

## Course Aims and Outcomes:

**Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies:** This course explores how systems of meaning relating to sex and gender also relate to other systems of allocating power, including socioeconomic class, social status, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, and nationality. Using this lens, this course explores contemporary social developments and problems.

- **Aim:** To introduce students to basic concepts of race, sex, and class, and the *intersectionality* of those concepts.
- **Outcome:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the variety of fields, approaches, and concepts that are Gender Studies.

**Identity & Rhetoric:** As part of the GWST Major, Identity and Rhetoric addresses aspects of culture that relate to one's own realm of experience, and examines how the language in which identities are expressed shapes the constructs of gender, race, ethnicity, orientation, and socio-economic status. Identity is explored as a politicized position in which gender plays a prominent role and which is experienced through varieties of communication.

- **Aim:** To develop an understanding of how gender impacts and constructs social and personal identities, and how that understanding manifests across disciplines.
- **Outcome:** Students will articulate the complexities of gender identity and how it informs the individual human experience.

**History:** The courses included under this heading provide students with a diachronic context for understanding the position of women as well as an understanding of gender in the present. These courses also involve a self-reflexive element as they trace the emergence of the field of Women and Gender Studies.

- **Aim:** To introduce the students to the field of study and its evolution, and to demonstrate how societies in the past have understood and organized gender roles/definitions.
- **Outcome:** Students will be conversant with the functions of gender functions in diverse societies at different times. Students will demonstrate increased sense of the disciplinary field.

**Theory:** In the past thirty years, first Women's Studies, then Queer Studies and more recently Gender Studies have developed powerful bodies of theories to enable meaningful investigation into the nature of sexualities and gender, their relationships with each other, and with other factors determining human consciousness and life style. Many of these theories contradict each other, for instance essentialisms versus notions of complete social construction, and any course will introduce students to a wide and challenging variety of ideas and to the evolving nature of the field.

- **Aim:** To familiarize students with the complex and intriguing theories of sexuality and gender.
- **Outcome:** Students will integrate empirical observations and theoretical constructions in their course work.

**Intersectionality:** At base, the intersectionality paradigm holds that individuals' social, economic, and political position is influenced by the confluence of gender, race/ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, and (dis)ability. These are only a few areas in which subject position and social forces interact. These intersections help explain, for example, how social inequalities are reproduced within the context of the family, the workplace, and the political arena as well as in global perspective.

- **Aim:** An understanding of how issues of gender, social class position, race, ethnicity, religious belief, and sexual orientation intersect and overlap to produce both privilege and under-privilege.
- **Outcome:** Students will communicate the ways in which how issues of social position, ethnic affiliation, religious belief, and sexual orientation intersect and overlap.

**Institutions & Power:** Courses in this section examine the ways in which institutions construct gender and enforce these constructs, via such institutions as instance the legal system, education, the family, church, and health systems all have particular (and shared) concepts of gender which people adapt to, or occasionally seek to subvert. Courses in this area would typically study women and law, the family and health, church and patriarchy.

- **Aim:** To develop an understanding of the ways in which gender constructions and social and political power intersect.
- **Outcome:** Students will describe how social and political power intersects with gender constructions.

**Issues in GWST (3 courses; 12 credits):** The GWST program runs several variable-topics courses a year. There are also a number of cross-listed GWST courses that emanate from departments in AHSS and that provide varied and scholarly investigations into gender from a number of disciplinary lenses.

- **Aim:** to deepen and broaden the students' understanding of the wide range of ways in which we see gender definitions and relations played out in our own society and globally.
- **Outcome:** Students will understand and communicate awareness of the complexities of gender and sexuality in varying and different fields.

**Colloquia Classes:** These classes are variable-topic classes which meet once a week and enable students to learn and interact with each other and the instructor in a more informal, intimate manner than in the four-credit classes. Because these are two-credit classes, the topics are, and should be, more specific and more focused than in other courses.

- **Aim:** To promote the focused study of a particular topic.
- **Outcome:** Students have an enriched sense of how gender works through a more focused micro course of study to be demonstrated by the sophistication of their coursework.

**Capstone Course:** In their senior year, students will complete an independent project guided by the GWST Director. The capstone will be an opportunity to integrate methods of study and a variety of knowledge. The capstone course may include the instructor's overview of the fields of Gender Studies and Women's Studies; individual projects that allow the students to articulate their main individual interests in relationship to the larger field will be especially important. These projects may include service learning or reflection on volunteer or paid internships related to gender or women's issues, or may focus on the student's own academic research or creativity in the Arts or technology. In seminar meetings, the students will learn from, critique, and advance one another's work.

- **Aim:** To review and consolidate methods of study and streams of knowledge in the larger fields of Gender and Women's Studies and to debate and contest these methods and streams of knowledge as preparation for lifelong learning and activism.

**Outcome:** Students will demonstrate a consolidation of their knowledge of gender and women and the changing perspectives of scholarship on these activities. This will be achieved and assessed with a project advancing her or his knowledge of issues regarding gender and sexuality. The issues may be primarily academic or more directed towards activism and advocacy.