



Gender and Women's Studies

Bettina Spencer, Department Chair
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FACULTY

B. Spencer, J. Wagman

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Saint Mary's College department in Gender and Women's Studies encourages students to examine and analyze women's lives and constructions and performativities of genders. The program applies an inclusive and interdisciplinary approach to the study of women, gender identities, and sexualities. It is guided by feminist activism and feminist theoretical insight into different forms of power, inequality, and privilege. Students investigate the intersectionalities of gender, race, class, sexualities, and other identity categories from historical and contemporary transnational perspectives. The Gender and Women's Studies department embodies a commitment to women in all their diversities and reflects our conviction that women must actively define themselves and create knowledge.

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GOALS

Knowledge—students will recognize and explain:

- The history of feminist movements and women's contributions to knowledge and achievement.
- The intersectionalities of gender, race, class, sexualities, and other identity categories from historical and contemporary transnational perspectives.
- Feminist terminology, and theoretical concepts
- About the social constructions and performativities of genders, sexualities, and race.

Skills—students will:

- Evaluate sources or cultural representations, analyze discourse, and consider context from a feminist perspective.
- Use feminist methodologies to conduct research about women, gender identities, and sexualities.
- Apply a feminist analysis in more than one discipline.

Agency—students will:

- Recognize the necessity of informed feminist advocacy for transformative change.
- Discern when and how to act as an ally on issues regarding women, gender identities, and sexualities.
- Work to resist oppression with regard to issues of gender, race, class, sexuality, ability, and ethnicity.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students who major or minor enroll both in courses housed in the Gender and Women's Studies department and in courses offered in other disciplines. A major or minor supports career choices in human services, activism and advocacy, education, law and public policy, business, and other fields calling for social and historical awareness, critical thinking, and engagement with social and cultural diversity.

Faculty who teach in Gender and Women's Studies represent departments throughout the College. They share a commitment to helping students in our women's college develop the skills to interpret and to analyze systems of oppression and ultimately, to work toward a more just society.

ADVANCED WRITING PROFICIENCY

Each student who completes this requirement in Gender and Women's Studies will write a senior research paper in GWS 497: Independent Study: Capstone, taken in the fall of the senior year. The paper will be a continuation of the research they began in GWS 360: Doing Feminism: Issues in Research and Practice, taken in the spring of the junior year.

SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE

Students who choose to complete their Senior Comprehensive requirement in Gender and Women's Studies will give an oral presentation of their senior research paper to Gender and Women's Studies faculty and students. The presentation will take place in the spring of the senior year.

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Gender and Women's Studies— GWS (25–28 hours)

NOTE: No more than one course in any department, with the exception of GWS.

The following:

GWS 207	Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies	3 hours
GWS 350	Feminist Theory	3 hours
GWS 360	Doing Feminism: Issues in Research and Practice	3 hours
GWS 497	Independent Study: Capstone	1 hour

One of the following:

The Gendered Body

ART 366	Designing Art and Art Games	3 hours
ART 371	Topics in Art History and Criticism (approved topics)	3 hours
COMM 302	History and Criticism of Public Address	3 hours
COMM 418	Seminar on Women, Leadership, and Communication	3 hours
COMM 420	Female Beauty	3 hours
COMM 422	Masculinities in the US Media	3 hours
ENLT 217	Contemporary Women's Fiction	3 hours
ENLT 255	Women of Genius: American Literature in the Suffragette Era	3 hours
ENLT 332	Romantic Era Feminism	3 hours
GWS 220	Introduction to LGBTQ Studies	3 hours
HUST 197	Myth, Legend and History	3 hours
HIST 410	Studies in Women's History (selected topics)	3 hours
MLSP 412	Golden Age Spanish Literature	3 hours
MLSP 424	Contemporary Spanish Women Writers	3 hours
MLSP 429	Latin American Women Writers	3 hours
PSYC 402	Psychology of Women	3 hours
RLST 362	Becoming Women	3 hours
SOC 220	Introduction to LGBTQ Studies	3 hours
SOC 222	Contested Masculinities	3 hours
SOC 365	Social Construction of Gender	3 hours
SW 370	Family Violence and Sexual Abuse Issues	3 hours

One of the following:

