
Women's Studies Minor

Participating Faculty

The UMass Dartmouth Women's Studies Program provides students the opportunity to study and analyze what it means to be female in contemporary society, to discover the historical factors that have shaped the current status of women from all backgrounds and countries and to explore paths to achieve equality for all people. The program's goal is to investigate how the notion of gender, the idea of difference between the sexes, has produced certain assumptions, expectations and stereotypes. Gender alone does not yield a full understanding of women's lives, so Women's Studies courses also examine other factors, such as race, class, culture, and sexuality. Students examine not only the obstacles and difficulties that affect women, but also the courage, cooperation and achievements that can guide positive responses to ongoing challenges.

Women's Studies constitutes both a subject matter and an approach to learning. Students receive close advising from the program director; a number of courses utilize a seminar format to allow the fullest possible participation by all students; and opportunities are available for both independent research and applications of classroom learning to field experiences.

Janet Freedman (program director) Education
Diane Barese Philosophy
David Berger Economics
Magali Carrera Art History
Phyllis Currier Nursing
Catherine Houser English
Toby Huff Sociology and Anthropology
Barbara R. Jacobskind English
Lewis Kamm Foreign Literature and Computer Science
Susan Krumholz Sociology and Anthropology
Gerard M. Koot History
Betty L. Mitchell History
Juli L. Parker Women's Studies
Geraldine Phipps History
Jeannette E. Riley English and Women's Studies

Women's Studies Minor

Students are encouraged to meet with the Program Director and program faculty to plan a course sequence that responds to their individual interests and goals. A student may take WMS courses at any time, although a minor cannot be formally declared until a student has earned 54 credits.

Requirements for the minor

Eighteen units of WMS credit, including at least three 300- or 400-level courses. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 and a GPA in their major of 2.5.

Multidisciplinary Studies and Humanities/Social Sciences Majors

Although there is no Women's Studies major, as such, students in the College of Arts and Sciences interested in the program may elect to design an individualized course of study through the Multidisciplinary Studies major (requirements for which are located elsewhere in this catalogue). Students wishing to build their major around Women's Studies should see the Director of the Women's Studies Program.

Humanities/Social Science majors may also develop a Women's Studies emphasis as a part of that major. Students interested should see their Humanities/Social Sciences adviser.

Distribution Credit for

Women's Studies Courses

WMS courses satisfy distribution requirements in the department in which they are cross-listed and as specified in the course description. Students can take individual courses from the Women's Studies course offerings.

Some WMS courses that are not cross-listed also satisfy social science or humanities distribution requirements; please see the Director for additional information.

As marked, many WMS courses also satisfy general elective requirements.

Note: For distribution requirements, and general education requirement, cross-listed courses follow the status they have in their offering department.

Women's Studies Courses

WMS 101 three credits **D**

Introduction to Women's Studies

Basic concepts and perspectives in Women's Studies, placing women's experience at the center of interpretation. With focus on women's history and contemporary issues, the course examines women's lives with emphasis on how gender interacts with race, class, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. The central aim is to foster critical reading and thinking about women's lives: how the interlocking systems of oppression, colonialism, racism, sexism, and ethnocentrism shape women's lives; and how women have worked to resist these oppressions.

WMS 102 (PHL 102) three credits **C, W**

Philosophical Aspects of Feminism

An introduction to philosophical reasoning, analysis of arguments and developing of critical skills, through a consideration of various topics relevant to feminism. Topics may include: presuppositions about woman's nature, abortion, sex equality, affirmative action.

WMS 103 (ECO 103) three credits **D, E, O**

Cities, Minorities, and Poverty
Review and analysis of major social problems faced by cities; emphasis on origin, causes and possible solutions for poverty and minority problems.

WMS 110 three credits

Women in Contemporary American Society

This course explores mother-daughter relationships, women and religion, changing family life, the impact of race and ethnicity on women, and other topics pertinent to women's experience in contemporary American society.

