

WOMEN'S STUDIES (WS)

Women's studies provides students with an understanding of the status of women in various cultures and historical eras, in the nexus of race, class, sexuality, religious and disability studies. Students learn the use of gender as a category of analysis and increase their knowledge of women's contributions to many fields. Women's studies courses offer students critical perspectives on such basic questions of the social order as assumptions about gender roles and gender identity.

As a relatively small program in the College of Liberal Arts, we provide students with a sense of community and opportunities to contribute directly to changing the campus climate. In a rigorous academic environment, women's studies offers students a springboard for activism. Our internship program enables students to gain first-hand work experience across many fields.

A major or minor in women's studies prepares students for careers where the changing roles of women are having a perceptible impact. Women's studies graduates go on to law school and graduate school in a variety of disciplines. Some have taken positions with social change or family service agencies, while others have found work in such fields as health care, journalism, education, human rights, social and environmental justice, and the arts.

<http://cola.unh.edu/womens-studies>

Programs

- Women's Studies Major (B.A.) (<http://catalog.unh.edu/archives/2017-2018/undergraduate/liberal-arts/programs-study/womens-studies/womens-studies-major-ba>)
- Social Justice Leadership Minor (<http://catalog.unh.edu/archives/2017-2018/undergraduate/liberal-arts/programs-study/womens-studies/social-justice-leadership-minor>)
- Women's Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unh.edu/archives/2017-2018/undergraduate/liberal-arts/programs-study/womens-studies/womens-studies-minor>)

Courses

Women's Studies (WS)

WS 401 - Introduction to Women's Studies

Credits: 4

Interdisciplinary survey of the major areas of women's studies: women's history, cross-cultural perspectives, women in literature, psychology of women, etc. Basic principles and concepts fundamental to more advanced women's studies research. Topics vary. Required for major and minor. Writing intensive.

Attributes: Social Science (Discovery); Social Science GP 7; Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

WS 401H - Honors/Introduction to Women's Studies

Credits: 4

Interdisciplinary survey of the major areas of women's studies: women's history, cross-cultural perspectives, women in literature, psychology of women, etc. Basic principles and concepts fundamental to more advanced women's studies research. Topics vary. Required for major and minor. Writing intensive.

Attributes: Social Science (Discovery); Social Science GP 7; Writing Intensive Course

WS 405 - Gender, Power and Privilege

Credits: 4

This course explores the diversity of women's lives through the dynamics of status, power, privilege, and inequality in contemporary United States. Students will examine women's diverse experiences by using the theoretical framework of the social construction of race, gender, economic class, and sexual orientation in historical context. We will examine categories of difference and the processes, philosophical developments, institutions, and conditions that lead to and rely on power and privilege in modern American society.

Attributes: Humanities(Disc); Literature, Phil, Ideas GP 8

WS 444 - Trans/Forming Gender

Credits: 4

Using a social construction approach, students explore the multiple ways in which gender is constructed within the lives of children, women, men, and transgender people. Specific attention focuses on the social institutions and systems that encourage both the construction and reproduction of gender identity and expression across the lifespan. Students actively participate in identifying historical and current day factors and institutions that shape gender. Students explore the roles of families, schools, educational settings, media, the workplace, recreation activities, the medical system, religion, laws, and the laws and the legal system in the construction of gender.

Attributes: Social Science (Discovery); Social Science GP 7; Inquiry (Discovery)

WS 444A - Race Matters

Credits: 4

Class examines race categories in the United States and how these historically changing categories shape our diverse realities across racial, ethnic, gendered, classed, and national identities. Students examine race as a category of difference and explore the multiple ways that individuals claim racial identities. Specific attention focuses on how diverse women have made history in their own lives and in the lives of others by resisting the interlocking systems of oppression.

Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc); Historical Perspectives GP 4; Inquiry (Discovery)

WS #444B - Score!: Gender and Diversity in Sports

Credits: 4

Utilizing guest lectures, films, readings, projects and discussion, this writing intensive course provides first-year students with the opportunity to investigate the social, historic, economic and political factors that shape sports opportunities for girls and women in the United States. Students examine the extent to which sports experiences are the same for all girls and women in their diversity, as well as comparable to males across their differences. Writing intensive.

