

GENDER, SEXUALITY, & WOMEN'S STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Major Program

Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary major founded on the understanding that the social production of gender is inseparable from that of race, sexuality, class, nationality, ability and other categories of difference. Our curriculum places feminist concerns within a transnational context, while respecting the need for geographic and historical specificity. These frameworks inform our teaching, our research, our institutional & community practices, and the principles we bring to our classrooms. Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies offers a wide range of classes that use the lenses of gender & sexuality studies to examine colonialism and post colonialism, globalization, history, queer & trans experiences, science & technology, literature, popular culture, feminist video production, cinema & digital media, fashion, and food. The Department offers both an undergraduate major and minor. We also work collaboratively with other units on campus to sponsor two undergraduate minors, Sexuality Studies and Social, Ethnic & Gender Relations.

The Department

One of the most exciting and challenging aspects of the Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies Department is that students, in consultation with peer and faculty advisors, can pursue their particular academic interests and design their course of study accordingly. In devising their major plan, students will draw on courses offered in African American & African Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Asian American Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Comparative Literature, English, French, German & Italian Studies, History, Linguistics, Native American Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Science & Technology Studies, Sociology, Spanish, and other related disciplines.

In addition to offering a broad array of courses that deal with gender, class, race, ethnicity, and sexuality, the Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies Department affords interested students the opportunity to earn internship credit and conduct independent research as well as take advantage of the Honors Thesis option.

Students design a program of study in consultation with an advisor that is in accordance with their individual career goals. Many Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies majors find it advantageous to pursue a double major, or to minor in another field of study. Upon successful completion of the degree requirements, students majoring in the program will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies.

Career Alternatives

A degree in Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies opens many possibilities for future employment. The major introduces students to relevant social issues, fosters critical thinking, develops strong verbal, writing and research skills and encourages social advocacy.

Pre-professional students will discover that a major in Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies offers useful preparatory training for medical or law school. It is particularly suitable for those interested in specializing in social policy, international development, social justice or gender-

related work in a wide range of institutions and contexts. Students who plan to do practical work in counseling, clinical psychology, social services, education, media or politics will also find a major in Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies provides a strong foundation. Those who wish to pursue graduate level research in such fields as anthropology, comparative literature, cultural studies, economics, education, ethnic studies, English, cinema & digital media studies, history, languages & literatures, performance studies, philosophy, political science, and sociology will also benefit from a strong Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies background in feminist theory, social analysis, history and a sound understanding of cultural representation and narratives of difference.

Increasingly, media & cultural institutions, corporations, and personnel firms seek to hire specialists in Gender, Sexuality, & Women Studies who are trained in institutional practices that support inclusive practices in recruitment & hiring and that foster diverse workplace environments. State & federal agencies need people who have special understanding of the workplace challenges faced by women, and by all groups who are under-represented in specific industries and professions. Educational institutions and non-profit organizations across the spectrum need specialists to develop and administer gender, sexuality & women's studies programs, multi-cultural community centers, LGBTQ organizations and other organizations designed specifically to deal with gender, social diversity and inequality, and a growing range of old and new social challenges arising in the context of globalization.

Some of our alumni have developed careers other than those described above. Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies faculty and peer advisors can provide even more ideas about possible future careers. Doing internships related to coursework enables students to integrate theory with hands-on practice and service in the community.

Major Advisor

Advising (<https://gsws.ucdavis.edu/advising/>) is located in 1200 Hart Hall; gsw-advising@ucdavis.edu; 530-752-6429.

Graduate Study

The Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies Department offers a designated emphasis in Feminist Theory & Research for students enrolled in the Ph.D. programs of fifteen other affiliated departments. For more information, see Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory & Research (<https://gsws.ucdavis.edu/designated-emphasis/>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies Bachelor of Arts is 64.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
<i>Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies</i>		
GSW 050	Introduction to Critical Gender Studies	4
or GSW 050V	Introduction to Critical Gender Studies	
GSW 070	Theory & History of Sexualities	4
WMS 060	Feminist Critiques of Western Thought	4
One additional lower division GSW/WMS course:		4

Lower-division GSW/WMS courses used to meet this requirement may not duplicate those used to meet other GSW requirements.

