

WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES MAJOR

Department Chair: Neda Atanasoski, Ph.D.

Rooted in the academic and political histories of Women's Studies, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies B.A. centers the study of structural inequity, as grounded in intersecting hierarchies of gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, and ability. The WGSS major provides students with an opportunity to develop a scholarly and applied understanding of social justice, honing a radical vision for political, economic, and societal freedom. Students will take courses informed by intersectional scholarship and methodologies from the arts and humanities, social sciences, public health, psychology, government, and public policy, among others. Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies offers students a flexible program of study in which there is focused attention on building students' analysis and critique of the most pressing issues of the day, such as anti-black racism, reproductive justice, discriminatory practices against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, xenophobia and antisemitism, silencing of indigenous communities and structural exclusion by practices of ageism and ableism.

Our introductory courses, which offer the option of focusing on social sciences or artistic methods, equip students with the tools and vocabulary to both analyze and respond creatively to social problems. Upper-division courses, which are usually run as small-size seminars, focus on building students' research skills for pursuing topics of special interest. The final year of the B.A. degree specifically prepares students for jobs through guided internship courses that involve regular interaction with both a worksite supervisor and an assigned faculty member. Senior-level seminars focus on the development of skills and knowledge that can inform careers in a wide range of areas, including non-profit management, social justice advocacy, digital and media expression, law, health-related fields, student affairs, academia, and government and public policy. We seek to shape a new generation of scholars and leaders who, with us, will work to acknowledge, understand, and critically interrogate hierarchies of difference, while imagining more just futures.

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

Program Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to fully engage with the curriculum and the opportunities presented for learning and research. Having completed the 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 37 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 31 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, Gender, and Sexuality Studies advisor.

Course	Title	Credits
College Requirements (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/#collegerequirementstext)		
Introductory Courses		
Select one of the following courses:		3
LGBT200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
WGSS200	Introduction to WGSS: Gender, Power, and Society	
WGSS250	Introduction to WGSS: Art and Culture	
WGSS263	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	
WGSS290	Bodies in Contention	
Foundation Courses		
WGSS301	Introduction to Research in Gender, Race, and Queer Studies	3
WGSS302	Feminist, Critical Race, and Queer Theories	3
WGSS319	Workshops in Gender, Race, and Queer Studies	3
Thematic Concentrations		
Select at least four courses from the following thematic concentrations (see courses below). ¹		12
Area 1: Social Justice		
Area 2: Transnational Politics and Perspectives		
Area 3: Race, Ethnicity, and Class		
Area 4: Bodies, Genders, and Sexualities		
Area 5: Arts, Technologies, and Cultural Production		
Area 6: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Studies		
Capstone		
WGSS487	Advanced Research Seminar in Gender, Race, and Queer Studies	3
Select one of the following courses:		3
WGSS489	Individual Research in Gender, Race and Queer Studies	
LGBT488	Seminar in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
WGSS488	Senior Seminar	
WGSS486	Advanced Feminist, Critical Race, and Queer Theories	
Scholarship in Practice		
Select one of the following courses:		3
WGSS368	Undergraduate WGSS Internship	
WGSS358	Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship	
Professional Development		
WGSS497	Professional Development	1
Cognate		
Three upper level credits in a course outside LGBT/WGSS that provides supporting context for the thematic concentration. ^{2,3}		3
Total Credits		37

¹ Nine of the 12 Thematic Concentration credits must be upper level. Six of the 12 credits may overlap with courses fulfilling other major requirements. Regardless of the overlap of courses between the categories of the major, students must complete a minimum of 37 credits in the major.

² Students with a double major will be considered to have fulfilled their cognate requirement.

³ In fulfilling the above requirements, students must complete nine hours of upper-level credit in courses that provide the following perspectives (three hours each): historical, transnational, cultural production.

Social Justice

Course	Title	Credits
WGSS250	Introduction to WGSS: Art and Culture	
WGSS290	Bodies in Contention	
LGBT285	Homophobia in the U.S. Society in the New Millennium	
LGBT350	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and Communication	
HIST360	Women and the Civil Rights Movement	
LGBT448	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT448B: Queer Space and Media Cultures)	
JOUR/ WGSS452	Women in the Media	
HIST467	Women and Reform Movements in the Twentieth-Century United States	
WGSS468	Feminist Cultural Studies (WGSS468C: Feminist and Queer Theatre and Performance Art in Theory and Practice)	
LGBT488	Seminar in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT488D: Queer Theory and the Politics of Death)	
WGSS488	Senior Seminar	
WGSS498	Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS498N: Religion, Militarism and Gender)	
WGSS498	Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS498X: Doing Social Justice Research)	

Transnational Politics and Perspectives

Course	Title	Credits
HIST212	Women in Western Europe 1750-Present	
HIST215	Women in Western Europe to 1750	
ITAL241		
CMLT/ WGSS275	World Literature by Women	
GERM281		
LGBT291	International Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Studies	
WGSS290	Bodies in Contention	
JAPAN316	Women and Japanese Literature: Japanese Literature in Translation	
GERM360		