Intersectionalities of Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality

BUAD 329	Gender and Race Issues in Management	3 hours
COMM 200	Interpersonal Communication	3 hours
COMM 369	Public Communication	3 hours
ENLT 350	Studies in American Literature (approved topics)	3 hours
ENLT 366	Postcolonial Women's Writing	3 hours
ENLT 387	Gender and Sexuality in Literature	3 hours
GWS 240	Gender and Environmental Justice	3 hours
HIST 324	History of Women in the U.S.	3 hours
HIST 341	African-American History	3 hours
HUST 205	History of Famous Women	3 hours
JUST 301	The Quest for Human Rights	3 hours
PHIL 233	Philosophy of Gender	3 hours
PHIL 243	Introduction to Feminist Philosophy	3 hours
POSC 301	The Quest for Human Rights	3 hours
PSYC 401	Psychology of Adult Development and Aging	3 hours
PSYC 437	Psychology of Violence	3 hours
PSYC 438	Stereotyping and Prejudice	3 hours
RLST 314	Hebrew Bible Prophets	3 hours
SOC 257	Sociology of Families	3 hours
SOC 330	Gender and Law	3 hours
SOC 360	Social Stratification: Class, Gender, Race	3 hours
SW 341	Sexuality Intimacy and Relationship	3 hours
THTR 378	Contemporary Women's Drama	3 hours

One of the following:

Transnational Perspectives on Gender

ANTH 346	Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective	3 hours
ANTH 392	Topics in Cultural Anthropology (approved topics)	3 hours
ENLT 206	Studies in Literature (approved topics)	3 hours
GWS 275	Global Women's Leadership	3 hours
GWS 333	Transnational Feminisms	3 hours
HIST 370	Modern European Women	3 hours
HIST 375	Women from the Global South	3 hours
HIST 383	Women in Africa and the Middle East	3 hours
HIST 410	Studies in Women's History (selected topics)	3 hours
POSC 333	Transnational Feminisms	3 hours
POSC 365	Gender & Politics	3 hours
PSYC 287	Immersive Intercultural Psychology	3 hours

Three of the following (7–9 hours):

ANTH 346	Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective	3 hours
ANTH 392	Topics in Cultural Anthropology (approved topics)	3 hours
ART 366	Cyberfeminism and New Media Practices	3 hours
ART 371	Topics in Art History and Criticism (approved topics)	3 hours
BUAD 329	Gender and Race Issues in Management	3 hours
COMM 302	History and Criticism of Public Address	3 hours
COMM 369	Public Communication	3 hours
COMM 420	Female Beauty	3 hours
COMM 422	Masculinities in the US Media	3 hours
ENLT 206	Studies in Literature (approved topics)	3 hours
ENLT 332	Romantic Era Feminism	3 hours
ENLT 350	Studies in American Literature (approved topics)	3 hours
ENLT 366	Postcolonial Women's Writing	3 hours

ENLT 374	Studies in World Literature in Translation (approved topics)	3 hours
ENLT 387	Gender and Sexuality in Literature	3 hours
GWS 220	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies	3 hours
GWS 240	Gender and Environmental Justice	3 hours
GWS 275	Global Women's Leadership	3 hours
GWS 290	Special Topics	1–3 hours
or GWS 390	Special Topics	1–3 hours
or GWS 497	Independent Study	1–3 hours
or GWS 499	Internship	1–3 hours
GWS 333	Transnational Feminisms	3 hours
HIST 324	History of Women in the U.S.	3 hours
HIST 341	African-American History	3 hours
HIST 370	Modern European Women	3 hours
HIST 375	Women from the Global South	3 hours
HIST 383	Women in Africa and the Middle East	3 hours
HIST 410	Studies in Women's History (selected topics)	3 hours
HUST 205	History of Famous Women	3 hours
JUST 301	The Quest for Human Rights	3 hours
MLSP 412	Golden Age Spanish Literature	3 hours
MLSP 424	Contemporary Spanish Women Writers	3 hours
MLSP 429	Latin American Women Writers	3 hours
PHIL 233	Philosophy of Gender	3 hours
PHIL 243	Introduction to Feminist Philosophy	3 hours
POSC 301	The Quest for Human Rights	3 hours
POSC 333	Transnational Feminisms	3 hours
POSC 365	Gender & Politics	3 hours
PSYC 401	Psychology of Adult Development and Aging	3 hours
PSYC 402	Psychology of Women	3 hours
PSYC 437	Psychology of Violence	3 hours
PSYC 438	Stereotyping and Prejudice	3 hours
RLST 314	Hebrew Bible Prophets	3 hours
RLST 362	Becoming Women	3 hours
SOC 220	Introduction to LGBTQ Studies	3 hours
SOC 222	Contested Masculinities	3 hours
SOC 257	Sociology of Families	3 hours
SOC 360	Social Stratification: Class, Gender, Race	3 hours
SOC 365	Social Construction of Gender	3 hours
SW 341	Sexuality Intimacy and Relationship	3 hours
THTR 378	Contemporary Women's Drama	3 hours

Minor in Gender and Women's Studies—GWS (14 hours)

NOTE: No more than one course in any department, with the exception of GWS.

