

# The School of Liberal Arts

## Women's Studies

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Women's studies is an interdisciplinary program that encourages students to engage fully in the major activities of a liberal arts education—reading, writing, thinking and remembering—in order to consider how women's lives differ because of race, class, region, religion, age, sexual orientation, historical period, and cultural context.

The program of study recognizes the legacy of Newcomb College as a coordinate college for women within a major research university and encourages the participation of students in the production of new research on women. The program also acknowledges the roots of women's studies within the women's movement and offers students the opportunity to link theory and practice through internships in community agencies and designated service learning courses. Students are encouraged to use this knowledge and experience in careers benefiting the lives of both women and men.

The intellectual project of the major and minor in women's studies is supported by lectures, films, discussions and other programs organized and funded through the H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College Institute, the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, and the resources available at the Nadine R. Vorhoff (Women's Studies) Library, the Newcomb Archives, and the [sophie.tulane.edu](http://sophie.tulane.edu) project. All of these resources are housed around the Newcomb College quad of the Uptown Campus. Students interested in women's studies as an academic major or minor should consult with the Director.

### MAJOR

A major in women's studies consists of a minimum of 33 credits. Three core courses are required: the prerequisite course 290

Introduction to Women's Studies; 351 Feminist Ideas and Praxis; and 497/697 Advanced Feminist Theories. The remaining courses must be selected from among those approved by the Women's Studies Program with the following distribution requirements: a minimum of six credits from the subject area Humanities and Fine Arts and six credits from Social Sciences, with not more than nine credits in a single department. Normally, the elective courses are taken at the 300 level and above. A maximum of 12 credits taken to satisfy the college distribution requirement may be applied toward the major in women's studies. Students electing women's studies as one of two majors must complete all requirements for the women's studies major and complete a total of at least 27 credits in different (non-overlapping) courses in the major.

### **MINOR**

A minor in women's studies consists of a minimum of 18 credits. Two courses are required: 290 Introduction to Women's Studies and 351 Feminist Ideas and Praxis. The remaining courses must be selected from among those approved by the Women's Studies Program with not all courses selected from the same discipline. Courses applied to the student's major field of study may not be applied toward the women's studies minor.

### **WMST 250 Women and Leadership (3)**

Staff. This course explores the contexts of leadership and examines how those contexts affect women. Students should increase their understanding of different styles of leadership, reconcile femininity with leadership, increase their knowledge of leadership strategies for women, and apply the ideas and research presented to their own pursuits of leadership.

### **WMST 290 Introduction to Women's Studies (3)**

Staff. This course is an introduction to key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and interdisciplinary research in the field of women's studies. Its primary focus is on the diverse experiences of women in the contemporary United States.

### **WMST 350 African-American Womanhood (3)**

Staff. Prerequisite: WMST 290 or approval of instructor. Through a variety of written and visual texts, this course surveys the intellectual tradition developed and elaborated by U.S. African-American women in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Course materials and lectures trace African-American women's legacy of struggle and resistance against economic

limitations and stereotypic representations, define their contributions to African-American communities and the larger U.S. American culture, explore the sexual politics of African-American relationships, and delineate the dimensions of a black feminist epistemology.

### **WMST 351 Feminist Ideas and Praxis (3)**

Staff. Prerequisite: WMST 290 or approval of instructor. An interdisciplinary course in which students are introduced to a choice of feminist theories in their relationship to the artistic representations, political movements, and/or social change activism with which they are associated. Subjects of this class will vary according to the interests of the responsible faculty members.

### **WMST 388 Writing Practicum (1)**

Staff. Corequisite: three-credit departmental course. Prerequisite: successful completion of the First-Year Writing Requirement. Fulfills the college intensive-writing requirement. Students will write one or more papers exploring major topics in feminist theory.

### **WMST 389 Service Learning (1)**

Staff. Prerequisite: Departmental approval. Students complete a service activity in the community in conjunction with the content of a three-credit corequisite course.

### **WMST 390 Research in the History of the Higher Education of Women (4)**

Staff. Prerequisite: WMST 290 or approval of instructor. This course introduces the history of women's education through readings and archival research. Students will be required to analyze documents in archives, respond to the findings of historians, and write about their own research. Additionally, the course explores theories concerned with the educational development of women in the United States. Fulfills the college intensive-writing requirement.