Attributes: Social Science (Discovery); Social Science GP 7; Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

WS 444C - On the Roads to Equality**Credits:** 4

Looking beyond what is traditionally thought of as the women's rights movement in the United States, this course remaps women's history and activism to include a diversity of women's experiences. A multicultural examination of history focuses on women's leadership and participation in immigrant rights, labor, the Black Women's Club, economic justice, reproductive rights, self determination and feminist movements during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Writing intensive.

Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc); Historical Perspectives GP 4; Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

WS 444D - Cyborgs, Avatars, and Feminists: Gender in the Virtual World**Credits:** 4

Utilizing feminist theoretical and critical investigations of gender and techno culture, students explore women's popular and theoretical conceptions of cyberspace. Students explore numerous digital communication systems within cyberspace and examine how and why a diversity of women utilize these systems. This course provides students with the opportunity to investigate the impact that advancements in virtual technology have in the lives of women.

Attributes: Environment,TechSociety(Disc); Technology GP 3T; Inquiry (Discovery)

WS 505 - Survey in Women's Studies**Credits:** 4

In-depth study of topics not covered in regular course offerings. The course explores the breadth and depth of Women's Studies from a historical perspective. In order to understand Women's Studies currently, students look at the historical foundations that contribute social, political, and economic influences on the topics. Barring duplication of topic, may be repeated for credit.

Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc); Historical Perspectives GP 4; Inquiry (Discovery)

WS 510 - Framing Feminism: Gender Politics in Film**Credits:** 4

This course examines the history of feminist struggle in the U.S. by critically viewing and analyzing diverse films from the 1970s to the present. Students learn about the three waves of feminism and the various sociocultural, economic, sexual and political issues faced by women in the long and ongoing quest to achieve gender equality. Students explore methods of historical inquiry and film criticism to enable complex analyses of historical developments and contemporary arrangements of power. Attention is paid to how multiple identities and forms of oppression intersect in women's diverse lived experiences.

Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc); Historical Perspectives GP 4

WS 515 - Game Girl: The Social Construction of Gender Identities in Video Games**Credits:** 4

This course examines the representations of girls and women in digital gaming environments and patterns of digital game play. Students explore how gender intersects with the broader contexts of digital games and the game industry. Specific attention focuses on the Girl's Game Movement and the extent to which females are influenced by female characters in video games and how they are influencing the creation of new representations of females in video games.

Attributes: Social Science (Discovery); Social Science GP 7

WS 595 - Special Topics**Credits:** 1-4

In-depth study of topics not covered in regular course offerings. Prereq: permission; WS 401.

WS 595W - Special Topics**Credits:** 1-4

In-depth study of topics not covered in regular course offerings. Prereq: permission; WS 401. Writing intensive.

Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

WS 632 - Feminist Thought**Credits:** 4

Theories of women's oppression and emancipation explored from various historical, political, cultural, and social perspectives. A major goal of the course is to increase awareness of historical and contemporary feminist approaches to understanding women's experiences, representations, and relative positions in societies. The course also considers the interrelation of theory and practice and the impact of past feminist theories on feminist movements. Prereq: WS 401 or WS 405. Writing intensive.

Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

WS 795 - Independent Study**Credits:** 1-4

For advanced students who have the preparation to carry out an individual project of supervised research on a specific women's studies topic. Preparation should include WS 401 or equivalent, and/or other women's studies courses. Barring duplication of topic, may be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits. Prereq: permission of instructor and women's studies coordinator.

WS 796 - Advanced Topics**Credits:** 4

Advanced or specialized topics not normally covered in regular course offerings. May be repeated, but not in duplicate areas. Prereq: permission.

WS 796W - Advanced Topics**Credits:** 1-4

Advanced or specialized topics not normally covered in regular course offerings. May be repeated, but not in duplicate areas. Prereq: permission. Writing intensive.

WS 797 - Internship**Credits:** 4

Students gain practical experience in a woman-focused agency or organization. Plan of study and requirements are developed together with a faculty adviser and the student's workplace adviser. Bi-monthly seminar with all internship students and instructor. Prereq: permission. WS majors or minors. May be repeated up to a maximum of 8 credits.

WS 798 - Colloquium**Credits:** 4

Intensive study of specialized topic for advanced students. Topics vary with instructor. Barring duplication of topic, may be repeated for credit. Required for WS majors. Writing intensive.

Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

WS 799 - Honors Thesis**Credits:** 4-8

With a faculty sponsor, students enrolled in the honors-in-major program develop an independent, investigative project in women's studies. Written thesis. Prereq:permission, majors only.

Faculty

<http://cola.unh.edu/faculty/womens-studies>