

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES (WGS)

Any experimental courses offered by WGS can be found at:

registrar.iastate.edu/faculty-staff/courses/explistsings/ (<http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/faculty-staff/courses/explistsings/>)

Courses primarily for undergraduates:

WGS 160: Gender Justice

(2-0) Cr. 1. F.S.

Half semester course. Examines the socialization process in the United States and how our perspectives are formed. An introduction to patriarchy, sexism, and ally development are explored. Skills to enhance communication and understanding among women and men will be developed. Offered on a satisfactory-fail basis only.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 201: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. Contemporary status of women in the U.S. and worldwide from social, economic, historical, political, philosophical and literary perspectives. Analysis of intersection of gender, race, class, and sexuality. Subject matter includes work, health, sexuality, and violence. Foundation for the other courses in the program.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 203: Introduction to Lesbian Studies

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Study of contemporary and historic lesbian cultures and communities from a US and international perspective. Addresses issues of race, class, gender and sexuality as they intersect with the formation of lesbian identities. Explores who identifies as lesbian and how that dis/enables political resistance and formation of community.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 205: Introduction to Queer Studies

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.

Prereq: ENGL 150

Interdisciplinary study of issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer identities in the U.S. Attention will be given to race and socioeconomic class.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 210: Gender and Sexuality in American Pop Culture

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Introduction to research and theory examining the ways gender and sexuality are conveyed through popular culture texts. Analysis of codes and their influence on the development of identities that shape how we view the world. Discussion of intersectional topics including race and class.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 301: International Perspectives on Women and Gender

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.

Prereq: WGS 201 or 3 credits in WGS at the 300 level or above

Study of women in a range of cultures, depending on faculty specialization. Special emphasis on women in development seen in postcolonial context.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 307: Women in Science and Engineering

(Cross-listed with BIOL). (3-0) Cr. 3. Alt. F., offered odd-numbered years.

Prereq: 200 level course in science, engineering or women's studies; ENGL 250

The interrelationships of women and science and engineering examined from historical, sociological, philosophical, and biological perspectives. Factors contributing to under-representation; feminist critiques of science; examination of successful strategies. Does not satisfy biology major advanced credit requirements.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 308: Write Like a Woman

(Cross-listed with ENGL). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

Prereq: ENGL 250

Writing and reading interpretive fiction written by women. Emphasis on stories that embody a female literary life, gender-specific ways of creating characters and conflicts, analytical reading and writing, workshop criticism and shared commentaries. Includes multi-modal projects.

WGS 320: Ecofeminism

(Cross-listed with ENV S). (3-0) Cr. 3. Alt. F., offered odd-numbered years.

Prereq: WGS 201 or 3 credits in WGS at the 300 level or above

Women's relationships with the earth, non-human nature, and other humans. The course explores the connections between society's treatment of women and nature; origins of ecofeminism and how it relates to the science of ecology, conventional and sustainable agriculture as well as how ecofeminism relates to other branches of feminist philosophy. Evaluation and critique of modern science, technology, political systems and SOLUTIONS will be included.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 321: Economics of Discrimination

(Cross-listed with ECON). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: ECON 101

Economic theories of discrimination. Analysis of the economic problems of women and minorities in such areas as earnings, occupations, and unemployment. Public policy concerning discrimination. Poverty measurement and antipoverty programs in the U.S.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 323: Gender and Communication

(Cross-listed with SP CM). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Examination of how understanding and enactment of gender identity is shaped by communication. Verbal and nonverbal communication across various contexts including personal relationships and the media. Explores discourse of social movements aiming to transform cultural definitions of gender.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 325: Portrayals of Gender and Sexualities in the Media

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: Sophomore classification

Survey of how the media and popular culture portray gender and sexualities and the impact on individuals and society. Images of women, men, transgender as well as heterosexual, non-heterosexual and others. Studies both historical and emerging images in the media in terms of stereotypes and positive images.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 327: Sex and Gender in Society

(Cross-listed with SOC). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.

