

Women's Studies

Helen Faso, Ph.D. (Contact Person)

The Women's Studies minor is an interdisciplinary academic program that helps to counter discrimination and to foster justice, dignity and understanding of human differences by focusing on the contribution of women to our intellectual and cultural heritage.

Upon completion of the minor in Women's Studies, students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Promote justice through recognition of human differences and how these differences affect social interaction.
2. Explore the connections among various fields of study through increased cross-curricular and inter-disciplinary work.
3. Understand the influence and importance of gender in several different disciplinary areas.

Requirements for Women's Studies Minor

A Women's Studies minor must complete the following courses:

WST/HIS 220	Women in History	(3 crs)
WST/ENG 310 or 312	Women in Literature	(3 crs)
WST	Women's Studies Electives	(9 crs)

*Students may opt to take two Women's Studies Electives and complete a Women's Studies Thesis. (9 crs)

Special Note on Electives for Women's Studies Minor:

The student will complete two or three three-credit courses as the elective component of the minor (depending on whether the student chooses the thesis option). A full list of elective courses is available from the director of the program. A student must complete the proper form for the elective during the preregistration period.

Courses that have a significant component involved with gender may also be eligible for elective credit in Women's Studies. Please contact the director for further information.

Course Descriptions

WST 201 Introduction to Women's Studies (3 crs)

"Feminism for Everyone: An Introduction to Women's Studies," is a course for women and men that introduces students to the thought and practice of the feminist movement. We will ask and attempt to answer the question, "What does it mean to be a woman in the context of a sexist society?" and will investigate issues of gender, race/ethnicity, class and sexuality. Together we will analyze socio-cultural, historical and global influences on women and ask how those influences help shape how women identify themselves and are identified by others. Students will examine aspects of popular culture to understand the multiple layers of gendered meaning in film, advertising, television and so on. We will read and discuss important pieces of literature (both fiction and nonfiction) and analyze them within a feminist framework. In essence, we will ask the questions, "What's gender got to do with it?" and "What can we do about it?"

WST 220 (HIS 220) Women in History (3 crs)

A study of women in Western society from antiquity to the present. The course will examine principal events, trends and ideas affecting women in selected periods, including the Icelandic Society, the Troubadour civilization, the 17th century salon ladies and the feminist and suffrage movements of the 19th and 20th centuries. Prerequisite: Completed history core.

WST 230 (CRJ 230) Women and the Criminal Justice System (3 crs)

This course involves an in-depth approach to uncover the issues surrounding women and gender in the criminal justice system from both a theoretical and practical perspective. Concomitant with an exploration of current feminist ideologies, the course will provide a better understanding about the etiology of female crimes. This will be accomplished by highlighting three main areas: 1) women as offenders; 2) women as victims; and 3) women as criminal justice practitioners (includes law enforcement, the judiciary and corrections).

WST 235 (PSY 235) Human Sexuality in a Diverse World (3 crs)

A data-based study of biological, religious/historical, cultural and individual determinants of intimate human behavior. Prerequisite: PSY 110.

LIT/WST 310 Women and Early Literature (3 crs)

Study of women's contribution to literature from the Classical Period through the 18th Century. Addresses major issues and themes that concern women; examines how individual female authors confronted the prevailing literary and social attitudes of their times. Prerequisite: completed literature core.

LIT/WST 312 Women and Modern Literature (3 crs)

Study of women's contribution to literature from the 19th Century to the present day. Addresses major issues and themes that concern women; examines how individual female authors confronted the prevailing literary and social attitudes of their times. Prerequisite: completed literature core.

WST 355 Gender and Politics (3 crs)

Introduction to theories of the relationship between gender and political power. Detailed examination of a topic relating to gender and politics, e.g., the women's movement in the US, women of the Third World.

WST/PSY 425 Topics in Gender (3 crs)

An exploration of current research findings on the interaction of gender and society, how men and women behave differently and how gender is represented in culture. Prerequisite: PSY 110.

WST 486 Women's Studies Thesis (1 cr)

A research project integrating an issue in the field of Women's Studies with the student's major field.