Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies

**Chair**
- Rachel Marie-Crane Williams

**Undergraduate major:** gender, women’s, and sexuality studies (B.A.)
**Undergraduate minor:** gender, women’s, and sexuality studies
**Graduate certificate:** gender, women's, and sexuality studies

**Faculty:** [http://clas.uiowa.edu/gwss/people](http://clas.uiowa.edu/gwss/people)
**Web site:** [http://clas.uiowa.edu/gwss/](http://clas.uiowa.edu/gwss/)

Gender, women’s, and sexuality studies (GWSS) is an interdisciplinary field that promotes social justice and full citizenship by asking when and how gender intersects with sexuality, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, globalization, and physical ability in ways that can exclude and oppress but that also can enrich cultures and expand opportunities. GWSS trains students to investigate how gender and sexuality shape challenges people face in areas such as the environment, culture and the media, education, health, violence, and the economy. Critical thinking and analysis and development of expertise in writing, research, and presentation provide the program’s graduates with the professional skills they will need to pursue careers or graduate study in a wide variety of fields or academic disciplines.

**Undergraduate Programs of Study**

- Major in gender, women’s, and sexuality studies (Bachelor of Arts)
- Minor in gender, women’s, and sexuality studies

**Bachelor of Arts**

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 36 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.

The major in gender, women's, and sexuality studies emphasizes breadth, depth, and interdisciplinary study. Students acquire knowledge of the field's history, gender and sexuality issues outside the United States and Western Europe, major feminist ideas and debates, and other areas of scholarly concern. They apply this knowledge to an individual research project during their senior year.

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 the other major toward the GWSS 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 major in gender, women's, and sexuality studies requires the following course work.

**UNDERGRADUATE CORE**

The undergraduate core consists of four courses (minimum of 12 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.

Students take GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar during their last semester; members of the University of Iowa Honors Program may take GWSS:4095 Honors Senior Thesis instead. In these courses, students design and develop individual creative or scholarly projects that synthesize and extend work they already have completed for the major. Students earn 3 s.h. for the research seminar or honors thesis.

The undergraduate core includes the following course work.

All of these:
- GWSS:1001 Introduction to Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies
- GWSS:1002 Diversity and Power in the U.S.
- GWSS:3005 Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Practicum

One of these:
- GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar
- GWSS:4095 Honors Senior Thesis (open only to honors students)

**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 comparative/non-U.S. 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 comparative/non-U.S. topics courses must have a non-U.S. context.

Theory—one of these:
- GWSS:3100 LGBTQ/Queer Studies
- GWSS:3200 Feminist Debates and Social Movements
Transnational theory—one of these:
- GWSS:2150 Transnational Feminism 3 s.h.
- GWSS:3010 Transnational Sexualities 3 s.h.

Comparative/non-U.S. focus—one of these:
- GWSS:2052 Women in Islam and the Middle East 3 s.h.
- GWSS:2108 Gendering India 3 s.h.
- GWSS:3121 Love and Kinship in South Asia 3 s.h.
- GWSS:3131 Gender and Sexuality in Asia 3 s.h.
- GWSS:3157 Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights 3 s.h.
- GWSS:3185 Global Women's Cinema 3 s.h.
- GWSS:3360 Latin American Women Writers 3 s.h.
- GWSS:4026 French Women Writers 3 s.h.
- GWSS:4725 Women and Gender in African History 3 s.h.

Race/ethnicity—one of these:
- GWSS:2172 The History of African American Women from Slavery to Freedom 3 s.h.
- GWSS:4560 Native American Women and Religious Change 3 s.h.
- AFAM:3710 African American Women Writers 3 s.h.
- AFAM:3925 African Americans and the Media 3 s.h.
- HIST:4216 Mexican American History 3 s.h.
- HIST:4217 Latina/o Immigration 3 s.h.
- HIST:4275 History of Slavery in the U.S.A. 3-4 s.h.
- SPST:2079 Race and Ethnicity in Sport 3 s.h.
- THTR:3415 Cultural Diversity and Identity 3 s.h.

Any African American studies course (prefix AFAM) numbered 3000 or above
- Any American Indian and native studies course (prefix AINS) numbered 3000 or above

**ELECTIVES**

Students choose elective courses from the list below, in consultation with their advisor. 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 count a graduate-level course numbered 5000 or above toward the electives requirement.

In choosing electives, students are encouraged to pursue a course of study that emphasizes both breadth and depth. Students should choose three or four courses in a focus area in which they would like to gain deeper knowledge. The area may be within a specific discipline, such as literature, anthropology, or history. This is especially useful for students pursuing double majors, since they may count toward the GWSS major a maximum of three courses they complete for the other major.

The focus area need not be limited to a traditional discipline. Students may seek more specialized education in fields such as sexuality studies or international issues. Breadth also is important; advisors direct students who have taken several courses in one focus area to take additional electives in another focus area.

