

WOMEN'S STUDIES AND GENDER STUDIES (BA)

The WSGS BA program provides students with a broad and deep understanding of feminist scholarship and gender theory from an interdisciplinary perspective. Through the WSGS lens of intersectionality, students acquire analytical skills that enable them to see the world in new ways and offer innovative solutions to social and theoretical problems. Service-learning courses, internships, and capstone projects provide opportunities to link theory and practice and advocate for social justice.

Many students combine the WSGS major with a major or minor in another discipline to further hone their skills in that area and integrate their learning in innovative ways. The BA program also provides a robust list of elective options in other disciplines, such as Anthropology, English, History, Psychology, Sociology, and Theology (among others) that enhance the foundational curriculum. In these ways, the program sustains its interdisciplinary character, honors diversity, and continually builds a community of scholars who collaborate and support one another. Our graduates go on to fulfilling careers in education, law, medicine, the non-profit sector, and a number of other fields.

Curriculum

The WSGS major can be declared at any time. You may major in WSGS with or without a second major. The major consists of 36 hours, or 12 courses. A total of at least 21 hours (7 courses) must be at the 300 level or higher. Courses are designated as follows:

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
WSGS 101	Introduction to WSGS from a Global Perspective	3
WSGS 201	Contemporary Issues in WSGS	3
WSGS 330	History of Feminist Thought and Social Action	3
WSGS 391	WSGS Methodologies	3
WSGS 398	Women's Studies Internship (or cross-listed service learning course)	3
WSGS 399	WSGS Capstone	3
Theory		
Select one of the following:		3
PLSC 312	Feminist Theory	
ENGL 307	Topics in Feminist and Gender Studies	
WSGS 380	Queer Theory: Beyond the Binary	
Electives		
Select five (5) elective courses from WSGS and cross-listed offerings, with at least 2 of these at the 300 level.		15
Total Hours		36

Interdisciplinary Elective Courses

These are courses outside of the Women's Studies and Gender Studies (WSGS) department that permanently count toward elective requirements. For a full list of WSGS courses, click here (<https://catalog.luc.edu/course-descriptions/wsgs/>). There may also be courses that are temporarily tagged to count toward interdisciplinary elective requirements. These can be found in LOCUS (<https://locus.luc.edu>) in the class schedule.

Code	Title	Hours
ANTH 106	Sex, Science and Anthropological Inquiry	3
ANTH 203	Violence, Social Suffering, and Justice	3
ANTH 205	Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective	3
ANTH 245	Gender in Deep Time	3
ANTH 307	The Body and Culture	3
ANTH 346	Biology of Women	3
BIOL 346	Biology of Women	3
CJC 370	Women in The Criminal Justice System	3
CJC 373	Intimate Partner Violence	3
CLST 271G	Classical Mythology - Women/Gender Focus	3
CLST 273G	Classical Tragedy - Women/Gender Focus	3
CLST 295	Women in the Classical World	3
COMM 281	Communication, Language & Gender	3
ENGL 283	Women in Literature	3
ENGL 306	Studies in Women Writers	3
ENGL 306A	Studies in Women Writers Before 1700	3
ENGL 306B	Studies in Women Writers 1700-1900	3
ENGL 306C	Studies in Women Writers Since 1900	3
ENGL 307	Topics in Feminist and Gender Studies	3
ENGL 369A	Women in Drama Before 1700	3
ENGL 369B	Women in Drama 1700-1900	3
FNAR 207	Women, Art, and Society	3
FNAR 360	Picturing Women in Renaissance and Baroque Art	3
HIST 290A	History of Sexuality in the United States	3
HIST 310C	Medieval Women	3
HIST 310L	Love and Violence in Medieval Culture and Society	3
HIST 329	Women's Sphere in Past Society	3
HIST 329C	Empire, Sex, Violence: European Colonial History	3
HIST 331A	Food, Hunger and Power in the Modern World	3
HIST 337A	Women in Russia and Eurasia, 1860-Present	3
HIST 339F	History of Feminist Thought and Social Action	3
HIST 341C	Tunisia On-Site: Arab Spring, Democratic Change, Islam	3
HIST 349A	Women in East Asia	3
HIST 358	Women in Latin American History	3
HIST 377	African American Women's History	3
HIST 381	Rebels & Reformers in U.S. History	3
HIST 382	Teaching Race, Class, and Gender	3
HIST 389B	Topic: Gender, Race, & Class in US History	3
HIST 389C	Gender Benders	3
LITR 291	Italian & Italian-American Women Writers	3
PHIL 322	Philosophical Perspectives on Woman	3
PLSC 251	Women in American Politics	3
PLSC 312	Feminist Theory	3
PLSC 319	Women, Law & Public Policy	3
PLSC 355C	Women and Politics: A Cross-National Perspective	3
PLSC 399	Tunisia On-Site: Arab Spring, Democratic Change, Islam	3
PSYC 235	Psychology of Human Sexuality	3
PSYC 238	Gender & Sex Differences & Similarities	3
PSYC 239	Understanding Bias and Inclusivity	3

