

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.

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| 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 |

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| 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 128B | | |
| 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 | |
| or CHI 150V | 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 | |

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| 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.