

WOMEN'S STUDIES

College of Arts and Humanities
Division of World Cultural and Gender Studies

Program Description

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program preparing students to critically explore the social construction of gender and how it intersects with racism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and other systemic oppressions. Our curriculum is rooted in a decolonial pedagogy centering the theories and activism of women of color and queer, non-binary, and trans people of color. Women's Studies faculty are committed to social justice work both on and off campus, and Women's Studies students are offered a wide-range of cutting edge courses to explore their research interests through community engagement, pop culture, art, queer theory, literature, and activism. Students in the program acquire the knowledge and skills to understand the history and structures of gender inequalities and how to advocate for women's rights and freedoms, learning the importance of interconnecting local and global communities.

Academic Advisement

The Women's Studies Program is designed to allow students maximum flexibility and to be tailored to their interests and needs. Students should seek faculty advisement upon entering the program and routinely thereafter. Faculty advisors work with students to provide information about program requirements, course availability, coursework, and career options. Advisors will also help students prepare for graduate work in Women's Studies and related fields. Students should contact the Department Chair, Dr. Jenn Brandt (jbrandt@csudh.edu), to set up advising appointments.

Preparation

No specific high school or community college courses are required as prerequisites. Students are expected to have college-level reading and writing skills and an interest in understanding the complex forces that determine gender roles.

Career Paths

Understanding the gendered dynamics of society and the workforce gives students a competitive edge in meeting the challenges of the contemporary world. Women's Studies helps students evaluate their own choices and options in a rapidly changing society and understand where and how their talents and skills may best serve their own and society's needs.

Women's Studies helps students prepare for the professional world in a number of ways. As an interdisciplinary program, Women's Studies exposes students to a number of different schools of thought, theories, and methodologies. Students who study Women's Studies go on to a variety of careers in the arts, business, social services, community organizing, and government agencies. Women's Studies can help students specialize their careers with a focus on women and gender. It can enhance students' job prospects in counseling, education, law, medicine, technology, creative fields, and other business endeavors.

Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor

- Women's Studies, Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/womens-studies/womens-studies-ba/>)

Minor

- Women's Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/womens-studies/womens-studies-minor/>)

Faculty

Jenn Brandt, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Women's Studies
LCH A-329

Tahereh Aghdasifar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Women's Studies
LCH B-337

Anat Schwartz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Women's Studies
LCH B-339

Program Office: Library, 4th Fl (310) 243-3273

Courses

WMS 100. Gender, Sex, the Body, & Politics: An Introduction. (3 Units)
An introduction to the rapidly expanding body of literature related to the gendered aspects of health and sexuality with an emphasis on women.
Offered Fall, Spring

WMS 200. Foundations in Queer Studies. (3 Units)
An introduction to the field of Queer Studies by analyzing the role of gender, race, class, ability, and nationalism in the construction of modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) identities, and it considers how queerness can operate as a disruption, expansion, or refusal of these identity categories.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 250. Foundations in Women's Studies. (3 Units)
Introduces students to Women's Studies. Students learn about gender from a multicultural, multiracial feminist and global perspective. Emphasis is on women's history; gender, culture, and nation; social institutions; sexuality, sexism, and violence; and local and transnational women's movements.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 295. Special Topics in Women's Studies. (1-3 Units)
An introductory study of an issue or a concept in Women's Studies that is of particular interest to both the faculty member and the students. Repeatable course with different topics.
Offered As needed

WMS 300. Community Organizing, Activism, and Gender. (3 Units)
Recommended prerequisite(s): WMS 250. Students learn core concepts in gender and social justice organizing, and then apply their knowledge to contribute to community organizing with local nonprofit organizations in South L.A. to foster collaborative research and gender justice organizing in the community. Repeatable for credit.
Offered Fall, Spring

WMS 310. The Witch in Literature. (3 Units)
Examines representation of the witch and witchcraft in literature and culture in different historical periods and cultures.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 311. Comedy, Sex and Gender. (3 Units)

Examines representations of gender and sexuality in comedy and humor from multicultural perspectives. Topics include feminist humor and comedy as vehicles of social criticism and advocacy, and the relationships of the comedic to ethnicity, race and class.
Offered As needed

WMS 314. Feminism and Film. (3 Units)

Introduces issues that feminist theory poses for the analysis of film and culture. It focuses on women's contributions to, and representations in, film.
Offered As needed

WMS 315. Literary Topics in Gender Studies and Sexuality Studies. (3 Units)

