

# WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES (WSGS)

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## **WSGS 101 Introduction to WSGS from a Global Perspective (3 Credit Hours)**

This is an introduction to the interdisciplinary fields of both Women's Studies and Gender Studies which explore the ways that sex and gender manifest themselves in social, cultural, and political arenas. It draws upon scholarship in women's studies, masculinities studies, and queer studies which themselves draw upon a variety of intellectual perspectives, including historical, psychological, rhetorical, sociological, literary, and biological.

*Knowledge Area:* Foundational Societal Knowledge

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Outcomes:*

students will demonstrate understanding of historical developments, key concepts, theories and themes in women's studies and gender studies, the impact that gender can have on social, cultural, political and economic material conditions

## **WSGS 201 Contemporary Issues in WSGS (3 Credit Hours)**

This course explores issues in women's studies, feminism, and gender studies from the perspective of a particular discipline, depending on the faculty member teaching the course. This may, for example, include Communication, English, History, Sociology, or Theology.

*Knowledge Area:* Tier 2 Societal Knowledge

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WOST201/WSGS201

*Outcomes:*

Students will examine the subjects of women and gender, as well as the challenges of conducting feminist or gender scholarship, within the discipline and how new research changes or transforms that scholarship

## **WSGS 297 Topics in WSGS (3 Credit Hours)**

This course allows students to explore intermediate courses or seminars focused on the intersection of gender, sexuality, race, class, and other categories of power, privilege, and oppression.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

## **WSGS 330 History of Feminist Thought and Social Action (3 Credit Hours)**

This course focuses on the history and development of feminist thought and activism since the late eighteenth century. Attention goes beyond just U.S. and European feminist history, exploring Indigenous, Black, and postcolonial feminism to investigate their unique feminist ideas and the challenges they pose to "traditional" feminist thought and action.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* X - WSGS 330 / HIST 339F

*Outcomes:*

Students will learn to identify key concepts, thinkers, activists; analyze and critique some of the major works; and develop an integrated understanding of the history of feminist thought, broadly conceived

## **WSGS 350 Global Feminisms (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* WSGS 101 or WSGS 201

This course offers critical and theoretical tools to evaluate feminist theories by women of color in the global South. Adopting a decolonial, anti-racist approach, the course evaluates how women and gender relations are affected by economic, cultural, and political changes related to the racial regimes of globalization and migratory movements.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Outcomes:*

Students will acquire and utilize key theoretical concepts in the study of feminisms, race theory, border studies, postcolonial studies, transnationalism, and migration studies

## **WSGS 360 Migration, Identity, Sexuality (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* WSGS 101 or WSGS 201

In this seminar WSGS course we will explore how crossing borders, identity politics, and sexuality intersect to produce a rich and necessary conversation on contemporary global immigration issues. We will explore the gendered dynamics and experiences of recent immigrants.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Outcomes:*

Acquire and utilize key theoretical concepts in the study of borders, identity politics, transnationalism, and sexuality from an intersectional lens

## **WSGS 370 Sexual Assault Advocacy (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* WSGS 101 or WSGS 201

This course provides specific skills of support and advocacy services to sexual assault survivors. Students will gain an understanding of the impact of sexual assault on victims, the social and cultural context in which sexual assault occurs, and the roles systems play to both support and inhibit survivors recovery.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Outcomes:*

Students who successfully complete the course may be eligible to serve as Loyola University Chicago sexual assault advocates

## **WSGS 375 Masculinity Studies: Equity, Race, Transformation (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* WSGS 101

This course highlights the intersectional exploration of how masculinity is embodied, experienced, and replicated in the United States and globally. With this transnational lens, students gain a better understanding of contemporary global masculinity sociocultural issues and concerns which include race/racism, "angry white men," and the "crisis of masculinity."

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WSGS 375/WSGS 475

*Outcomes:*

Students will acquire and utilize key theoretical concepts in Masculinity studies from an international lens; Students will apply a wide critical terminology to literary texts and visual/cultural phenomena globally

**WSGS 380 Queer Theory: Beyond the Binary (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* WSGS 101 or 201

This course maps the field of Queer Theory from an interdisciplinary, global perspective in order to cover a wide range of theoretical and disciplinary approaches (race theory, transnational theory, postmodernism, Latinx-American Studies, among others) and interpretative applications (film, literature).

