENGL 227: Love, Sex and Desire in Medieval Romance

ENGL 254: Literary Women: 19th-century British Literature
HIST 208: U.S. Women's History
HIST 341: African Women in Film and Fiction
HIST 352: Family and State in East Asia
HIST 370: Women and Gender in the Modern Middle East
HIST 373: Women of the Atlantic World
MUSC 303: Music and Gender
PSCI 380: Gender and Politics
PSYC 346: Psychology of Women
PSYC 425: Research Methods to Study Gender
RLST 328: Women in Christianity
RLST 329: Christian Mysticism
SOCY 231: Issues of Gender and Power
SOCY 232: Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions
SOCY 421: Gender Stratification
SOCY 425: Gender and the Welfare State