
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.

Magali Carrera Art History
Phyllis Currier Nursing
Anne Foley Education
Catherine Gardner Philosophy
Amy Gorin Psychology
Siegel Gottlieb Mathematics
Memory Holloway Art History
Catherine Houser English
Barbara R Jacobskind English
Lewis Kamm Foreign Literature and Computer Science
Andrea C Klimt Anthropology
Gerard M Koot History
Susan Krumholz Sociology and Criminal Justice
Yoon Soo Lee Design
Betty L Mitchell History
Juli L Parker Women's Studies
Jeannette E Riley (program director) English and Women's Studies
Robin Robinson Sociology
Marie Sauro Psychology

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 earns 54 credits.

Requirements for the Minor

The minor in Women's Studies requires completion of at least 18 credits, of which nine must be at the upper-division level. There are three required courses: WMS 101 Introduction to Women's Studies; WMS 208 Global Perspectives on Women; and WMS 305 Contemporary Feminist Theory and Practice. 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 may 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.

The Minor in Women's Studies Online

The Women's Studies Minor may be completed by enrollment in online Women's Studies courses offered through the division of Professional and Continuing Education. While the online courses encompass the same Women's Studies academic material as standard lecture course, they also offer Women's Studies students advanced skills with computer-based learning and the use and assessment of Internet information. For course schedules, news, and additional information regarding the program, please consult: www.umass.edu/wms

Distribution Credit

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

Women's Studies Courses

general education requirements.

Women's Studies Curriculum Objectives

The Women's Studies Program focuses upon five curriculum objectives, which were adopted by the Women's studies Advisory Board. Each Women's Studies Course taught, whether a WMS listing alone or a cross-listed course, engages with at least one, if not two, of the following objectives.

1

To provide students with knowledge of feminist theory, the history and development of women's movements, and women's contributions to culture and society in the United States and internationally

2

To share with students an understanding of the various feminist perspectives within and across disciplines and the role that feminist theory and practice play in broadening and restructuring the disciplinary frameworks

3

To help students recognize the cross-cultural/global context of Women's Studies and comprehend issues affecting women in different cultural, economic, religious, ethnic, and class settings

4

To give students an awareness of the connection between gender oppression and racism and others forms of oppression

5

To help students develop the ability to outline potential strategies for the remedy of social injustice and design agendas for positive individual and collective action to support social change.

WMS 101 three credits **D, O, W** **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. Satisfies a social science distribution requirement for a BA or BS in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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 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 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 **D** **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 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 a social science distribution requirement for

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

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a BA or BS in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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 Other Learning Experiences.

WMS 300 three credits **C, D, W**
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, E**
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. Satisfies a social science distribution requirement for a BA in the College of Arts and Sciences.

WMS 307 (PHL 307) three credits
Ecofeminism: Philosophy and Practice

Study of ecofeminism as systems of oppressions based on race, class, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity that stem from a cultural ideology that enables the oppression of nature. The course explores ecofeminist theories, literature, and practice, including ecofeminist ethics, and the applications of ecofeminism to the lives of

individual men and women, as well as cultural institutions and organizations. Satisfies a social science distribution requirement for a BA or BS in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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 316 (HST 316) three credits
Gender in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

How pre-modern European societies understood, represented, and enforced gender difference. A wide variety of source material—saints' lives and marriage contracts, sermons and law codes, guides for witch hunters and aristocratic portraits, medical treatises and mystical poetry—are used to explore the changing answers to two basic questions: What makes a person a woman or a man? and How does this gender identity affect their lives in the world? Course content moves from the waning days of the Roman Empire through the Protestant Reformation and Catholic Reform.

WMS 317 (HST 317) three credits **C, G**
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 319 (SOC/ANT 319) three credits **G**
Gender Variation and Sexual Orientation Across Cultures

The social construction of sexual identity in various societies of the world, including the United States. Same gender, "third gender," and transgendered roles, relations, and ideologies are examined in ancient and modern societies.

WMS 323 (ARH 323) three credits **C**
Women, Film, and Popular Culture

Analysis of representations of women in film and popular culture.

WMS 324 (SOC/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 a social science distribution requirement for a BA or BS in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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

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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/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 343 three credits **D, E, O**
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 **G, E**
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.

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 359 (SOC/ANT 359) three credits **D**
Men and Masculinities
Prerequisite: SOC 101 or equivalent
The social construction of male identity and culture. Male sexualities, relationships, sports, health, work, violence, warfare, and changing male culture are 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, I, 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 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 401 (AAS 401, HST 401, JST 401) three credits
Seminar in American History
Seminars will be offered variously in topics in American History. The writing of a substantial paper will be required. Content will vary with instructor; may be repeated with change of content.

WMS 402 (AAS 402, HST 402, JST 402) three credits **G**
Seminar in European History
Seminars will be offered variously in topics in American History. The writing of a substantial paper will be required. Content will vary with instructor; may be repeated with change of content.

WMS 403 (AAS 403, HST 403, JST 403) three credits **G**
Seminar in World History
Seminars will be offered variously in topics in non-European World History. The writing of a substantial paper will be required. Content will vary with instructor; may be repeated with change of content.

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 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.