All of the following:

GWS 207	Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies	3 hours
GWS 350	Feminist Theory	3 hours

One of the following:

<i>The Gendered Body</i>		
ART 366	Designing Art and Art Games	3 hours
ART 371	Topics in Art History and Criticism (approved topics)	3 hours
COMM 302	History and Criticism of Public Address	3 hours
COMM 418	Seminar on Women, Leadership, and Communication	3 hours
COMM 420	Female Beauty	3 hours
COMM 422	Masculinities in the US Media	3 hours
ENLT 217	Contemporary Women's Literature	3 hours
ENLT 255	Women of Genius: American Literature in the Suffragette Era	3 hours
ENLT 332	Romantic Era Feminism	3 hours
GWS 220	Introduction to LGBTQ Studies	3 hours
GWS 290*	Special Topics	1–3 hours
or GWS 390*	Special Topics	1–3 hours
or GWS 497*	Independent Study	1–3 hours
or GWS 499*	Internship	1–3 hours
GWS 360	Doing Feminism: Issues in Research and Practice	3 hours
HIST 410	Studies in Women's History	3 hours
HUST 197	Myth, Legend and History	3 hours
MLSP 412	Golden Age Spanish Literature	3 hours
MLSP 424	Contemporary Spanish Women Writers	3 hours
MLSP 429	Latin American Women Writers	3 hours
PSYC 402	Psychology of Women	3 hours
RLST 362	Becoming Women	3 hours
SOC 220	Introduction to LGBTQ Studies	3 hours
SOC 222	Contested Masculinities	3 hours
SOC 365	Social Construction of Gender	3 hours
SW 370	Family Violence and Sexual Abuse Issues	3 hours

One of the following:

<i>Intersectionalities of Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality</i>		
BUAD 329	Gender and Race Issues in Management	3 hours
COMM 200	Interpersonal Communication	3 hours
COMM 369	Public Communication	3 hours
ENLT 350	Studies in American Literature (approved topics)	3 hours
ENLT 366	Postcolonial Women's Writing	3 hours
ENLT 387	Gender and Sexuality in Literature	3 hours
GWS 240	Gender and Environmental Justice	3 hours
GWS 290*	Special Topics	1–3 hours
or GWS 390*	Special Topics	1–3 hours
or GWS 497*	Independent Study	1–3 hours
or GWS 499*	Internship	1–3 hours
GWS 360	Doing Feminism: Issues in Research and Practice	3 hours
HIST 324	History of Women in the U.S.	3 hours
HIST 341	African-American History	3 hours
HUST 205	History of Famous Women	3 hours
JUST 301	The Quest for Human Rights	3 hours
PHIL 233	Philosophy of Gender	3 hours
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RLST 314	Hebrew Bible Prophets	3 hours
SOC 257	Sociology of Families	3 hours
SOC 330	Gender and Law	3 hours
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SW 341	Sexuality Intimacy and Relationship	3 hours
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One of the following:

Transnational Perspectives on Gender

ANTH 346	Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective	3 hours
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ENLT 206	Studies in Literature (approved topics)	3 hours
GWS 275	Global Women's Leadership	3 hours
GWS 290*	Special Topics	1–3 hours
or GWS 390*	Special Topics	1–3 hours
or GWS 497*	Independent Study	1–3 hours
GWS 333	Transnational Feminisms	3 hours
GWS 360	Doing Feminism: Issues in Research and Practice	3 hours
HIST 370	Modern European Women	3 hours
HIST 375	Women from the Global South	3 hours
HIST 383	Women in Africa and the Middle East	3 hours
HIST 410	Studies in Women's History (selected topics)	3 hours
POSC 333	Transnational Feminisms	3 hours
POSC 365	Gender & Politics	3 hours

*Students may apply no more than 3 total hours from GWS 290, 390, 497, or 499 to the GWS minor.

Topics courses in various departments and other courses may be included when appropriate. A current list of Gender and Women's Studies courses is available from the department chair.

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES (GWS)

207 Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (3)

This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the field of gender and women's studies. The course will enable students to understand how gender impacts their everyday lives, social institutions, and cultural practices both locally and globally. Additionally, students will examine the significance and meaning of one's gender identity in different historical periods, the history of feminist movements, and transnational perspectives on feminism. Students will also discuss how gender intersects with other identity categories such as socioeconomic class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, age, geography, and generational location. Lastly, students will examine and critique cultural representations and claims about women and gender identities.