PSYC 340	Psychology of Women	3
PSYC 360	Understanding Prejudice	3
SOCL 123	Mass Media and Popular Culture	3
SOCL 171	Sociology of Sex and Gender	3
SOCL 210	Gender and Work	3
SOCL 239	Understanding Bias and Inclusivity	3
SOCL 240	Families	3
SOCL 250	Inequality in Society	3
SOCL 262	Movements for Social Justice: 60s & Beyond	3
SOCL 266	Development and Social Change in Modern China	3
SPAN 361	Hispanic Women Writers	3
THEO 278	Religion & Gender	3
THEO 365	Women, Gender and Embodiment in Islam	3

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

Course	Title	Hours
Year One		
Fall		
WSGS 101	Introduction to WSGS from a Global Perspective	3
Hours		3
Spring		
Elective		3
Hours		3
Year Two		
Fall		
WSGS 201	Contemporary Issues in WSGS	3
Hours		3
Spring		
Elective		3
Elective		3
Hours		6
Year Three		
Fall		
WSGS 330	History of Feminist Thought and Social Action	3
PLSC 312	Feminist Theory	3
or ENGL 307	or Topics in Feminist and Gender Studies	
or WSGS 380	or Queer Theory: Beyond the Binary	
Hours		6
Spring		
WSGS 398	Women's Studies Internship	3
Elective		3
Hours		6
Year Four		
Fall		
WSGS 391	WSGS Methodologies	3

Elective		3
Hours		6
Spring		
WSGS 399	WSGS Capstone	3
Hours		3
Total Hours		36

Interdisciplinary Options

For students interested in English

Code	Title	Hours
WSGS 201	Contemporary Issues in WSGS	3
ENGL 283	Women in Literature	3
ENGL 306	Studies in Women Writers	3
ENGL 307	Topics in Feminist and Gender Studies	3
FNAR 207	Women, Art, and Society	3

For students interested in Political Science

Code	Title	Hours
WSGS 201	Contemporary Issues in WSGS	3
PLSC 355C	Women and Politics: A Cross-National Perspective	3
PLSC 312	Feminist Theory	3
PLSC 319	Women, Law & Public Policy	3
PHIL 327	Topics in Political Philosophy	3

For students interested in Psychology

Code	Title	Hours
WSGS 201	Contemporary Issues in WSGS	3
PSYC 235	Psychology of Human Sexuality	3
PSYC 238	Gender & Sex Differences & Similarities	3
PSYC 340	Psychology of Women	3
SOCL 250	Inequality in Society	3

For students interested in Sociology

Code	Title	Hours
WSGS 201	Contemporary Issues in WSGS	3
SOCL 123	Mass Media and Popular Culture	3
SOCL 210	Gender and Work	3
SOCL 240	Families	3
SOCL 276	The Sociology and Politics of Food	3

For students interested in Theology

Code	Title	Hours
WSGS 201	Contemporary Issues in WSGS	3
THEO 278	Religion & Gender	3
THEO 192	Topics in Moral Problems	3
THEO 365	Women, Gender and Embodiment in Islam	3
ENGL 283	Women in Literature	3

College of Arts and Sciences Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take two Writing Intensive courses (6 credit hours) as well as complete a foreign language requirement at 102-level or higher (3 credit

hours) or a language competency test. More information can be found here (<https://www.luc.edu/cas/college-requirements/>).

Additional Undergraduate Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students are required to complete the University Core, at least one Engaged Learning course, and UNIV 101. SPCS students are not required to take UNIV 101. Nursing students in the Accelerated BSN program are not required to take core or UNIV 101. You can find more information in the University Requirements (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/university-requirements/>) area.

Learning Outcomes

Upon graduating, undergraduate Women's Studies and Gender Studies students will be able to:

- Identify major influences within key historic feminist movements. These influences may include activists, authors and/or writings, or legislation.
- Articulate how women's studies and gender studies is a distinct field connected to other interdisciplinary fields of study.
- Evaluate, compare, and critique gender and feminist theories and methodologies.
- Identify the interactions and intersections of identities (e.g., gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and so on) and assess the ways in which they contribute to instances of privilege and power dynamics across cultures, space, and time.
- Recognize their relationship within their communities and understand that actions (or inactions) are integral to overcoming inequalities.
- Connect theory with practice through a service learning or internship experience.
- Identify and employ legitimate sources of information covering social inequalities and injustices.
- Read current social inequities effectively and suggest solutions based on feminist methodologies.
- Prepare for graduate study and for work in professional fields.