Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies, B.A.

Students who major in gender, women's, and sexuality studies acquire knowledge of the field's major theories, gender and sexuality outside the United States and Western Europe, major feminist ideas and debates, and the impact and effects of difference and diversity in individual lives. During their senior year, students apply this knowledge in individual capstone research projects.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in gender, women's, and sexuality studies (GWSS) requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 37 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

Students may declare the major at any time. They are advised by the Academic Advising Center until they have earned 24 s.h. of credit. Transfer credit is evaluated case by case; a maximum of 12 s.h. of transfer credit may be counted toward the degree. Students earning more than one major may count a maximum of three courses completed for another major toward the gender, women's, and sexuality studies major.

Work for the major consists of the undergraduate core, distribution requirements, and electives. The undergraduate core includes a practicum and culminates in a research seminar.

The B.A. with a major in gender, women's, and sexuality studies requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Core</th>
<th>13-14</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Requirements</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>37-38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Undergraduate Core

The undergraduate core consists of five courses (minimum of 13 s.h.). Two introductory courses, GWSS:1001 Introduction to Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies and GWSS:1002 Diversity and Power in the U.S., orient students to the major conceptual areas that constitute GWSS as an interdisciplinary field: GWSS:1001 introduces the study of cultural and social beliefs about sex, gender, race, class, and sexuality; GWSS:1002 examines issues of race, class, and gender in the United States and the consequences of inequity for communities and individuals.

Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Practicum (GWSS:3005) allows students to explore the intersection of race, sexuality, class, and gender, focusing on social justice issues, through a practicum experience in collaboration with community partners. Students earn 3-4 s.h. for the practicum, depending on the semester in which they take it.

GWSS capstone courses help students envision, design and develop individual creative or scholarly projects in their senior year. Students take GWSS:4050 Introduction to the Capstone Research Project, an eight-week fall semester course for 1 s.h. and GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar, a 3 s.h. course in the spring semester. Members of the University of Iowa Honors Program who decide to write honors theses take GWSS:4095 Honors Senior Thesis in the spring semester for 3 s.h. Thesis writers may decide, in consultation with the thesis advisor, to opt to enroll in the fall in GWSS:4050 Introduction to the Capstone Research Project.

The undergraduate core includes the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All of these:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:1001 Introduction to Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:1002 Diversity and Power in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:3005 Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Practicum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:4050 Introduction to the Capstone Research Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One of these:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:4095 Honors Senior Thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution Requirements

The distribution requirements (total of at least 12 s.h.) are chosen from the following lists. They include one GWSS theory course, one transnational theory course, one GWSS course with a global/comparative focus, and one GWSS or other course with a race/ethnicity focus. Students may request permission from the director of undergraduate studies to use courses not on these lists; ideally, these courses should be offered by GWSS (prefix GWSS). At least half of the material in global/comparative topics courses must have a non-U.S. context.

Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One of these:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:3100/COMM:3100 LGBTQ/Queer Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:3200 Feminist Debates and Social Movements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transnational Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One of these:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:3010/GHS:3015 Transnational Sexualities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:3350/ANTH:3125/IS:3350 Transnational Feminism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global/Comparative Focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One of these:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:2052/RELS:2852 Women in Islam and the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:2108/ANTH:2108 Gendering India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:2151/ANTH:2151 Global Migration in the Contemporary World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:2222/ASIA:2222/CL:2222 Women in Premodern East Asian Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWSS:2700 Transgender People, Politics, and Cultures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GWSS:3101/ANTH:3101  Anthropology of Sexuality  3
GWSS:3121/ANTH:3121  Love, Marriage, and Family in India  3
GWSS:3131/RELS:3431  Gender and Sexuality in Asia  3
GWSS:3157/HIST:3157  Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights  3
GWSS:3185/WLLC:3185  Global Women's Cinema  3
GWSS:3326/GHS:3327  The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality  3
GWSS:3360/SPAN:3360  Latin American Women Writers  3
GWSS:3525/HIST:3125  Gender, Race, and Citizenship in North and South America  3
GWSS:4026/FREN:4026  French Women Writers  3-4
GWSS:4140/ANTH:4140/CBH:4140/GHS:4140  Feminist Activism and Global Health  3
GWSS:4427/HIST:4427  Society and Gender in Europe 1200-1789  3