Prereq: SOC 134

How the biological fact of sex is transformed into a system of gender stratification. The demographics and social positions of women and men in the family, education, media, politics, and the economy. Theories of the social-psychological and sociological bases for behavior and attitudes of women and men. The relationship between gender, class, and race.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 328: Sociology of Masculinities and Manhood

(Cross-listed with SOC). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: SOC 134 or WGS 201

Examination of socially constructed and idealized images of manhood, the nature of social hierarchies and relations constructed on the basis of imagery, ideologies, and norms of masculinity. Theories on gender (sociological, psychological, and biological). Particular attention given to theory and research on gender variations among men by race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability and age.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 333: Women and Leadership

(Cross-listed with LD ST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: Sophomore classification

Examination of historical and contemporary barriers to and opportunities for women's leadership in a variety of contexts, including professions and public service. Theories of women's leadership, gender differences in leadership styles, and perceptions and expectations about women's leadership. Multiple perspectives of women's leadership highlighted through lectures, readings, videos, guest speakers and group work.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 336: Women and Religion

(Cross-listed with RELIG). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

Prereq: RELIG 205, RELIG 210 or WGS 201 recommended

Examines the status of women in various religions, feminist critiques of religious structures and belief systems, and contemporary women's spirituality movements.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 338: Feminist Philosophy

(Cross-listed with PHIL). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

Prereq: 3 credits in philosophy or women's studies recommended

A critical, theoretical examination of the philosophical and intellectual commitments that underlie feminist projects. Questions of identity, knowledge, and ethics will be considered from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Topics will include sex and gender, self and other, nature and nurture, masculinity and femininity, equity and justice, patriarchy, oppression, and intersectionality.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 340: Women's Literature

(Cross-listed with ENGL). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: ENGL 250

Historical and thematic survey of literature by and about women. May include autobiographies, journals, letters, poetry, fiction, and drama.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 344: Human Reproduction

(Cross-listed with BIOL). (3-0) Cr. 3. Alt. S., offered even-numbered years.

Prereq: BIOL 212

Biology of human reproduction, including reproductive systems, hormones, and endocrinology of pregnancy, presented from a clinically-oriented perspective. Reviews health-related conditions such as infertility, sexually-transmitted diseases, and complicated pregnancy.

WGS 345: Women and Literature: Selected Topics

(Cross-listed with ENGL). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits.

Prereq: ENGL 250

Literature by women and/or dealing with the images of women, e.g., study of individual authors or related schools of authors; exploration of specific themes or genres in women's literature; analysis of recurrent images of women in literature.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 346: Psychology of Women

(Cross-listed with PSYCH). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: 2 courses in psychology including PSYCH 101

Survey of theory and research related to major biological, interpersonal, and cultural issues affecting girls' and women's psychological development and behavior.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 350: Women of Color in the U.S

(Cross-listed with AF AM). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: 3 credits in WGS or AF AM

Economic, social, political and cultural roles of Women of Color in the U.S. Includes literary, philosophical, and artistic expressions. Myths and realities explored.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 352: Gay and Lesbian Literature

(Cross-listed with ENGL). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: ENGL 250

Literary portrayals of gay and lesbian lives and relationships from many different genres. Attention to changing definitions and representations of sexual orientation and gender identity over time.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 370: Studies in English Translation

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Readings, discussions, and papers in English.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 370F: Studies in English Translation: French Topics on Women and Gender Studies

(Cross-listed with FRNCH). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable.

Topics vary according to faculty interest. Readings, discussions, and papers in English.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 370G: Studies in English Translation: German Topics on Women or Feminism

(Cross-listed with GER). (3-0) Cr. 3-4. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits.

Prereq: Sophomore classification. For fourth credit, 6 credits in German at the 300 level

Topics vary according to faculty interest. Author, genre or period study, women writers, cinema, or contemporary theory. Three credits: English, open to all students. Four credits: Required for German concentration credit, supplementary readings and compositions in German.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 370R: Studies in English Translation: Russian Topics on Women or Feminism

(Cross-listed with RUS). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable.

Topics vary according to faculty interest. Author, genre or period study, women writers, cinema, or contemporary theory. Readings, discussions, and papers in English.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 370S: Studies in English Translation: Hispanic Topics on Women or Feminism

(Cross-listed with SPAN). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits.