WMS 111 (ECO 111) three credits **D, E, O**

Jobs and Discrimination

Basic analysis of problems of economic growth, job creation, and unemployment; structure of work and jobs will be explored, along with current issues surrounding the government's impact on inflation, taxation, and economic planning.

WMS 200 three credits

Special Topics in Women's Studies

Topics will be determined by the faculty member and will therefore vary; course may be repeated with change of content. This course will be cross-listed with an academic department.

WMS 203 (SOC 203) three credits

Social Welfare Policy

Prerequisite: SOC 101 or 102

Theoretical framework and a cross-cultural perspective for understanding the role of the social services in our society. An exploration of the history, politics and economics of our social welfare system will be undertaken through discussion, guest speakers and field work.

WMS 204 (PSY 204) three credits **G**

Social Psychology

Prerequisite: PSY 101
The study of experimental findings, theoretical and methodological issues in understanding the individual in a social context.

WMS 207 (NUR 207) three credits

Women's Health Issues

Women's health needs throughout the life stages. The course explores the significance of women's reproductive capacity, in a physiological, psychological, and social context and provides a framework for discussion of related issues. The course presents basic health information to assist students in promoting positive personal health.

WMS 208 three credits **D, G**

Global Perspectives on Women

Prerequisite: WMS 101 recommended
Cultural, social, and political issues involved in women's movements for development and change around the world explored through history, political theory, sociology, anthropology, literature, and art.

WMS 209 (HST 207) three credits **C, D**

Women's History in the United States: Colonial to the Present

Survey of the history of women—black and white, native and immigrant, rich and poor—in the U.S. from colonial times to the present. Among the topics to be discussed are: women's role in agrarian vs. industrial society; women and the family; women in the labor movement; female friendships and organizations; the frontier experience; women's suffrage; sex and sex roles; and the birth and growth of the feminist movement.

WMS 210 (PSY 210) three credits **W, O**

Research Methods

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205
See course description in Psychology section.

WMS 212 (HST 212) three credits **C**

The Case of Lizzie Borden

3 hours lecture
Using primary source documents such as

newspapers, wills, city directories, the federal census, etc., students will study the fascinating case of Lizzie Borden of Fall River who was accused of the brutal axe murder of her father and stepmother. Students will develop their skills in historical methodology, and participation in class discussions is emphasized.

WMS 214 (ENL 214) three credits **C**

African-American Literature

Chronological survey beginning with Gustavus Vassa and Robert Hayden's "Middle Passage" and continuing through contemporary writers. Toward the end of the course there will be focus on new women writers and major writers through the 1990s.

WMS 228 (SOC 228) three credits

Sex Roles and Sexuality in American Society

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
The changing definitions of the roles of men and women in American Society from our experience and from a social, historical, and biological perspective. The course covers the development of male and female in the evolutionary system; human sexuality; cross-cultural sexual identities; images of male and female in American literature, movies and the popular imagination; socialization and the development of sexual identity; problems of courtship and intimacy. Satisfies Social Science distribution requirement.

WMS 245 (ENL 245) three credits **C**

Images of Women in Literature

Study of archetypes and stereotypes of women in literature from the ancient world to the present in an attempt to reevaluate traditional literary criticism and how authors have used images of women to create character, plot, etc.

WMS 246 (ENL 246) three credits **C**

Women Writers

Examination of the relationship between the woman writer and her work through a study of literature by and about women.

WMS 298 one to six credits

Experiential Learning

Prerequisites: At least sophomore standing; permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean
Work experience at an elective level supervised for academic credit by a faculty member in an appropriate academic field. Conditions and hours to be arranged. Graded CR/NC. For specific procedures and regulations, see selection of catalogue on

*When a Women's Studies project is elected.

Other Learning Experiences.

WMS 300 three credits

Topics in Women's Studies

Special topics in Women's Studies. The topics will be determined by the faculty member and will therefore vary.

WMS 305 three credits **D**

Contemporary Feminist Theory and Practice

The theoretical works of contemporary feminism (1945-present), covering such theorists as Simone de Beauvoir, Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Judith Butler, Luce Irigaray, and Gloria Anzaldua. Readings and discussions examine feminist theories and their applications to the lives of individual women and the practices of women's organizations and institutions.