### **WMST 457 Internship Studies (1-3)**

Staff. Prerequisites: approval of instructor and program director prior to the semester in which the internship is to be conducted; open to upper level majors and minors. A 3.0 grade-point average in women's studies courses is normally required. An experiential learning process coupled with pertinent academic course work. Registration is completed in the academic department sponsoring the internship on TUTOR. Credit hours earned are dependent on

the requirements of the project. A maximum of four credits of internship studies may be applied toward the major or minor in women's studies.

### **WMST 491, 492 Independent Studies (2, 3)**

Staff. Prerequisites: approval of instructor and program director; open to upper-level majors and minors. Qualified students may arrange for independent study with an instructor to pursue a project of interest to the student. Ordinarily, independent study earns three credits. Requirements will vary depending on the project but will involve some combination of readings, oral reports, and written work. A maximum of four credits of independent studies may be applied toward the major in women's studies and three credits toward the minor.

### **WMST 493 Special Topics in Women's Studies (3)**

Staff. An in-depth examination of a particular topic relevant to women's lives and experiences informed by feminist theoretical perspectives. Topics for discussion focus on a theme or question that is best understood within an interdisciplinary framework.

### **WMST 497 Advanced Feminist Theories (3)**

Staff. Prerequisite: WMST 290 or approval of instructor. An advanced seminar for students completing the major or undertaking the graduate certificate. Exploration of ways in which gender and sexuality have been theorized as sites of power and inequality. Focus on ways in which feminist theorizing challenges and builds upon prevailing philosophical, social, and political theory.

### **WMST 498 Senior Project (4)**

Staff. Prerequisite: WMST 497 or approval of instructor and program director. A student initiated research project resulting in a detailed written report of all aspects of the research process. Fulfills the college intensive-writing requirement.

### **WMST H499-H500 Honors Thesis (3, 4)**

Staff. Open to senior honors candidates and other qualified senior majors with approval of instructor and program director. Intensive interdisciplinary reading and research in the area of women's studies.

### **WMST 697 Advanced Feminist Theories (3)**

See WMST 497 for course description.

## **ELECTIVES**

Women's Studies electives are to be selected from among the courses offered by cooperating departments and approved by the Women's Studies Program Committee. In addition to the courses listed below, colloquia, independent studies, and special topics courses may be applied to the major or minor subject to approval. For complete information about these courses, consult the *Schedule of Classes* or obtain a current course description from the instructor.

### **Humanities and Fine Arts**

COMM 426 Communication, Culture, and Body

COMM 435 Gender and the Cinema

COMM 445 Communication, Language and Gender

COMM 460 Intercultural Communication

COMM 462 Women, Development, Communication

COMM 484 Aids and the Media

ENLS 389 Introduction to Women's Literature

ENLS 442 Southern Literature

ENLS 472 Feminist Literary Theory

ENLS 483 Race, Class and Gender

FREN 302 French Feminisms

JWST 360 Women in the Hebrew Bible

JWST 415 Women in Judaism and Jewish Culture

PHIL 357 Ethics of Reproduction

PHIL 653 Philosophy and Gender

SPAN 410 Constructions of Gender and Sexuality in Hispanic Culture

SPAN 673 Women Writers of Spain

SPAN 674 Women Writers of Latin America

### **Social Sciences**

HISB 607 Africa and Gender Theory

HISE 314 Household, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Modern Europe

HISL 378 Women in Latin American History

HISU 340 Women and Gender in U.S. History to 1830

HISU 341 Women and Gender in U.S. History 1830 to the Present

HISU 649 Sexuality and the Advent of Modern American Culture

POLA 426 Race, Sex, and Power

POLT 378 Feminist Political Theory

SOCI 104 Gender and Society

SOCI 606 Issues in the Sociology of Gender

SOCI 620 Issues in the Sociology of the Family

### **Science and Mathematics**

#### **Cell and Molecular Biology**

CELL 210 Biology of Human Reproduction

CELL 600 Biomedical Ethics

PSYC 363 Psychology and Women's Health

NSCI/PSYC 655 Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

### **Courses Offered by Other Schools**

#### **Architecture**

THRY 375 Women and the Arts

THRY 376 Research on Women Architects

THRY 463 Sexual Subjectivity and Space

#### **Law**

4LAW 512 Feminist Legal Theories

#### **Public Health and Tropical Medicine**

CHSC 630 Gender Race and Ethnicity in Health Education

CHSC 638 Maternal and Child Health Education