WGSS360	Caribbean Women	
WGSS410	Women of the African Diaspora	
HIST412	History of Women and Gender in Africa	
SPAN412	Women in the Middle Ages: Myths and Daily Life	
JAPAN416		
SPAN433	Women and Culture in Colonial Latin America	
LGBT448	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT448B: Queer Space and Media Cultures)	
SPAN459		
WGSS468	Feminist Cultural Studies (WGSS468B: Sonic Representations of Gender and Sexuality in the African Diaspora)	
SPAN471	United States Latina Fiction	
LGBT488	Seminar in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT488D: Queer Theory and the Politics of Death)	
WGSS488	Senior Seminar (WGSS488D: Feminist Questions Queer Research: The Caribbean Context)	
WGSS488	Senior Seminar (WGSS488T: Girlhood: A Transnational Historical Perspective)	
HIST492/ WGSS456	Women and Society in the Middle East	
HIST493		
LGBT/ WGSS494	Lesbian Communities and Differences	
HIST495	Women in Medieval Culture and Society	
WGSS498	Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS498N: Religion, Militarism and Gender)	

Race, Ethnicity, and Class

Course	Title	Credits
HIST/ WGSS211	Women in America Since 1880	
WGSS263	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	
WGSS265	Constructions of Manhood and Womanhood in the Black Community	
WGSS267	Introduction to Black Women's Cultural Studies	
WGSS290	Bodies in Contention	
WGSS314	Black Women in United States History	
HIST360	Women and the Civil Rights Movement	
WGSS360	Caribbean Women	
WGSS410	Women of the African Diaspora	
AAST/ WGSS420	Asian American Women: The Social Construction of Gender	
LGBT448	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT448B: Queer Space and Media Cultures)	
WGSS468	Feminist Cultural Studies (WGSS468B: Sonic Representations of Gender and Sexuality in the African Diaspora)	
AASP483		

LGBT488	Seminar in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT488D: Queer Space and Media Cultures)
WGSS488	Senior Seminar
AASP493	Feminist and Nationalist Thought in Black Communities
WGSS496	African-American Women Filmmakers
WGSS498	Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS498N: Religion, Militarism and Gender)

WGSS267	Introduction to Black Women's Cultural Studies
CMLT/ WGSS275	World Literature by Women
LGBT291	International Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Studies
LGBT327	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Film and Video
LGBT359	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Literatures and Media
GERM360	
ENGL408	Literature by Women Before 1800
FILM423	
ENGL/ WGSS444	Feminist Critical Theory
ENGL/ WGSS448	Literature by Women of Color
LGBT448	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT448B: Queer Space and Media Cultures)
ENGL458	Literature by Women After 1800
SPAN459	
ENGL/ LGBT465	
WGSS468	Feminist Cultural Studies (WGSS468B: Sonic Representations of Gender and Sexuality in the African Diaspora)
WGSS468	Feminist Cultural Studies (WGSS468C: Feminist and Queer Theatre and Performance Art in Theory and Practice)
SPAN471	United States Latina Fiction
WGSS488	Senior Seminar (WGSS488P: Gendering Postmodern Performance)
WGSS488	Senior Seminar (WGSS88T: Girlhood: A Transnational Historical Perspective)
WGSS496	African-American Women Filmmakers
WGSS498	Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS498N: Religion, Militarism and Gender)
WGSS498	Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS498O: Women and Film)
LGBT/ WGSS494	Lesbian Communities and Differences

Bodies, Gender and Sexualities

Course	Title	Credits
HIST213	History of Sexuality in America	
WGSS263	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	
WGSS265	Constructions of Manhood and Womanhood in the Black Community	
WGSS267	Introduction to Black Women's Cultural Studies	
WGSS290	Bodies in Contention	
BSCI342/ WGSS326	Biology of Reproduction	
PSYC/ WGSS336	Psychology of Women	
WGSS360	Caribbean Women	
WGSS410	Women of the African Diaspora	
LGBT448	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT448B: Queer Space and Media Cultures)	
HLTH/ WGSS471	Women's Health	
WGSS468	Feminist Cultural Studies (WGSS468B: Sonic Representations of Gender and Sexuality in the African Diaspora)	
LGBT488	Seminar in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT488D: Queer Theory and the Politics of Death)	
WGSS488	Senior Seminar	
JWST/ WGSS492/ LGBT448W	Sex, Gender, and Jewish Identity	
LGBT/ WGSS494	Lesbian Communities and Differences	
WGSS498	Advanced Special Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS498N: Religion, Militarism and Gender)	

Arts, Technologies, and Cultural Production

Course	Title	Credits
FREN241	Women Writers of French Expression in Translation	
WGSS250	Introduction to WGSS: Art and Culture	
ENGL250/ WGSS255	Reading Women Writing	
LGBT265	LGBTQ+ Literatures and Media	

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Studies

Course	Title	Credits
LGBT200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
LGBT265	LGBTQ+ Literatures and Media	
LGBT285	Homophobia in the U.S. Society in the New Millennium	
LGBT291	International Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Studies	
WGSS290	Bodies in Contention	
LGBT327	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Film and Video	

LGBT350	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and Communication
LGBT359	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Literatures and Media
WGSS410	Women of the African Diaspora
LGBT448	Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT448B: Queer Space and Media Cultures)
LGBT465	
WGSS468	Feminist Cultural Studies (WGSS468B: Sonic Representations of Gender and Sexuality in the African Diaspora)
WGSS488	Senior Seminar (WGSS488D: Feminist Questions Queer Research: The Caribbean as Context)
LGBT488	Seminar in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT488D: Queer Theory and the Politics of Death)
JWST/ WGSS492	Sex, Gender, and Jewish Identity
LGBT/ WGSS494	Lesbian Communities and Differences

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:

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