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
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WMST200 | Introduction to Women's Studies: Women and Society | 3
WMST300 | Feminist Reconceptualizations of Knowledge | 3
WMST350 | Feminist Pedagogy | 6
WMST380 | Feminist Analysis of the Workplace | 3
WMST400 | Theories of Feminism | 3
WMST488 | Senior Seminar | 3

Area I: Arts and Literature:

Select one of the following:

1. ARTH466 Feminist Perspectives on Women in Art
2. FREN241 Women Writers of French Expression in Translation
3. FREN482 Gender and Ethnicity in Modern French Literature
4. WMST250 Introduction to Women's Studies: Women, Art and Culture
5. WMST/ENGL255 Reading Women Writing
6. WMST/CMLT275 World Literature by Women
7. WMST/GERM281 Introduction to Women's Studies: Women, Art and Society
8. WMST/ENGL348 Literary Works by Women
9. WMST/ENGL408 Literature by Women Before 1800
10. WMST/ENGL444 Feminist Critical Theory
11. WMST/ENGL448 Literature by Women of Color
12. WMST/ENGL458 Literature by Women After 1800
13. WMST468 Feminist Cultural Studies
14. WMST496 African-American Women Filmmakers

Area II: Historical Perspectives:

Select one of the following:

1. AASP498 Special Topics in Black Culture (AASP498W)
2. AMST418 Cultural Themes in America (AMST418J)
3. WMST/HIST210 Love, Labor, and Citizenship: Women in America to 1880
4. WMST/HIST211 Women in America Since 1880
5. WMST/HIST212 Women in Western Europe 1750-Present
6. WMST/CLAS320 Women in Classical Antiquity

College Requirements (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/#collegerequirementstext)
## Women's Studies Major

| WMST453/  
HIST493 | Women in Africa ¹ |
| WMST454/  
HIST494 | Women in Medieval Culture and Society |
| WMST455/  
HIST495 | Women and Society in the Middle East ¹ |
| WMST456 | Redefining Gender in the U.S., 1880-1935 |
| WMST457/  
HIST433 | Women in Africa ¹ |

### Area III: Social and Natural Sciences:

Select one of the following:

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<td>AASP498</td>
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<td>CCJS498</td>
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<td>COMM324</td>
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<td>FMSC430</td>
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<td>SOCY498</td>
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<td>WMST200</td>
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<td>WMST/SOCY325</td>
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| WMST326/  
BSCI342 | Biology of Reproduction |
| WMST/PSYC336 | Psychology of Women |
| WMST360 | Caribbean Women ¹ |
| WMST410 | Women of the African Diaspora ¹ |
| WMST420 | Gender Roles and Social Institutions |
| WMST/GVPT436 | Women in the Media |
| WMST/JOUR452 | Women's Health |
| WMST/HLTH471 | Women's Health |
| WMST493 | Lesbian Communities and Differences ¹ |

### Courses in Cultural Diversity

Select six credits ²

6

### Student-Developed Emphasis

Each student, with the help of the Academic advisor, will design an emphasis relevant to their special interests. ³

9

### Electives

Students should select their electives from the full list of courses for the major ⁴

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