

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, MINOR

Women's and Gender Studies is a discipline that critically examines gender and women's issues from an interdisciplinary perspective and challenges many traditional assumptions and theories. It examines the practice and expression of gender in different societies and at different historical moments.

Regardless of your gender, Women's and Gender Studies is crucial and relevant for anyone interested in working in criminal justice, social work, the non-profit sector, the arts, politics, business, and more. Students learn to look at the world and history through different perspectives and think about how gender and our perceptions of it impact culture, society, and daily interactions. It is a traditional liberal arts discipline where the knowledge and skills developed in the program can be applied to all types of career paths. Work experiences during college through internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer positions often shape career paths after graduation.

In 1974, the Office of Women's Studies opened its doors at UWM, becoming the first university in Wisconsin to establish a Women's Studies program. Today, undergraduate students at UWM can pursue a Women's and Gender Studies major or minor, and graduate students can choose from among three different Women's and Gender Studies MA options or a certificate to complement a different graduate degree program. Undergraduates benefit from the MA program's strength by working with and learning from graduate students and taking classes with the same exceptional faculty.

Students in Women's and Gender Studies master critical thinking, problem analysis, and communication through both classroom studies and service learning opportunities.

Students who are interested in the minor should consult with Women's and Gender Studies to make a formal declaration. For additional information, please contact Women's and Gender Studies, located in CRT 535, by phone at (414) 229-5918, or on the web (<https://uwm.edu/womens-gender-studies/>).

Requirements

Students who minor in Women's and Gender Studies are required to take 18 credits drawn from Women's and Gender Studies and cross-listed courses, at least 9 credits of which must be completed in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in residence at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA in all minor courses attempted, including any transfer work. The following courses are required for the minor:

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
Select one from these two: ¹		
WGS 200	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: A Social Science Perspective	3
WGS 201	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: A Humanities Perspective	3
WGS 401	Global Feminisms	3
WGS 410	Feminist Theory	3
Electives		

Select 9 credits (see below)	9
Total Credits	18

¹ Students may not receive credit for both WGS 200 and WGS 201. Only one of these courses can be taken for credit.

Electives

Students must take an additional 9 credits of elective courses to reach a total of 18 credits. Approved electives include WGS courses and courses offered by other programs and departments; see the list below.

Numerous courses in a wide variety of disciplines have been approved as electives for the WGS major. For information about whether a special topics course in another program might be approved as an elective for WGS, please contact Women's and Gender Studies.

Code	Title	Credits
WGS 150	Multicultural America	3
WGS 192	First-Year Seminar:	3
WGS 199	Independent Study	1-3
WGS 297	Study Abroad:	1-12
WGS 301	Queer Theory	3
WGS 302	Gendered Bodies:	3
WGS 303	Feminist Activism and Movements:	3
WGS 380	Honors Seminar in the Social Sciences:	3
WGS 381	Honors Seminar in the Humanities:	3
WGS 402	Capstone Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies:	3
WGS 411	Women's and Gender Studies Research Methods:	3
WGS 489	Internship in Women's and Gender Studies	1-3
WGS 497	Study Abroad:	1-12
WGS 500	Advanced Social Science Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies:	3
WGS 501	Advanced Humanities Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies:	3
WGS 699	Independent Reading	1-3
AFRIC 250	Black Women and White Women in the Contemporary United States	3
AFRIC 344	Global Black Social Movements	3
AFRIC 350	The Black Family	3
AFRIC 351	Sexuality, Gender, and Health in Africa and the Diaspora	3
AFRIC 352	Extended Families in Black Societies	3
AFRIC 414	The Black Woman in America, Africa, and the Caribbean	3
AFRIC 417	Race, Class and Gender in Southern Africa	3
AFRIC 418	Race, Class, and Gender in Latin America and the Caribbean	3
ANTHRO 250	Women's Roles in Cross-Cultural Perspective	3
BIO SCI 206	Biology of Women	3
BUS ADM 441	Diversity in Organizations	3

COMMUN 401	Communication in Marital and Family Relationships	3	POL SCI 464	Sex, Gender, and the Law	3
COMMUN 402	Gender and Communication	3	PSYCH 319	LGBTIQ Psychology	3
COMMUN 474	Rhetoric of Women's Rights in the US	3	PSYCH 320	Psychology of Gender	3
CRM JST 385	Women and Criminal Justice	3	SOCIOL 250	Sex and Gender	3
CRM JST 416	Domestic Violence Research	3	SOCIOL 255	Sociology of Sexuality	3
ECON 248	Economics of Discrimination	3	SOCIOL 260	Blood, Sex, Money, Power: Families and Intimate Relationships	3
ED POL 624	Gender and Education	3	SOCIOL 442	The Work-Family Intersection	3
ENGLISH 243	Introduction to Literature by Women:	3	SOCIOL 444	Sociology of the Body	3
ENGLISH 295	Women and Film	3	SOC WRK 630	Families and Poverty	2-3
ENGLISH/FILMSTD 395	Feminist Media Criticism and Theory:	3			
ENGLISH 465	Women Writers:	3			
ENGLISH 628	Seminar in Literature by Women:	3			
ENGLISH 629	Seminar in Literature and Sexuality:	3			
ETHNIC 255	Migration and Gender: Starbucks, Sex Trafficking, and Nannies	3			
ETHNIC 275	Queer Migrations	3			
ETHNIC 325	Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in Milwaukee:	3			
FILMSTD 669	Screening Sexuality:	3			
GEOG 410	Gendered Geographies	3			
HIST 141	Global History of the Family, Gender, and Sexuality	3			
HIST 241	Women and Gender in Europe: 1350 to 1750	3			
HIST 242	Women and Gender in Europe: 1750 to the Present	3			
HIST 243	History of Women in American Society	3			
HIST 271	The 1960s in the United States: A Cultural History (WGS voted to approve cross-listing this course in spring 2023.)	3			
HIST 355	Modern and Contemporary France	3			
HIST 373	Topics in Gender and History:	3			
HIST 468	The American Feminist Movement	3			
JAMS 111	Gender and the Media	3			
JEWISH 332	Women in the Bible	3			
LGBT 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	3			
LGBT 275	Queer Migrations	3			
LGBT 290	Topics in LGBT Studies:	3			
LGBT 599	Selected Topics in LGBT Studies:	3			
LINGUIS 212	Language and Gender	3			
MUSIC 449	Women in Music:	3			
NURS 204	Global Maternal and Child Health: From Evidence to Action	3			
NURS 327	Nursing Science III: Health Concepts-Women & Children	4			
NURS 620	Global Food Security and Systems	3			
PHILOS 235	Philosophical Aspects of Feminism	3			
POL SCI 110	Sex and Power	3			
POL SCI 368	Gender and Politics in Developing Nations	3			
POL SCI 425	Women in Politics	3			

Letters & Science Minor Advising

Advising for the minor takes place within the department by a faculty member or staff member. Follow the steps using the "Declare a Minor" button on the department's website which may include instructions on how to select a faculty advisor if there is more than one to choose from.

Students who already have an L&S college advisor because their degree plan is in L&S can discuss the minor with them as well since they will be familiar with any minor in L&S. Students who are working on a degree from a UWM college other than the College of Letters & Science will not need an L&S college advisor for just a minor and one will not be assigned. These students should work with the faculty or staff advisor they receive as part of the minor declaration process or contact the department directly for assistance.

Applicants who have not started classes at UWM yet who wish to declare a minor should wait until they are registered for their first UWM classes and then can declare the minor using the "Declare a Minor" button on the program's website. If you have questions about the minor before then, contact let-sci@uwm.edu.