The Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program (GSWS) offers a unique and wide-ranging way of studying and engaging with the world. The Program studies concepts such as sex, gender, and sexuality; identities such as female, male, gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, and queer; the intersections of these identities with race, class, (dis)ability and other kinds of differences among people; and academic subjects including women's history and literature, the sociology of the family, race and gender in urban space, queer theory, sex and politics, and biological approaches to sex and gender. GSWS is both an academic discipline and a meeting place for students and faculty in every discipline who want to explore these critically important issues. The Program is scholarly, and it is fully engaged with the world in which we live.

MAJORS

GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES MAJOR

Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies B.A.

MINORS

GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES MINORS

Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

Sexuality and Gender Identity Studies

Courses

GSWS 001. D2: Gender Sexuality Wmn’s Stdy. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the field of gender, sexuality, and women’s studies. Topics include key theoretical approaches to conceptualizing gender, sexuality, and power; how gender and sexuality are policed; and the relationship between gender, sexuality, and other social categories.

GSWS 035. History of Costume. 3 Credits.
Overview of period costume and its adaptation for the stage. Cross-listed with: THE 041.

GSWS 041. D1: Afr American Women Writers. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the role of literature, autobiography, memoir, and hip-hop in the construction of identity for a selection of African American women writers.

GSWS 042. Women in Literature. 3 Credits.
Survey of women’s literary tradition in English. Focuses on the ways women have written, read, written about, and been represented in 19th and 20th century literature. Cross-listed with: ENGS 042.

GSWS 095. Introductory Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

GSWS 096. Introductory Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

GSWS 100. D2: Gender and Feminism(s). 3 Credits.
This course explores the politics and history of feminist movements and theories, as well as the ways in which gender has shaped public policies. The emphasis will be primarily, although not exclusively, on gender and feminism(s) in the United States. Prerequisite: GSWS 001.

GSWS 105. D2: LGBT Politics and History. 3 Credits.
Explores the history, strategies, conflicts, and issues surrounding the various movements advancing the claims of LGBT rights, as well as the roles LGBTQ people play as participants in American politics and culture. Prerequisite: POLS 021, GSWS 001, or Instructor permission. Cross-listed with: POLS 119.

GSWS 112. Studies in Gender & Religion. 3 Credits.
Selected topics focusing on the social and religious construction of gender and the shape of women’s religious lives. Religious traditions studied vary by semester. May be repeated up to six hours. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Cross-listed with: REL 173.

GSWS 113. D2: Women & Religion in Africa. 3 Credits.
This course examines the relationships between women and religious institutions, practices, and communities in a variety of settings in sub-Saharan Africa. Prerequisite: Three hours in Religion. Cross-listed with: REL 163.

GSWS 114. Women in Christianity to 1500. 3 Credits.
Women’s roles in early and medieval Christianity, including women’s religious orders, religious identities, mystical writings, devotional practices, and their relationships to structures of ecclesiastical authority. Prerequisite: Three hours of Religion. Cross-listed with: REL 125.

GSWS 120. Feminism: Theories and Issues. 3 Credits.
Theories of libertarianism, liberalism, and egalitarianism; application to the analysis and evaluation of social issues of contemporary interest, such as abortion and affirmative action. Prerequisite: One course in Philosophy. Cross-listed with: PHIL 170.

GSWS 130. History of Women in US. 3 Credits.
Survey of the origins and changes in images, status, and roles of women in American society since the colonial period. Prerequisites: HST 011 or HST 012, or three hours in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. Cross-listed with: HST 182.

GSWS 131. D2: Sex in Modern History. 3 Credits.
Explores the history of sexuality in Europe and North America since 1700, focusing on medical and scientific theories as well as sexual cultures and practices. Prerequisites: Three hours of History or Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies. Cross-listed with: HST 160.
GSWS 141. D1: Afr Amer Women’s Writing. 3 Credits.
Examination of African American women’s fiction, not only for its literary achievements, but also for the way it has addressed, accommodated, and eluded implicit demands that it represent black male and female lives in specific ways. Prerequisite: Three hours in English courses numbered ENGS 005 - ENGS 096; Sophomore standing.