Provides comparatist perspectives on the representation of women's roles and rights as expressed in a variety of writings from different historical periods and cultures. Students will gain an understanding of women's differential treatment in legal systems and social institutions from antiquity to present.
Offered As needed

WMS 318. Race, Class and Gender. (3 Units)

This cross-cultural, interdisciplinary course introduces students to women's issues as these interface with race and class. Students will recognize, analyze and evaluate the socio-political and economic forces that affect women's lives through a critical examination of race, class and gender.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 320. Feminist Principles. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: WMS 250 is required. A primer to principles of feminist philosophy, history, thought, methodology and current issues pertaining to women.
Offered Fall

WMS 330. Queer Art and Visual Culture. (3 Units)

Offers a reflection on key art practices and theories which develop an understanding of queerness. Stepping away from 'queer' as an identity marker, the readings and work offered will articulate how queer operates as a verb to subvert or wholly turn away from the conventional understandings of life to cultivate radical alternatives. Each week a theoretical text is paired with a 'case study' to offer an opening conversation on the political implications of queering art.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 340. Politics of Women's (Un)Paid Labor. (3 Units)

Focuses on women's labor participation in the family and society. Topics include women in professional and domestic labor markets, the politics of mothering and maternal labor, sex work, family policies, labor rights, wage gaps, and invisible work.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 350. Feminist Research Methods. (3 Units)

Prerequisites: WMS 250 and WMS 320 required. A primer to feminist research methods. Students will be introduced to a variety of ways in which feminists question and approach the production of knowledge.
Offered Spring

WMS 370. Gendered and Queer Migrations. (3 Units)

This course studies the political, socio-economic, racial, and gendered limitations that women and the LGBTQI community experience in the process of migration. Each semester this course may focus on a specific region of the world while maintaining its focus on queer and gendered experiences of migration. Repeatable for credit.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 380. Gender and Sexuality in Popular Culture. (3 Units)

Introduction to contemporary US popular culture, with a focus on the ways popular culture production, consumption and representation reinforce and resist ideologies about gender, race, and sexual orientation.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 390. Transnational Feminisms. (3 Units)

Leaning away from older models of Global "Sisterhood" which privilege a singular western-focused model of democracy and gender, transnational feminisms are interested in respecting difference to understand local, historical, economic, and (post)-colonial conditions that women draw on to articulate resistance. This course offers differences between global feminism and transnational feminisms by moving through examples and case studies of how transnational feminisms look on the ground and in response to different modes of oppression.
Offered Spring

WMS 395. Selected Topics in Women's Studies. (3 Units)

Study of an issue or a concept in Women's Studies that is of particular interest to both the faculty member and the students. Repeatable course with different topics. Repeatable for credit.
Offered As needed

WMS 400. Feminist Theories. (3 Units)

Prerequisites: WMS 350 required. Advanced study in feminist theory. Course addresses major concepts and assumptions of feminist study in order to better understand how to address societal and power inequalities and to improve women's status globally.
Offered Fall

WMS 410. Queer of Color Critique. (3 Units)

Brings Women of Color Feminisms to bear on Queer theory to understand that people have (political or intimate) desires and attachments which are not always legible. Familiarizes students with the cultural, political and economic concerns of QoCC and how it interrupts socially dominant categories of sexuality.
Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

WMS 490. Senior Capstone. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: WMS 400 required. A critical analysis and interpretation of major feminist theories and contemporary issues in women's studies. Special attention will be paid to different discourse communities - academic, internet, personal - as they relate to feminism and the women's movement, in order to help students think more deeply about being a reader and writer of feminist scholarship. Students will be exposed to influential and emergent feminist theories in order to produce original research projects, papers, and/or creative works. A grade of C or better in this course fulfills the GWAR requirement for all Biology majors and minors
Offered Spring

WMS 494. Independent Study. (1-3 Units)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and program coordinator. Independent study of a particular problem, issue, or readings under the direction of a member of the Women's Studies faculty. Course is not repeatable for credit in the Women's Studies minor.
Offered As needed

WMS 495. Special Topics: Women's Studies. (3 Units)

An intensive study of an issue or a concept in Women's Studies that is of particular interest to both the faculty member and the students. Repeatable course with different topics. Three hours of seminar per week.
Offered As needed

WMS 496. Internship in Women's Studies. (3 Units)

Practical application of coursework in Women's Studies through supervised work and field experience in politics, law, art, communications, social welfare agencies or other area as approved by the instructor and coordinator of the program. Course is not repeatable for credit in the Women's Studies minor.

Offered Fall, Spring