

Requirements: 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.

First-Year and New 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](#). For approval of transfer credit and study abroad courses, students should consult the program director.

5. Senior Colloquium

- WGS 480, Senior Colloquium Planning, during the fall semester, a .25 unit class meeting once a week to design the colloquium.
- WGS 481 Senior Colloquium, during the spring 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.

6. Senior Capstone

- Majors will give a public presentation on a topic related to the senior colloquium for their senior capstone.

Requirements 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 480 Senior Colloquium Planning
3. WGS 481 Senior Colloquium
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.

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 Capstone. The candidate 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

The Program in Women's and Gender Studies typically accepts transfer credits from other colleges and universities for courses that meet Kenyon's requirements for transfer credit. We especially encourage students to take courses that are not regularly offered in our curriculum. We do not permit students to earn transfer credits through online evaluation or two-week special courses offered during winter breaks. All transfer credit must be pre-approved by the program director

WGS Courses and Diversification Requirements

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 the social sciences diversification requirement.

Additional Courses that Meet Requirements for this Major/Concentration

Complete listing of courses that count toward the WGS major or concentration can be found on the [WGS department page](#).

Courses in Women's and Gender Studies

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. 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. This counts toward the introductory requirement for the major. 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 human sexuality. The course will take a broad view, examining sexualities from legal, psychological, biological, cultural, ethical, philosophical and phenomenological frameworks. We will look at the 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. We will examine the way in which sexual practices (and/or the abstinence from such practices) shape and are in turn shaped by identity, as the meaning ascribed by others to individuals and groups actual or presumed involvement in sexual behaviors. This counts towards the introductory and the diversity and globalization requirement for the major. No prerequisite. Course offering is dependent on staffing.

WGS 150 Gender and Popular Culture

Credit: 0.5

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 is designed for first-year students. This counts toward the introductory requirement for the major. No prerequisite. Course offering is dependent on staffing.

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 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. This course is cross-listed in the Department of Film for diversification purposes. No prerequisite.

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. Course offering is dependent on staffing.

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? This counts toward the diversity and globalization requirement for the major. 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. This counts towards the concentration and the mid-level requirement for the major. Prerequisite: any WGS course, any approved departmental course or permission of instructor. Offered every other 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 community-based research project. This project will involve working with community partners in Knox County and may require student participation outside of the scheduled class time. In addition, we will discuss various ethical issues that feminist researchers often encounter and what responsibilities feminist researchers have to the broader political community. This course has a community-engaged learning component. Students may be required to travel off-campus for site visits. This counts towards the concentration and the mid-level requirement for the major. Prerequisite: any WGS course, any approved departmental course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

WGS 480 Senior Colloquium Planning

Credit: 0.25

This course will provide the opportunity for those students taking WGS 481 in the spring to plan the course. Students will select a topic, order books, plan the syllabus and design a project. In addition, they will read about course design and pedagogy so that they are prepared to take responsibility for collaboratively teaching the course in the spring. This course is offered only on a credit/no credit basis.

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 480 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. 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 of the individual study, 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. Individual Study courses may be used toward the major or concentration. 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. Because students must enroll for individual studies by the end of the seventh class day of each semester, they should begin discussion of the proposed individual study preferably the semester before, so that there is time to devise the proposal and seek departmental approval before the registrar's deadline.

*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 Capstone, 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:

AFDS 388: Black British Cultural Studies
AFDS 410: Between Womanist and Feminist Theories
ANTH 350: Human Sexuality and Culture
ARHS 375: Topics in Renaissance and Baroque Art
ARTS 203: Sculpture and Contemporary Ritual
DRAM 256: Contemporary Drama
ECON 378: Economics of Women and Work
ENGL 210: Proper Ladies and Women Writers
ENGL 214: Gender Benders
ENGL 223: Writing Medieval Women
ENGL 227: Love, Sex and Desire in Medieval Romance
ENGL 254: Literary Women: 19th-century British Literature
ENGL 266: Violence and the Body: Narrative Insurgency
ENGL 286: Transgressive Friendships in American Literature
ENGL 371: Whitman and Dickinson
ENGL 381: Another America: Narratives of the Hemisphere
ENGL 384: Imagining America in the Novel
ENGL 386: Toni Morrison
ENGL 388: Studies in 20th-century African American Literature
ENGL 453: Jane Austen
FREN 340: Identity in the Francophone Novel
GERM 361: Images of the German Family
HIST 208: U.S. Women's History
HIST 236: Modern Germany: Gender, Race, and Class
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
PSCI 315: Gender and Politics in the U.S.
PSYC 321: Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 328: Latino Psychology
PSYC 346: Psychology of Women
RLST 328: Women in Christianity
RLST 329: Christian Mysticism
SOCY 225: Notions of Family
SOCY 231: Issues of Gender and Power
SOCY 232: Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions
SOCY 241: Sociology of Gender
SOCY 250: Systems of Stratification
SOCY 255: Women, Crime and the Law
SOCY 421: Gender Stratification
SOCY 422: Topics in Social Stratification
SOCY 425: Gender and the Welfare State
SOCY 463: Intersectional Theory

SPAN 353: The Literature of National Experience in Argentina
SPAN 355: The Literature of National Experience in Mexico
SPAN 380: Cultural Productions of the Borderlands