GSW courses (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/gsw/)	
WMS courses (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/wms/)	
GSW 090X	First Year Seminar
GSW 098	Directed Group Study
GSW 099	Special Study for Undergraduates
WMS 025	Gender & Global Cinema (Discontinued for spring 2026) **
Choose one:	4
AAS 010	African-American Culture & Society
AAS 017	Women in African Societies
AMS 021	Objects & Everyday Life
AMS 030	Images of America & Americans in Popular Culture
ANT 002	Cultural Anthropology
ANT 020	Comparative Cultural Ecologies
ANT 030	Sexualities
ASA 001	Historical Experience of Asian Americans
ASA 002	Contemporary Issues of Asian Americans
CHI 010	Introduction to Chicana/o Studies
or CHI 010V	Introduction to Chicana/o Studies
CHI 021S	Chicana/o & Latina/o Health Care Issues
CHI 050	Chicana & Chicano Culture
COM 012	Introduction to Women Writers
DRA 001	Theatre, Performance & Culture
ENL 003	Introduction to Literature
or ENL 003V	Introduction to Literature
GSW 080	Special Topics in Critical Gender Studies
HIS 072A	Women & Gender in America, to 1865
HIS 072B	Women & Gender in America, 1865-Present
HIS 085	Nature, Man, & the Machine in America
NAS 010	Native American Experience
NAS 032	Native American Music & Dance
POL 007	Introduction to Law & Politics
or POL 007V	Introduction to Law & Politics
PSC 001	General Psychology
or PSC 001V	General Psychology
or PSC 001Y	General Psychology
STS 001	Introduction to Science, Technology & Medicine Studies
STS/HIS 002	Introduction to the History of Science & Technology
or STS/HIS 002Y	Introduction to the History of Science & Technology
STS/ANT 032	Drugs, Science & Culture
SOC 002	Self & Society
or SOC 002V	Self & Society
SOC 003	Social Problems
or SOC 003V	Social Problems
SOC 011	Sociology of Labor & Employment

WMS 020	Cultural Representations of Gender	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		20
Depth Subject Matter		
<i>Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies</i>		
GSW 103	Introduction to Feminist Theory	4
GSW 104	Feminist Research	4
or WMS 104 DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2022 **		
GSW 170	Queer Studies	4
or WMS 170 DISCO		
GSW 190	Senior Seminar	4
WMS 137	Contemporary Debates in Western Feminist Theory	4
<i>Thematic Track</i>		
In consultation with the Faculty Advisor & Major Advisor, choose four upper division Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies courses (WMS) and two elective courses that can be taken outside of the department (see options below) addressing a specific theme or topic; courses used to meet this requirement may not duplicate those used to meet other GSW Requirements.		24
Choose two:		
AAS 107A	African Descent Communities & Culture in the Caribbean & Latin America	
AAS 107C	African Descent Communities & Culture in Asia	
AAS 123	Black Female Experience in Contemporary Society	
AAS 133	The Black Family In America	
AAS 181	Hip Hop in Urban America	
ANT 126B	Women & Development	
(Discontinued for winter 2025) **		
ANT 130A	Cultural Dimensions of Globalization	
ANT 139AN	Race, Class, Gender Systems	
ANT 139BN	Gender & Sexuality	
ASA 112	Asian American Women	
ASA 150	Filipino American Experience	
CHI 100	Chicana/o Theoretical Perspective	
CHI 111	Chicanas/Mexicanas in Contemporary Society	
CHI 112	Globalization, Transnational Migration, & Chicana/o & Latina/o Communities	
CHI 120	Chicana/o Psychology	
CHI 122	Psychology Perspectives Chicana/o & Latina/o Family	
CHI 130	United States-Mexican Border Relations	
CHI 131	Chicanas in Politics & Public Policy	
CHI 131S	Chicanas in Politics & Public Policy	
CHI 150	The Chicana & Chicano Movement	
CHI 154	The Chicana/o Novel	
CHI 160	Mexican Film & Greater Mexican Identity	
CHI 170	Contemporary Issues in Chicano Art	
CHI/ART 171	Mexican & Chicano Mural Workshop	
CHI 182	Race & Juvenile Justice	
COM 135	Women Writers	
COM 138/ITA 141	Gender & Interpretation in the Renaissance	

COM 159	Women in Literature	
DES 143	History of Fashion	
ENL 155B	19th-Century British Novel	
ENL 166	Love & Desire in Contemporary American Poetry	
ENL 185A	Literature by Women Before 1800	
ENL 185B	Literature by Women from 1800-1900	
ENL 186	Literature, Sexuality, & Gender	
FMS 120	Italian-American Cinema	
FMS/RUS 129	Russian Film	
FRE 124	Post-Colonial & Francophone Literature	
GER 114	From Marlene Dietrich to Run, Lola Run: German Women & Film	
GER 168	Multiculturalism in German Literature	
GER/FMS 176A	Classic Weimar Cinema	
HIS 102M	Undergraduate Proseminar in History: United States Since 1896	
HIS 148A	Women & Society in Europe: 1500-1789	
HIS 148B	Women & Society in Europe: 1789-1920	
HIS 159	Women & Gender in Latin American History	
HIS 160	Spain & America in the 16th Century	
HIS 184	History of Sexuality in America	
HIS 193A	History of the Modern Middle East, 1750-1914	
HIS 193B	History of the Modern Middle East, From 1914	
HIS 193C	The Middle East Environment: Historical Change & Current Challenges	
LIN 163	Language, Gender, & Society	
NAS 134	Race, Culture, & Nation	
NAS 135	Gender Construction in Native Societies	
NAS 180	Native American Women	
POL 166	Women in Politics	
PSC 158	Sexual Orientation & Prejudice	
PSC 159	Gender & Human Reproduction	
RST 157	Hindu Women & Goddesses	
RST 161	Modern Islam	
SOC 131	The Family	
SOC 133	Sexual Stratification & Politics	
SOC 145B	Gender & Rural Development in the Third World	
STS/ANT 129	Health & Medicine in a Global Context	
STS 150	Gender & Science	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		44
Total Units		64

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.