Topics vary according to faculty interest. Author, genre or period study, women writers, cinema, or contemporary theory. Readings, discussions, and papers in English. May not be counted as a prerequisite.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 374: Sex, Gender, and Culture in the Ancient Mediterranean World

(Cross-listed with CL ST, HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: Any one course in Cl St, W S, Latin, or Greek

Chronological and topical survey of the status of women and men, focusing on sex and gender issues in the Ancient Mediterranean world; study of constructs of the female and the feminine. Readings from ancient and modern sources. Emphasis on ancient Greece, Rome, and Egypt.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 380: History of Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine

(Cross-listed with HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: Sophomore classification

History of women's relationship to the fields of science, technology, and medicine, as students and professionals, consumers, subjects and patients, family members, workers and citizens. Concentrates especially on 19th and 20th century United States, concluding with an examination of current issues of special interest to women in science, technology, and medicine.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 385: Women in Politics

(Cross-listed with POL S). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

Entry and participation of women in politics in the United States and other countries. Contemporary issues and strategies for change through the political process.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 386: History of Women in America

(Cross-listed with HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: Sophomore classification

A survey of social, economic, and political aspects of women's role from colonial era to present; emphasis on employment, education, concepts of sexuality, and changing nature of the home.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 387: First Ladies in U.S. History

(Cross-listed with HIST, POL S). Cr. 3. Alt. F., offered even-numbered years.

Evolution of the role and office of the First Lady in U.S. history, including her political activism, social impact, and international influence. Analysis of the authority, intersectionality, and agency of First Ladies in the aggregate and exploration of how individual First Ladies have interpreted and adapted this unique public position.

WGS 401: Feminist Theories

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: WGS 201 or 3 credits in WGS at the 300 level or above

Current theories of feminism, the feminine and sexual difference.

Topics in race, class, sexuality, and ethnicity as they are addressed in diverse feminisms. May include readings in lesbian, Black, postcolonial, psychoanalytic and postmodern thought.

WGS 402: Feminist Research in Action

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: WGS 201 and WGS 301

Feminist research methods and scholarship. Class collaborates on a community research and action project to improve women's lives.

WGS 422: Women, Men, and the English Language

(Cross-listed with ENGL, LING). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: ENGL 219 or LING 219

The ways men and women differ in using language in varied settings and the ways in which language both creates and reflects gender divisions.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 425: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender

(Dual-listed with WGS 525). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: WGS 201 and one additional WGS course

Race, ethnicity, class and gender distinctions and intersections lead to inequitable distributions of power, social well-being, and resources. Explores how inequities are institutionalized and how multiple identities are experienced by women in daily life.

WGS 430: Gender and Consumer Culture

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: WGS/W S 201 or 3 credits in W S / WGS at the 300 level or above

Historical roots of consumer culture, political economy, technology, and how the rise of the mass-market intersects with cultural ideas of gender, race, class, and sexuality. How gender, as well as personal and group identities, is formed through all forms of consumption. Examination of gendered advertising, material goods, and lifestyles created around specific acts of consumption.

WGS 435: Gender, Globalization and Development

(Dual-listed with WGS 535). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: WGS 301

Cross-cultural study of historical and contemporary dimensions of gender, globalization and development. Explores the interdependence of socio-economic and political aspects of globalization using feminist postcolonial and transnational frameworks. Analyses of case studies and activism in contexts of economic livelihoods, environmental justice, and cross-border migrations.

WGS 439: Goddess Religions

(Cross-listed with RELIG). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: RELIG 205 recommended

Exploration of the foundational myths of Goddess spirituality, including historical and cross-cultural female images of the divine and their modern usage by American women.

WGS 440: Gender Issues in Sports

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: W S 201 / WGS 201 or 3 credits in Women's Studies / Women's and Gender Studies at the 300 level or above

Social, economic, political, and cultural variables that influence and shape sports, especially for girls and women. Topics include Title IX, coaching and administrative challenges for women, media and gender, and issues related to eating disorders, homophobia, and gender identity in sport.

WGS 444: Sex and Gender in Cross-cultural Perspective

(Dual-listed with WGS 544). (Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: ANTHR 201; ANTHR 306 recommended

Cross-cultural examination of the social construction of genders out of the biological fact of sex. Emphasis on non-western societies. Topics, presented through examination of ethnographic data, will include the range of gender variation, status and roles, the institution of marriage, and symbols of gender valuation.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 450: Topics in Women's and Gender Studies

(3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits.

Prereq: WGS or W S 201 or 3 credits in WGS or W S at the 300 level or above

Advanced research and theory related to special topics and issues in women's and gender studies. Specific topics indicated in the schedule of classes. A maximum of 6 credits of W S / WGS 450 can count toward graduation.

