WOMEN’S STUDIES MAJOR

Women’s Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry analyzing structures of power, especially as they are grounded in gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, ability, and other inequalities, and as they configure historical and contemporary struggles for social change. The department sees itself as a force for change in the world, change which leads toward intellectual freedom, social justice, and equality for all people. We do this by providing an outstanding education in women, gender, race, and sexuality studies through excellent teaching, engaged mentoring, path-breaking research and scholarship, and dedicated community service.

The Women’s Studies major offers students a coherent but flexible program of study examining scholarship and theory on the history, status, contributions, and experiences of women in diverse cultural communities; the lives, experiences, identities, and representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; the significance of gender as a social construct and as an analytical category; and an understanding of race as a structural and historical formation in the context of power.

The B.A. degree prepares students for work in a wide range of areas, including non-profit management, social justice advocacy, law, health-related fields, student affairs, and government and public policy. We seek to develop a new generation of scholars and leaders who, with us, will work to acknowledge, understand, and critically interrogate human differences.

To achieve these goals each student meets every semester with an academic advisor to plan a course of study tailored to individual interests and goals.

In addition to the B.A. in Women's Studies, the department also offers two certificate programs and two minors.

Courses offered by this department may be found under the following acronyms: WMST, LGBT.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to fully engage with the curriculum and the opportunities presented for learning and research. Having completed the Women's Studies degree program, students should have acquired the following knowledge, skills, and practices:

1. An ability to critically analyze issues related to women, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class
2. A demonstrated engagement with the practices of feminist, critical race, and LGBTQ social action
3. An ability to do independent research using appropriate methods
4. An ability to use effective forms of communication

Requirements

Students will earn a total of 39-42 credit hours, distributed as indicated below. Drawing from approximately fifty courses, many of which are cross-listed with other academic units, students will have the opportunity to design an emphasis within the major relevant to their special interests. A number of courses may count in more than one category. At least 30 credits must be at or above the 3xx level. No course with a grade less than "C-" may be used to satisfy the major. An overall GPA of 2.0 in the major is required for graduation. Students will design their programs in consultation with a Women’s Studies advisor.

Course | Title | Credits
---|---|---
WMST300 | Feminist Reconceptualizations of Knowledge | 3
WMST350 | Feminist Pedagogy | 6
or WMST380 | Feminist Analysis of the Workplace | 3
WMST400 | Theories of Feminism | 3
WMST488 | Senior Seminar | 3

Distributive Courses

Area 1: Arts and Literature:
Select one of the following: 3

ARTH466 | Feminist Perspectives on Women in Art | |
FREN241 | Women Writers of French Expression in Translation | |
FREN482 | Gender and Ethnicity in Modern French Literature | |
WMST250 | Introduction to Women’s Studies: Women, Art and Culture | |
WMST/ENGL255 | Reading Women Writing | |
WMST/CMLT275 | World Literature by Women | |
WMST/GERM281 | | |
WMST/ENGL348 | Literary Works by Women | |
WMST/ENGL408 | Literature by Women Before 1800 | |
WMST/ENGL444 | Feminist Critical Theory | |
WMST/ENGL448 | Literature by Women of Color | |
WMST/ENGL458 | Literature by Women After 1800 | |
WMST468 | Feminist Cultural Studies | |
WMST496 | African-American Women Filmmakers | |

Area II: Historical Perspectives:
Select one of the following: 3

AASP498 | Special Topics in Black Culture (AASP498W) | |
AMST418 | Cultural Themes in America (AMST418J) | |
WMST/HIST210 | Love, Labor, and Citizenship: Women in America to 1880 | |
WMST/HIST211 | Women in America Since 1880 | |
WMST/HIST212 | Women in Western Europe 1750-Present | |
WMST/CLAS320 | Women in Classical Antiquity | |
### Women's Studies Major

**Area I: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies:**

Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST453/</td>
<td>Women in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST454/</td>
<td>Women in Medieval Culture and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST455/</td>
<td>Women and Society in the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST456/</td>
<td>Redefining Gender in the U.S., 1880-1935</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Area III: Social and Natural Sciences:**

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AASP498</td>
<td>Special Topics in Black Culture (AASP498F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJS498</td>
<td>Selected Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM324</td>
<td>Communication and Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMSC430</td>
<td>Gender Issues in Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY498</td>
<td>Selected Topics in Sociology (SOCY498W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST200</td>
<td>Introduction to Women's Studies: Women and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST/SOCY325</td>
<td>The Sociology of Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST326/BSCI342</td>
<td>Biology of Reproduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST/PSYC336</td>
<td>Psychology of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST360</td>
<td>Caribbean Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST410</td>
<td>Women of the African Diaspora</td>
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<td>WMST420</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST425</td>
<td>Gender Roles and Social Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST/GVPT436</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST/JOUR452</td>
<td>Women in the Media</td>
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<td>WMST/HLTH471</td>
<td>Women's Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST493</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST494</td>
<td>Lesbian Communities and Differences</td>
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</table>

**Courses in Cultural Diversity**

Select six credits

**Student-Developed Emphasis**

Each student, with the help of the Academic advisor, will design an emphasis relevant to their special interests.

**Electives**

Students should select their electives from the full list of courses for the major.

| Total Credits | 42 |

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1. Fulfills Women's Studies Multi-Cultural Requirement
2. Courses in this category may overlap with other requirements.
3. Courses will ordinarily be drawn from the more than 50 courses approved for the major; in some instances, students may secure permission to include other courses.
4. The number of credit hours will vary depending on the individual student's program, but should bring the total number of semester credit hours to at least 39.

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### Four Year Plan

Click [here](https://www.arhu.umd.edu/academics/advising/academic-plans) for roadmaps for four-year plans in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Additional information on developing a four-year academic plan can be found on the following pages:

- 4yearplans.umd.edu
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising) section of this catalog