GSWS 142. 19th Century Women’s Writing. 3 Credits.
Various genres by 19th-century women. Topics: The Petticoat Empire; Women’s Regionalist Fiction; 19th-century British and American Women’s Writing. May repeat for credit with different titles. Prerequisite: Three hours in English or Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. Cross-listed with: ENGS 158.

GSWS 145. Scandinavia: Gender & Equality. 3 Credits.
This course examines the history of women’s rights in the Scandinavian countries, Scandinavian feminist literature, and the cultural and political mindset of Scandinavia. Prerequisite: GSWS 001.

GSWS 150. D2: Women and Gender in Society. 3 Credits.
Examination of the construction of gender in women’s lives with an emphasis on the relationship between gender, race, sexuality and class in contemporary society. Prerequisites: Three hours of Sociology or GSWS 001. Cross-listed with: SOC 122.

GSWS 155. The Politics of Sex. 3 Credits.
The evolution of sexual politics within the United States. Includes examinations of shifting debates over marriage, reproduction, abortion, LGBT rights, sex education, and teen sexuality. Prerequisites: POLS 021 or GSWS 001. Cross-listed with: POLS 120.

GSWS 165. D2: Gender, Sex, and Culture. 3 Credits.
Cross-cultural study of gender, sex, and sexuality, including exploring the cultural construction of categories and cultural practices related to gender, sex, and sexuality. Prerequisite: ANTH 021. Cross-listed with: ANTH 172.

GSWS 170. Gender, Space & Environment. 3 Credits.
Examination of the ways in which human relationships to both the built and the natural environment are mediated by gender. Prerequisite: Six hours in Geography or Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. Cross-listed with: GEOG 178.

GSWS 179. D2: Ecofeminism. 3 Credits.
Investigation of the parallel dominations of women and nature, through analysis and reflection on ecofeminist theory, activism, and spirituality. Prerequisites: ENVS 001, ENVS 002, or GSWS 001; Sophomore standing. Cross-listed with: ENVS 179.

GSWS 185. Economics of Gender. 3 Credits.
Examines how gender differences produce different economic outcomes for women and men in work, leisure, earnings, poverty. Explores effectiveness of policies to overcome gender gaps, Prerequisites: EC 011, EC 012. Cross-listed with: EC 156.

GSWS 191. Internship. 3-6 Credits.
Approved programs of learning outside the classroom. Students work at local women’s agencies, in consultation with faculty sponsors. Prerequisite: A contract must be obtained from and returned to the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program office during registration; permission of Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.

GSWS 192. Internship. 3-6 Credits.
Approved programs of learning outside the classroom. Students work at local women’s agencies, in consultation with faculty sponsors. Prerequisite: A contract must be obtained from and returned to the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program office during registration; permission of Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.

GSWS 195. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

GSWS 196. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

GSWS 200. GSWS Senior Seminar. 3 Credits.
An interdisciplinary examination of women’s position in culture and society. Special emphasis on the relationship between gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. Prerequisites: GSWS 001, six additional hours in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, and admission to the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s major or minor program.

GSWS 250. Sociology of Reproduction. 3 Credits.
Examines reproduction of cultural values in relation to social conduct of reproduction of human life (childbearing) under advanced capitalism. Prerequisite: Six hours of Sociology to include one of SOC 029, SOC 122, or SOC 129. Cross-listed with: SOC 223.

GSWS 258. Gender and Law. 3 Credits.
Examination of the interaction between gender and law in American society. Topics covered include workplace law, family law, and personal autonomy. Prerequisites: POLS 021, three hours at the 100-level. Cross-listed with: POLS 235.

GSWS 260. Psychology of Gender. 3 Credits.
Examines psychological theories, methods, and research about gender. Explores social, situational, individual, and biological explanations of gender similarities and differences and their development. Prerequisite: One Psychology course at the 100-level or above. Cross-listed with: PSYC 264.

GSWS 295. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

GSWS 296. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

GSWS 297. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Selection and development of topic for investigation using assigned faculty member as preceptor. Prerequisites: GSWS 001; permission of Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.
GSWS 298. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Selection and development of topic for investigation using assigned faculty member as perceptor. Prerequisites: GSWS 001; approval of Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.