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Outcomes:*

Students will be able to identify key concepts and thinkers of this influential field of study; they will develop an intersectional, global understanding of this field of critical theory

**WSGS 388 Women's Studies Practicum (3 Credit Hours)**

This supervised field experience uses experiential learning at a wide variety of women's political, cultural or educational organization as the basis for learning and refining skills which can benefit gender equity.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

This course satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement.

*Course equivalencies:* WOST388/WSGS388

*Outcomes:*

Students demonstrate skill proficiency, professional conduct, and systematic reflection on their experience; Students learn about public and private sector responses to women's issues and concerns

**WSGS 389 Independent Study (1-3 Credit Hours)**

This course consists of independent research or engaged learning in a specific area of WSGS; work must be completed under the supervision of a WSGS faculty member.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Outcomes:*

Students will gain a deeper understanding of a specific WSGS topic through research, service, reading, or other mode of learning; The product of this work will vary depending on the interests of the student

**WSGS 390 Directed Readings Women Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

An independent program of reading and research arranged between the student and the supervising faculty member in the student's major department. Students will complete a final research project integrating their major fields with women's studies. Permission of women's studies director is required.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WOST390/WSGS390

**WSGS 391 WSGS Methodologies (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* WSGS 101 or WSGS 201, and WSGS 330

This course is part of a two-semester sequence for the final year of the WSGS major and minor. In this course we review several approaches to feminist research methods and consider ways to put them into practice, individually or combined with other methods. Enrollment by permission.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Outcomes:*

Students will produce a project proposal that (1) demonstrates an interdisciplinary approach; (2) draws on theory and scholarship in WSGS; and (3) reflects the use of feminist methodologies in practice

**WSGS 397 Special Topics in WSGS (3 Credit Hours)**

This course allows students to explore advanced courses or seminars focused on the intersection of gender, sexuality, race, class, and other categories of power, privilege, and oppression.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WOST397/WSGS397

*Outcomes:*

Students demonstrate an understanding of a unique topic in women's studies

**WSGS 398 Women's Studies Internship (3 Credit Hours)**

This course uses supervised project-based experiential learning to allow students the opportunity to apply feminist analysis and practical skills to a student-designed project that will be completed within the timeframe of a course term.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

This course satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement.

*Course equivalencies:* WOST398/WSGS398

*Outcomes:*

Students learn application of feminist concepts and principles to pragmatic outcomes; leadership, planning, time management, and assessment skills

**WSGS 399 WSGS Capstone (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* WSGS 330 and WSGS 391; Enrollment by permission

This is a project-oriented course that represents the culmination of the WSGS major. Students build on their work in WSGS 391/WSGS Methodologies to complete a project under the direction of a faculty or community organization mentor, either individually or as a group.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

This course satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement.

*Course equivalencies:* WOST399/WSGS399

*Outcomes:*

Students will complete a project that (1) demonstrates an interdisciplinary approach; (2) draws on theory and scholarship in WSGS; and (3) reflects the intentional use of feminist methodologies in practice

**WSGS 401 History of Feminist Thought (3 Credit Hours)**

This course surveys the historical development of feminist thought from Mary Wollstonecraft to second wave feminism and beyond and analyzes the impact of feminism on the general culture.

*Course equivalencies:* WOST401/WSGS401

**WSGS 402 Foundations of Women's Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

This course investigates how gender has become a critical category in education and knowledge and traces the institutional and intellectual development of women's and gender studies as a field, focusing on the evolution of WGS in the academy (here and in other countries) and on the changes in concepts of knowledge, in methodologies, and in pedagogy that women's studies scholarship has produced in various fields.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WOST402/WSGS402

**WSGS 450 Global Feminisms (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is a course that explores feminism and the study of gender in a global dimension. Chosen texts privilege the study of women, gender, and sexuality from an international perspective. The course highlights the intimate relationship between the study of feminism, (post/de)colonialism, and racism.

*Course equivalencies:* WOST450/WSGS450

**WSGS 455 Feminist Pedagogy (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* Graduate Status

This course will focus on distinctly feminist ways of learning and teaching. As with feminist theory and research methods, feminist pedagogy has been understood to include characteristics like self-reflexivity, de-centered authority, standpoint epistemologies, examinations of power dynamics, and attention to embodied ways of learning and knowing.