**Race/Ethnicity Focus**

One of these:
GWSS:2172  The History of African American Women from Slavery to Freedom  3
GWSS:2800/AFAM:2800  African American Women, Health, Hair, and Sexuality  3
GWSS:3415/THTR:3415  Cultural Diversity and Identity  3
GWSS:3525/HIST:3125  Gender, Race, and Citizenship in North and South America  3
GWSS:3710/AFAM:3710  African American Women Writers  3
AFAM:3925/JMC:3165  African Americans and the Media  3
ENGL:2460/AFAM:2781/POLI:2107  Black Literature and Politics: Controversies of National Allegiance  3
ENGL:2463  Topics in African American Literature  3
ENGL:3441/AINS:3441  Native American Literature  3
ENGL:3459/AFAM:3459  African American Literature Before 1900  3
ENGL:3535/LAS:3535  Inter-American Studies (When topic is visual culture and performance in the Americas)  3
HIST:2266  Civil War and Reconstruction  3
HIST:2280/LATS:2280/SPAN:2280  Introduction to Latina/o Studies  3
HIST:3275/AFAM:3275  History of Slavery in the U.S.A.  3-4
HIST:4216/LAS:4216  Mexican American History  3
HIST:4217/LAS:4217/LATS:4217  Latino/a Popular History  3
PSQF:3191  Asian American Experiences  3
SPAN:4820/LATS:4800  Race and Ethnicity in Sport  3
SPST:2079/AFAM:2079  Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance  3

**Any African American studies course (prefix AFAM) numbered 2000 or above**
**Any American Indian and native studies course (prefix AINS) numbered 2000 or above**

**Electives**

Students choose elective courses from the list below. They must complete at least four electives (minimum of 12 s.h.), earning at least 6 s.h. in courses numbered 3000 or above.

With the instructor’s permission, honors students may enroll in a graduate-level course numbered 5000 or above and count it toward the electives requirement.

In choosing electives, students are encouraged to pursue a course of study that emphasizes breadth and depth in a focus area. They may choose courses that they gain deeper knowledge within a specific discipline, such as anthropology, communication studies, English, history, and social work. Students that pursue double majors may be able to count a maximum of three courses toward the GWSS major and their second major.

Students also may choose courses that allow them to focus on interdisciplinary fields such as sexuality studies, girls’ and women’s studies, global and transnational studies, studies in race and ethnicity, or in subject areas such as social justice or health.

Students may request permission to use upper-level courses not listed below, but at least half of a course’s content and requirements must focus on gender and/or sexuality. For information on requesting permission to use a course not listed below, contact the GWSS undergraduate advisor.

Students select at least four of these courses (minimum of 12 s.h.), with a minimum of 6 s.h. numbered 3000 or above.

GWSS:1000  First-Year Seminar  1
GWSS:1005  Topics in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies  3
GWSS:1060/AMST:1060/ENGL:1410  Sex and Popular Culture in the Postwar U.S.  3
GWSS:1074/AMST:1074/SPST:1074  Inequality in American Sport  3
GWSS:1310/SOC:1310  Gender and Society  3-4
GWSS:1600/CL:1600  Wonder Woman Unleashed: A Hero for Our Times  3
GWSS:2000/RHET:2031  Desire, Consent, and Sex in U.S. Culture(s): Replacing Coercion and Violence with Respect  3
GWSS:2041/COMM:2041  Gender, Communication, and Culture  3
GWSS:2045  Working for Social Justice  1
GWSS:2052/RELS:2852  Women in Islam and the Middle East  3
GWSS:2055/RHET:2055  Persuasion and Advocacy  3
GWSS:2075/COMM:2075  Gender, Sexuality, and Media  3
GWSS:2078/SPST:2078  Women, Sport, and Culture  3
GWSS:2102/ANTH:2102  Anthropology of Marriage and Family  3
GWSS:2108/ANTH:2108  Gendering India  3
GWSS:2193/ENGL:2193  Literature, Culture, and Women  3
GWSS:2600  Men, Masculinity, Identity, and Health  3
GWSS:2651/CLSA:2651  Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World  3
GWSS:2700  Transgender People, Politics, and Cultures  3
GWSS:2771/RELS:2771  Sexual Ethics  3
GWSS:2800/AFAM:2800  African American Women, Health, Hair, and Sexuality  3
GWSS:3010/GHS:3015  Transnational Sexualities  3
GWSS:3050  Topics in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies  1,3
GWSS:3100/COMM:3100  LGBTQ/Queer Studies  3
GWSS:3101/ANTH:3101  Anthropology of Sexuality  3
GWSS:3118/ANTH:3118  Politics of Reproduction  3
GWSS:3120/ENGL:3120  Prose by Women Writers  3
GWSS:3121/ANTH:3121  Love, Marriage, and Family in India  3
GWSS:3131/RELS:3431  Gender and Sexuality in Asia  3
GWSS:3138/RHET:3138/SJUS:3138  Writing to Change the World  3
GWSS:3140/ANTH:3140  Feminist Anthropology  3
GWSS:3154  Sexuality in the United States  3
GWSS:3157/HIST:3157  Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights  3
GWSS:3173/ENGL:3173  Gender, Sexuality, and Literature  3
GWSS:3177/NURS:3739  Women and Their Bodies in Health and Illness  3
GWSS:3185/WLLC:3185  Global Women's Cinema  3
GWSS:3190  Tell Magazine Writing and Publishing Workshop  3
GWSS:3200  Feminist Debates and Social Movements  3
GWSS:3266  Women and Nonfiction  3
GWSS:3280/HIST:3280  Women and Power in U.S. History Through the Civil War  3
GWSS:3282/HIST:3282  Women and Power in U.S. History Since the Civil War  3
GWSS:3300/ANTH:3300  Mothers and Motherhood  3
GWSS:3326/GHS:3327  The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality  3
GWSS:3350/ANTH:3125/IS:3350  Transnational Feminism  3
GWSS:3360/SPAN:3360  Latin American Women Writers  3
GWSS:3400/SJUS:3400  GWS Advocacy and Engagement Colloquium  1-3
GWSS:3415/THTR:3415  Cultural Diversity and Identity  3
GWSS:3425/CRIM:3425  Women, Crime, and Justice  3
GWSS:3450/ENGL:3820  Writing About Girls  3
GWSS:3525/HIST:3125  Gender, Race, and Citizenship in North and South America  3
GWSS:3600  Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice  3
GWSS:3700/RHET:3150  Narratives of Gender and Masculinity  3
GWSS:3710/AFAM:3710  African American Women Writers  3
GWSS:3750/SOC:3750  Born in the USA: Fertility and Reproduction  3
GWSS:4026/FREN:4026  French Women Writers  3
GWSS:4140/ANTH:4140/CBH:4140/GHS:4140  Feminist Activism and Global Health  3
GWSS:4169/COMM:4169  Feminist Rhetorics  3
GWSS:4180/INTM:4780  Women's Lives in Alternative Texts  3
GWSS:4427/HIST:4427  Society and Gender in Europe 1200-1789  3
Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.50 in the major. Students must write an honors thesis that requires two semesters of work during the senior year: fall (thesis research) and spring (thesis writing).

