

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES (WGS)

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*Any experimental courses offered by WGS can be found at:*

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

**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.

## **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 Communities**

(3-0) Cr. 3.

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.

## **WGS 205: Introduction to Queer Studies**

(3-0) Cr. 3.

*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.

## **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.

## **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, WISE). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

*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.

## **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.

*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.

## **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.

**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.

**WGS 327: Gender and Sexualities in Society**

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

*Prereq: SOC 134*

Develop a foundational understanding of the role of gender and sexuality in society. Students will explore the biological, social, and cultural meanings of gender and sexuality and their intersections with class, race/ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic status and other identities. Contemporary social science research, theories, and feminist perspectives as they relate to gender and sexuality, and explores gender and sexuality within families, education, the media, politics, and the economy.

**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.

**WGS 333: Women, Gender, and Leadership**

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

*Prereq: Sophomore classification*

An intersectional approach to understanding gender and leadership as it relates to women from various races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations and abilities.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**WGS 336: Religion, Sex and Gender**

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

*Prereq: (3 credits in RELIG or WGS) or Permission of Instructor*

Gender and sexuality in the historical and contemporary contexts of various religious traditions.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**WGS 338: Feminist Philosophy**

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

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. 3 credits in PHIL or WGS recommended.

**WGS 339: Goddess Religions**

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

Focal study of selected global Goddess traditions in context, including American Goddess spirituality. Historical and cross-cultural images, identities, and discourses of female divinity.

**WGS 342: Culture, Sex, and Gender**

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

Cross-cultural examination of gender and sexuality. Emphasis on global and transnational perspectives. Topics will include varied gender and sexual expressions, status and roles, intersectionality in global or transnational contexts, and the examination of systems of oppression cross-culturally. ANTHR 201 or WGS 201 recommended.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

**WGS 344: Human Reproduction**

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

*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*

Focused study of literature by women and about women that focuses on a particular genre (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, film, drama, media), author, or theme.

**WGS 346: Psychology of Women**

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

*Prereq: PSYCH 101; 1 additional PSYCH course*

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

**WGS 350: Women of Color in the U.S**

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

*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.

**WGS 352: Queer Literature**

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

*Prereq: ENGL 250*

Focused study of literary portrayals of queer lives and relationships from many different genres. Attention to changing definitions and representations of sexual orientation and LGBTQ identities over time.

**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*

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. For enrollment in fourth credit, 6 credits in GER at the 300-level.

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.

Survey of the roles of women and others on the margins and the issues that impacted them in the ancient Greek and Roman worlds.

Evidence from literature, the visual arts, and archaeology. Contemporary approaches to studying women, gender, and sexuality in ancient history.

Intersections of gender categories with ideas of slave and free status, citizenship, and ethnicity. Readings from ancient and modern sources.

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. S.

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.

*Prereq: Sophomore classification*

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.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**WGS 402: Feminist Research in Action**

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: WGS 201; WGS 301*

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

**WGS 410: Human Trafficking**

(Dual-listed with WGS 510). (Cross-listed with SOC). Cr. 3.

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

Issues related to human trafficking and modern-day slavery in the US and world. History of and concepts defining forms of violence experienced by trafficking victims and methods used to recruit and control victims.

Students will learn how to educate others about this crime against humanity. Examines international, federal, and state legislation to prevent human trafficking. Only one of WGS 410 may count toward graduation

**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.

**WGS 425: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender**

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

*Prereq: WGS 201; 1 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.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**WGS 430: Gender and Consumer Culture**

(3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: WGS 201 or 3 credits in 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 440: Gender Issues in Sports**

(3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: WGS 201 or 3 credits in WGS 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 450: Topics in Women's and Gender Studies**

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

*Prereq: WGS 201 or 3 credits in WGS 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 458: Queer Fashions: History, Culture, and the Industry**

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

Focus on analyzing the dressed and undressed body of individuals in the queer and trans communities in various cultural contexts with a focus on material culture. Examine concepts related to gender and sexuality and the changing definitions and representations of individuals who identify in the queer and trans communities focusing on appearance, fashion, and the body. Historic and current representations of fashion, styles, and appearances will be analyzed and discussed. Attention to how sexuality and gender intersect with and shape other identities including race, ability, body size, and class. Examine the complex structures, systems, and ideologies that uphold discrimination and inequitable distribution of power and resources as related to the course material. Attention will mostly be given to North American perspectives. We will use material culture to explore how objects related to fashioning the body reveal lived experiences about the owners and consumers.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**WGS 460: Seminar in Gender and Ethnicity**

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

*Prereq: Junior classification*

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

Readings in criticism; required research paper.

**WGS 488: Research on Gender and Leadership**

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

Research on gender 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 gender 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; Permission of Instructor*

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; Department Permission*

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.

**WGS 499: Senior Thesis**

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

*Prereq: Senior classification; Permission of Instructor*

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 510: Human Trafficking**

(Dual-listed with WGS 410). (Cross-listed with SOC). Cr. 3.

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

Issues related to human trafficking and modern-day slavery in the US and world. History of and concepts defining forms of violence experienced by trafficking victims and methods used to recruit and control victims. Students will learn how to educate others about this crime against humanity. Examines international, federal, and state legislation to prevent human trafficking. Only one of WGS 410 may count toward graduation

**WGS 525: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender**

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

*Prereq: WGS 201; 1 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. Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**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 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 558: Queer Fashions: History, Culture, and the Industry**

(Dual-listed with WGS 458 WGS 558). (Cross-listed with A M D). (3-0) Cr. 3. Alt. S., offered even-numbered years.

Focus on analyzing the dressed and undressed body of individuals in the queer and trans communities in various cultural contexts with a focus on material culture. Examine concepts related to gender and sexuality and the changing definitions and representations of individuals who identify in the queer and trans communities focusing on appearance, fashion, and the body. Historic and current representations of fashion, styles, and appearances will be analyzed and discussed. Attention to how sexuality and gender intersect with and shape other identities including race, ability, body size, and class. Examine the complex structures, systems, and ideologies that uphold discrimination and inequitable distribution of power and resources as related to the course material. Attention will mostly be given to North American perspectives. We will use material culture to explore how objects related to fashioning the body reveal lived experiences about the owners and consumers.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**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.