WMS 308/JST 308 three credits

The Jewish Woman

The diversity of Jewish women's social, cultural and religious experiences through fiction, poetry, biography, history and sociology, with an emphasis on the impact of feminism on the lives of Jewish women.

WMS 310 (HST 310) three credits **C, D**

America's Working Women

This course will examine the experience of American working women: black and white, native and immigrant, organized and unorganized from the colonial period to the present day. Because work is defined as productive labor, this course will examine women as paid and unpaid workers in the marketplace as well as in the home. Some of the areas of study will be women on the frontier, women in the mills and factories, labor union women, women in the professions, and the history and politics of housework.

WMS 317 (HST 317) three credits **C**

History of European Women

A survey of women's history from the Renaissance to the present that critically examines the recent scholarship on this topic. The course will deal both with remarkable and ordinary women. Extensive use will be made of recent research on the history of the family and social demography as well as the more traditional areas of political, intellectual, and economic history. While emphasizing Western Europe, the course will include some material from the Americas and other areas.

WMS 318 (HST 318) three credits **C**

Women's Biography and

Autobiography

Examines the lives of various women in the United States, Great Britain, and elsewhere both from a literary and historical perspective. Examples of women whose lives are studied are Charlotte Bronte, Sarah and Angelina Grimke, Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

WMS 324 (SOC 324 or ANT 324)

three credits

Women in Contemporary Society

The roles and status of women in contemporary societies are examined using an historical and comparative approach. The course integrates theory of sexual inequality and its relation to other forms of social inequality and empirical analysis of the actual conditions of women. Women's participation in social movements in the U.S. and Third World countries is addressed as part of the analysis of the changing roles and statuses of women. Satisfies Social Science distribution requirement.

WMS 332 (PSC 332) three credits

Sex Roles and Politics

Prerequisites: PSC 101 or PSC 238 or WMS 100, and upper-division standing
An examination of the impact of gender as a variable in American politics. The course analyzes women in the electorate as candidates, as office holders, and as political participants, including participation in political organizations and lobbying groups.

WMS 333 three credits

Mothers and Daughters

Prerequisite: ENL 101
Mother/daughter relationships: biological mothers and daughters, adopted mothers and daughters, motherless daughters. Explorations are based on a multicultural perspective. The course examines how culture, patriarchy, and stereotypes of the family affect mother/daughter relationships. Topics include competition between mothers and daughters, the women's movement in their lives, feminist parenting, Lesbian mothers or daughters, and motherhood as an institution.

WMS 336 (SOC or ANT 336) three credits

Women and Social Policy

Family policy issues in the U.S. such as child care, family leave, job equity, and marriage and family relationships. U.S. public policy is compared with that of other countries.

WMS 339 (PSC 339) three credits **D**

Women and Public Policy

Prerequisites: PSC 101, and upper-division standing

Examines public policies and landmark Supreme Court opinions relating to gender equality and women's interests in the United States. Topics may include educational policies, employment policies, child care policies, health care policies, reproductive rights, and policies relating to women as criminals.

WMS 341 (SOC 341) three credits

Community Organization*

An analysis of the theory and practice of community organizing with particular emphasis on the development of social action and community development techniques on the grass-roots level. This course will be conducted as a seminar with student participation expected in class discussions. In addition, mini-lectures, field simulations, role-playing, guest speakers and field observations will be used. Satisfies Social Science distribution requirement.

WMS 343 three credits **D**

Teaching and Learning About Women

The implications of gender and sex-role stereotyping on the educational aspirations and experiences of learners and how these intersect with class and racial bias. Through readings from philosophy, psychology, and literature students will explore the roots of gender-based attitudes and consider if and how assigned learning attributes should be changed or utilized to advance women's success as learners.

WMS 344 (ECO 343) three credits **E, G**

The Economics of Sex and Race Discrimination

Prerequisites: ECO 231, 232; or permission of instructor
The theory of labor markets and the problem of discrimination. Current problems facing women and minorities will be examined. Existing programs and trends will be explored.