Students who intend to graduate with honors in the major should meet with the GWSS director of undergraduate study before the end of their junior year. They also must select a faculty member to serve as their honors thesis supervisor before they begin their thesis work. The department recommends that students consider faculty members from whom they have taken GWSS courses.

Students have three options for conducting honors research. They can work with a faculty member in GWSS:3990 Independent Readings and Research in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies for 3 s.h.; create an honors contract for a GWSS course numbered 3000 or above taught by the honors thesis supervisor; or complete a graduate readings course or seminar related to their thesis subject.

Students write their honors theses during the spring semester of their senior year in GWSS:4095 Honors Senior Thesis. Although enrolled in this class, honors students work throughout the semester with students in GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar. Participation in this class allows them to share their research and writing and participate in the department’s end of the year Senior Research Poster Presentation. Students have the option to enroll in GWSS:4050 Introduction to the Capstone Research Project in the fall semester.

A GWSS student earning honors in more than one major may choose to complete a single thesis that satisfies the honors requirements of both departments. Students must have thesis advisors in both departments, and both advisors must approve the final project.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the gender, women’s, and sexuality studies major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the third semester begins: GWSS:1001 Introduction to Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies

Before the fifth semester begins: GWSS:1002 Diversity and Power in the U.S. and two GWSS electives

Before the seventh semester begins: one GWSS distribution course (theory or comparative/non-U.S. focus) and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: GWSS:3005 Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies Practicum, GWSS:4050 Introduction to the Capstone Research Project, one more GWSS distribution course (theory or comparative/non-U.S. focus), and at least one more GWSS elective

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>GWSS:1001 Introduction to Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies (also GE: Values and Culture)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RHET:1030 Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSI:1600 Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>GWSS:1002 Diversity and Power in the U.S.</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENGL:1200 The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE: Natural Sciences with a lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE: Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year</td>
<td>Major: GWSS elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Major: race and ethnicity course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>GWSS:3010 Transnational Sexualities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Major: GWSS elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE: International and Global Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies, B.A.

Third Year

Fall
GWSS:3100 LGBTQ/Queer Studies 3
or GWSS:3200 Feminist Debates and Social Movements
Major: GWSS comparative/non-U.S. focus course 3
GE: Historical Perspectives 3
GE: Natural Sciences without a lab 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Hours 15-17

Spring
Major: GWSS elective course 3
Major: GWSS elective course 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Hours 15-17

Fourth Year

Fall
GWSS:3005 Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies Practicum 3
GWSS:4050 Introduction to the Capstone Research Project 1
Major: GWSS elective course 3
GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 2
Hours 15

Spring
GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar 3
Major: GWSS elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Hours 15
Total Hours 120-128

1 General Education (GE) courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses. For more information, view the General Education Program.
2 Students may use their elective courses to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
3 Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

Career Advancement

Gender, women’s, and sexuality studies (GWSS) majors can work in numerous settings, such as research, advocacy, policy and programming, government and nonprofit agencies, human resources, fundraising, counseling, education, publishing, international development, or activist work. Students also can continue their studies in numerous academic programs or professional schools, such as women's and gender studies, history, anthropology, area studies, and schools of law, public health, business, and journalism. The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.