*Outcomes:*

Understand the foundational principles of feminist pedagogy and related approaches to teaching; Develop skills to analyze and produce sound teaching practices within a feminist intersectional framework

**WSGS 460 Migration, Identity, Sexuality (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* Graduate Status

We will explore how crossing borders, identity politics, gender, and sexuality intersect to produce a conversation on contemporary global immigration issues. Focus is on movement from three geographic locations from/to the Global South and North: Latin America to the US and Europe; Africa to Europe; Europe to Latin America and back.

**WSGS 470 Sexual Assault Advocacy (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* Graduate Status

This course provides specific skills of support and advocacy services to sexual assault survivors. Students will gain an understanding of the impact of sexual assault on victims, the social and cultural context in which sexual assault occurs, and the roles systems play to both support and inhibit survivors recovery.

*Course equivalencies:* WOST370/WSGS370/WGSG470

*Outcomes:*

Students who successfully complete the course may be eligible to serve as Loyola University Chicago sexual assault advocates

**WSGS 475 Masculinity Studies: Equity, Race, Transformation (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* Graduate Status

This course highlights the intersectional exploration of how masculinity is embodied, experienced, and replicated in the United States and globally. With this transnational lens, students gain a better understanding of contemporary global masculinity sociocultural issues and concerns which include race/racism, "angry white men," and the "crisis of masculinity."

*Course equivalencies:* WSGS 375/WSGS 475

*Outcomes:*

Students will acquire and utilize key theoretical concepts in Masculinity studies from an international lens; Students will apply a wide critical terminology to literary texts and visual/cultural phenomena globally

**WSGS 480 Queer Theory (3 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* Graduate status

This graduate level course maps the field of queer theory from an interdisciplinary perspective in order to cover a wide range of theoretical and disciplinary approaches and interpretive applications. Outcome:

Students will acquire and utilize theoretical concepts in queer studies, develop cultural competency in queer studies and present information about the field orally and in writing.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

**WSGS 497 Topics in Women's Studies and Gender Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

This topics course may originate in Women's Studies and Gender Studies or as a cross-listed course and deals with women's and gender topics including identity, sexuality, diversity, relationships of power in national, transnational and international contexts. The ethical and social justice implications of topics include feminist perspectives.

*Course equivalencies:* WOST497/WSGS497

*Outcomes:*

Students understand feminist perspectives on gender in literature; Students connect theory and practice in writing, performance, action or in combined formats

**WSGS 498 Practicum (1-3 Credit Hours)**

WSGS Practicum gives students the option of doing a teaching or research assistantship under the supervision of a faculty member. This practicum counts as an elective credit towards the student's MA degree.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WOST498/WSGS498

**WSGS 499 Independent Study (1-3 Credit Hours)**

An independent study provides students with the opportunity to work closely and one-on-one with a faculty member. The student can choose her/his/their topic or creative project. The independent study should be comparable to a graduate-level course.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WOST499/WSGS499

**WSGS 500 Thesis Research (3 Credit Hours)**

A Thesis Research course allows graduate students to fine tune their research skills, academic writing, and independent thought while they are preparing their thesis proposal and/or writing their thesis.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WOST500/WSGS500

**WSGS 595 Thesis Supervision (0 Credit Hours)**

The focus of a Thesis Supervision is to help students better strategize, structure, and organize themselves as they write their thesis. Students will also be advised about how to prepare for a successful oral defense.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies

*Course equivalencies:* WOST595/WSGS595

**WSGS 599 Capstone Presentation (0 Credit Hours)**

*Pre-requisites:* Successful completion of 12 hours in the MA program in WSGS

WSGS 599 is the culmination of the Master's program in Women's Studies and Gender Studies. Requirements include a 10 page synthesis paper or detailed outline, annotated bibliography, and public presentation at our biannual capstone ceremony.

*Outcomes:*

Synthesis of the students' graduate coursework; performance of the diversity of outcomes in WSGS; celebration of students' achievements; networking

**WSGS 605 Master's Study (0 Credit Hours)**

Continuing work on completion of the Master's Degree in Women's Studies and Gender Studies.

*Interdisciplinary Option:* Women & Gender Studies