WGS 457: History of American Sexualities

(Cross-listed with HIST). Cr. 3.

Prereq: Sophomore classification.

The social construction of American sexualities from the colonial era to the present with particular emphasis on how ideas about sex and sexuality have shaped American public life, including education, public policy, party politics, and racial justice.

WGS 460: Seminar in Gender and Ethnicity

(Cross-listed with ENGL). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits.

Prereq: Completion of 9 credits of surveys; junior classification

Selected readings of various authors, movements, eras, or genres.

Readings in criticism; required research paper.

WGS 488: Research on Women and Leadership

(Cross-listed with LD ST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Research on women and leadership in selected content areas (e.g., business, education, politics and public service, and popular culture).

Following an overview of quantitative and qualitative methods and critical analyses of journal articles on women and leadership, students work individually or in groups in selected content areas to write and present papers.

WGS 490: Independent Study

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits.

Prereq: Any two courses in WGS

Independent study on a topic in Women's Studies.

WGS 491: Internship

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits. F.S.SS.

Prereq: Junior or Senior classification

Internship designed to provide an application of Women's and Gender Studies principles and methods in a workplace. To be arranged with an internal or external employer and conducted under the supervision of a member of the Women's Studies faculty.

WGS 494: Women/Gender in Art

(Cross-listed with ART H). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Issues of gender related to cultural environments from the Middle Ages to contemporary times in Europe and America. Feminist movement beginning in the 1970s and specifically gender issues in art that are becoming widespread in the artistic culture.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

WGS 499: Senior Thesis

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.

Prereq: Senior classification

Senior thesis to be independently researched and written under the supervision of a member of the Women's Studies faculty.

Courses primarily for graduate students, open to qualified undergraduates:

WGS 501: Contemporary Feminist Theories

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.

Advanced study of current theoretical developments in Women's Studies in the U.S. and around the world. Examination of the epistemological bases of feminist scholarship.

WGS 502: Advanced Seminar in Feminist Research Methods

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Focus on feminist interdisciplinary research methods. Analysis of contemporary issues facing feminist scholars. Students conduct original research.

WGS 525: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender

(Dual-listed with WGS 425). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: WGS 201 and one additional WGS course

Race, ethnicity, class and gender distinctions and intersections lead to inequitable distributions of power, social well-being, and resources. Explores how inequities are institutionalized and how multiple identities are experienced by women in daily life.

WGS 535: Gender, Globalization and Development

(Dual-listed with WGS 435). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: WGS 301

Cross-cultural study of historical and contemporary dimensions of gender, globalization and development. Explores the interdependence of socio-economic and political aspects of globalization using feminist postcolonial and transnational frameworks. Analyses of case studies and activism in contexts of economic livelihoods, environmental justice, and cross-border migrations.

WGS 544: Sex and Gender in Cross-cultural Perspective

(Dual-listed with WGS 444). (Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: ANTHR 201; ANTHR 306 recommended

Cross-cultural examination of the social construction of genders out of the biological fact of sex. Emphasis on non-western societies. Topics, presented through examination of ethnographic data, will include the range of gender variation, status and roles, the institution of marriage, and symbols of gender valuation.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

WGS 545: Women's Literature

(Cross-listed with ENGL). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits.

Prereq: Graduate classification or 6 credits in literature at 300 level or above

Primary texts by women writers; historical, thematic, formal, or theoretical approaches; secondary readings; e.g., Nineteenth-Century Women Writers; American Women's Personal Narratives; Southern Women Writers of the U.S.

WGS 586: Readings Seminar in Women's and Gender History

(Cross-listed with HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Readings in women's and gender history.

WGS 590: Special Topics

Cr. arr.

Prereq: Permission of Women's and Gender Studies Program Director

Independent study on a topic in Women's Studies.

WGS 594: Women/Gender in Art

(Cross-listed with ART H). (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: Graduate classification or permission of instructor

Issues of gender related to cultural environments from the Middle Ages to contemporary times in Europe and America. Feminist movement beginning in the 1970s and specifically gender issues in art that are becoming widespread in the artistic culture.

Courses for graduate students:

WGS 621: Pedagogies of Dissent

(Cross-listed with EL PS). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Prereq: EL PS 620

Critical examination of the theoretical foundations of contemporary and historical pedagogical traditions that seek to challenge the status quo, expand justice, and deepen democracy.