220 Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies (3)

This course will provide an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) studies. The course will investigate the academic foundations of LGBTQ studies and the emergence and transformation of LGBTQ identities, cultural practices, and political movements, and the ways in which gender, race, ethnicity, and class have shaped same-sex sexuality in different historical periods, with an emphasis on the United States. Cross-listed with SOC 220.

240 Gender and Environmental Justice (3)

Environmental threats, gender inequity, and economic globalization have converged to give rise to powerful local and global environmental justice movements. The main

purpose of this course is to provide a theoretical understanding and empirical perspective on the interconnections between the natural environment and social justice. That is, environmental hazards and illnesses will be understood in relation to race, class, and gender inequalities. One of the key concerns this course will examine is how certain groups of people are differentially impacted by environmental problems. For example, recent studies have shown that more toxic waste sites are built in communities of color, lead poisoning is more common among children of color, and the most dangerous uranium mining is done on Native American lands. In terms of gender, women do most of the domestic and agricultural work in the world, integrally relating them with environmental questions of health, food safety, and water quality. With a conceptual framework in place, we will focus on examining a series of environmental problems (industrial agriculture, the water crisis, global climate change, etc.) through a gendered lens. The course will end by looking at a range of transnational and local women-led environmental movements and the analytical insights they offer to development practitioners and policy-makers.

275 Global Women's Leadership (6)

The main goal of this class is to examine global women's leadership and contemporary transnational feminism in a variety of areas, ranging from political representation to violence against women, peace and security, and other such concerns. The course is designed to help you have a clearer understanding of women's leadership in diverse cultures and contexts and help you acquire the knowledge, skills, and practices necessary to develop your own leadership capacity. The seminar is designed for students to connect readings, assignments, and discussion to their experiential learning experiences, as well as their course requirements.

290 Special Topics (1–3)

Introductory level course in topics in Gender and Women's Studies not covered in the regular department offerings. May be repeated for credit with a different topic.

333 Transnational Feminisms (3)

In this course, we will discuss feminist analyses of gender, colonialism, and economic globalization. The first part of this course will consider a variety of feminist theoretical perspectives on the gendered, classed, and racialized dynamics of colonialism and globalization. Next, we will examine the particularities of women's lives globally and their different histories and social histories. Finally, we will look at some of the feminist transnational activism and mobilization around issues of conflict, environment, capitalism, and labor. Some of the questions we will consider are: How does globalization impacted existing (gender) inequalities? How does globalization trouble the "North-South" divide? What political, social, and economic ramifications does the outsourcing of reproductive labor have? (also listed as POSC 333).

350 Feminist Theory (3)

This course teaches a broad range of feminist theoretical approaches, including black feminist thought and critical race feminism, intersectionality, standpoint theory, queer theory, and transnational feminist theory. Prerequisite: GWS 207.

360 Doing Feminism: Issues in Research and Practice (3)

This course explores how feminist scholars challenge dominant theories of knowledge and methodologies employed in the social sciences and humanities. Some issues we will discuss in the course include subjectivity, intersectionality, reflexivity, definitions of sex and gender, and the place of gender, race, class, and citizenship in feminist research. Finally, we will analyze how feminist politics shape the kinds of questions we ask, the types of methods we use, and how we engage in ethical research partnerships with our informants. Class will include lecture, group activities, guest speakers, and student presentations to assist us in exploring, understanding, and practicing feminist methods used within Gender and Women's Studies. Prerequisite: GWS 207 and 350 or permission of instructor.

376 Chinese Women and Society (3)

This course introduces the history of Chinese women and current social issues in China. Students will gain knowledge about Chinese culture, and skills to compare the development and cross-cultural issues of Chinese and American women as well as global/transnational/international feminism. Topics covered include race, gender, and class issues in China as well as concerns for social justice for women in the world. Prerequisite: GWS 207 or ICS 201 or permission of instructor.

390 Special Topics (1–3)

Upper level course in topics in Gender and Women's Studies not covered in the regular department offerings. May be repeated for credit with a different topic.

497 Independent Study (1–3)

An opportunity for students to do independent study. Content dependent on student interests and background. Approval of Gender and Women's Studies Chair required.

499 Internship (1–3)

Practical off-campus experience in a Gender and Women's Studies-related field at an approved site. Jointly supervised by a faculty member and a representative from the sponsoring agency. Open to junior or senior Gender and Women's Studies majors or minors who have taken at least two Gender and Women's Studies courses. Must be approved by the Gender and Women's Studies department chair. A reflection paper appropriate to the nature of the internship will be required. Graded S/U. May be repeated for up to three hours.