WMS 346 (ENL 346) three credits **C**

Wise Women

Prerequisite: ENL 102
Multidisciplinary perspective of the phenomena of women and aging in American society. The experiences of older women are explored through literature, oral histories, and intergenerational class projects to determine the forces that affect quality of life and productivity in later life.

WMS 347 (ENL 347) three credits **C**

Special Topics in Women's Literature

Advanced study of a specialized topic chosen by the instructor.

*When a Women's Studies project is elected.

WMS 348 (ENL 348) three credits **C, D**
American Women Playwrights

Prerequisite: ENL 102

Analysis, evaluation, comparison, and appreciation of plays by 20th-century American women playwrights and insights into their themes and the images of women which they create.

WMS 350 (SOC/ANT 350) three credits
Readings in Sociological and Anthropological Literature I*

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
Directed readings/analysis in selected topics.

WMS 355 (SOC 355) three credits
Social Work Practice*

Prerequisite: SOC 203

The knowledge, values and skills that underlie social work practice. We will consider the roles that social workers assume, the settings in which they work and the methods of intervention that are used in working with individual, groups, and communities. Issues related to cross-cultural social work will also be explored.

WMS 364 (HST 364) three credits **C, G**
Social and Cultural History of Russia

Topics pertaining to social classes, the development of serfdom, religion, and art and literature in Russia from the 9th Century to the present.

WMS 370 (ENL 370) three credits **W**
Women, Writing, and the Media

Prerequisite: ENL 260

Studying and writing about issues related to gender, gender-specific language, and the representation of women in various forms of media. The course focuses on discovering, exploring, researching, and writing about women's issues.

WMS 375 (PSY 375) three credits
Psychology of Sex Difference

Prerequisites: PSY 101, 205, 210

Development of sex differences, socialization practices, attitudes, values and role expectations which affect the self-concept and interpersonal relationships. This course is designed to stimulate discussion among men as well as women.

WMS 380 (ARH 380) three credits **C, D, W**
Feminist Perspectives on Art History

Prerequisites: ARH 101, 102, WMS 101; or permission of instructor

Analyzes the feminist critique of the history of art. This course will review recent critiques of both art and culture through an investigation of the production and

evaluation of art and the role of the artist in Western and non-Western cultures.

WMS 385 (ARH 385) three credits **C**
Women Artists and the Histories of Art

Provides knowledge and understanding of the art made by women from the Late Medieval period through Contemporary periods of art. This study will be set in the context of specific social, familial, economic, and psychological conditions of the period in which the art was made. The course will familiarize students with recent feminist critiques of visual culture.

WMS 391 (HST 391) three credits **C, G**
Topics in African History*

Prerequisites: HST 190 or HST 290 or written permission of the instructor

Advanced-level course for students with a background in African history. Topics will vary from year to year. Research papers will be required.

WMS 408 (SOC 408) three credits
Social Service Internship*

Prerequisites: SOC 203, 355

This course will provide students with the opportunity to integrate social work theory with practice. Students will intern with an agency/organization in the community or on campus and will meet as a seminar to analyze and reflect upon their experiences and to further develop skills and knowledge about the social services in our society.

WMS 400-494 (HST 400-494) three credits
C

Seminars in History*

Seminars will be offered variously in such fields as United States history, European history, English history, Russian history, Latin American history, Asian history, history of ideas, and the history of women. The writing of a substantial paper will be required. Content will vary with instructor.

WMS 421 (ENL 421) three credits **C**
Seminar: American Literature Theme*

Seminar in an American Literature Theme.

WMS 490 three credits
Advanced Special Topic in Women's Studies

Special topics are offered. May be repeated with change of content. This course may be cross-listed with an academic department.

WMS 495 variable credit
Independent Study

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing; permission of instructor, department

chairperson, and college dean
Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area not otherwise part of the discipline's course offerings. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

WMS 196, 296, 396, 496 variable credit
Directed Study

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean
Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area covered in a regular course not currently being offered. Conditions and hours to be arranged.