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

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

GWSS:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
GWSS:1060/AMST:1060 Sex and Popular Culture in the Postwar U.S. 3 s.h.
GWSS:1310/SOC:1310 Gender and Society 3-4 s.h.
GWSS:2000 Desire, Consent, and Sex in U.S. Culture(s): Replacing Coercion and Violence with Respect 3 s.h.
GWSS:2041/COMM:2041 Gender Roles and Communication 3 s.h.
GWSS:2052/RELST:2852 Women in Islam and the Middle East 3 s.h.
GWSS:2078/SPST:2078 Women, Sport, and Culture 3 s.h.
GWSS:2080 The Cultural Politics of HIV/AIDS 3 s.h.
GWSS:2193/ENGL:2193 Literature, Culture, and Women 3 s.h.
GWSS:2325 Women, Crime, and Justice 3 s.h.
GWSS:2651/CLSA:2651 Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World 3 s.h.
GWSS:3050 Topics in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies 1, 3 s.h.
GWSS:3101 Anthropology of Sexuality 3 s.h.
GWSS:3118/ANTH:3118 Politics of Reproduction 3 s.h.
GWSS:3120/ENGL:3120 Prose by Women Writers 3 s.h.
GWSS:3121/ANTH:3121 Love and Kinship in South Asia 3 s.h.
GWSS:3141/ANTH:3141 Women, Health, and Healing 3 s.h.
GWSS:3154/HIST:3254 Sexuality in the United States 3 s.h.
GWSS:3185/CINE:3185 Global Women's Cinema 3 s.h.
GWSS:3266 Women and Nonfiction 3 s.h.
GWSS:3300/ANTH:3300 Mothers and Motherhood 3 s.h.
GWSS:3360/SPAN:3360 Latin American Women Writers 3 s.h.
GWSS:3350 Writing About Girls 3 s.h.
GWSS:3540/FREN:3540/CINE:3647 Gender and Sexuality in French Cinema 3 s.h.
GWSS:4140/ANTH:4140/CBH:5140 The Anthropology of Women's Health 3 s.h.
GWSS:4280/HIST:4280 Women and Power in U.S. History Through the Civil War 3 s.h.
GWSS:4560/RELST:4920/AINS:4560 Native American Women and Religious Change 3 s.h.
RELS:2771/ANTH:2771 Transnational Sexualities 1 s.h.
RELS:3420/GWSS:3420 Sex and Gender in Performance 3 s.h.
THTR:2150/ANTH:2150 Performance 3 s.h.
THTR:3415/GWSS:3415 Transnational Feminism 3 s.h.
THTR:3420/GWSS:3420 Sex and Gender in Performance 3 s.h.
THTR:4140/ANTH:4140/CBH:5140 The Anthropology of Women's Health 3 s.h.
THTR:4280/HIST:4280 Women and Power in U.S. History Through the Civil War 3 s.h.
THTR:4560/RELST:4920/AINS:4560 Native American Women and Religious Change 3 s.h.
THTR:3420/GWSS:3420 Sex and Gender in Performance 3 s.h.
THTR:3415/GWSS:3415 Transnational Feminism 3 s.h.
THTR:3420/GWSS:3420 Sex and Gender in Performance 3 s.h.
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, 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

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in gender, women’s, and sexuality studies 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. To graduate with honors in the major, students must write an honors thesis, which 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 notify the GWSS director of undergraduate study by the end of their junior year. Before their senior year, they must find a faculty member to serve as their honors thesis supervisor; the department recommends that students consider faculty members from whom they have taken courses.

Students have three options for conducting the fall semester honors research: enroll in GWSS:3990 Independent Readings and Research in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies for 3 s.h.; or create an honors contract for a GWSS course numbered 3000 or above taught by the student’s honors thesis supervisor and fulfill the requirements of the contract; or complete a graduate readings course or seminar. Each option involves working closely with the student’s honors thesis supervisor.

Students write the honors thesis during spring semester of the senior year, enrolling in GWSS:4095 Honors Senior Thesis. They share their research and writing with their classmates and receive aid in writing their thesis from the instructor of GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar.

A student earning more than one major may be able to graduate with honors in both majors. GWSS faculty members work with the student and the other major’s honors advisor to plan a single thesis that satisfies the honors requirements of both majors. GWSS students writing a thesis for double honors must complete their GWSS thesis work during their senior year, according to the usual timeline: research completed in fall semester, thesis writing completed in spring semester.

In addition to honors in the major, undergraduate students have a variety of 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.

Minor

The minor in gender, women’s, and sexuality studies requires a minimum of 15 s.h. in course work, including at least 12 s.h. completed at the University of Iowa. Students must take GWSS:1001 Introduction to Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies and 12 s.h. in courses numbered 2000 or above. Students may count GWSS:1002 Diversity and Power in the U.S. toward the 12 s.h. requirement.

Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor and in all UI courses for the minor. Course work for the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass. Students may count a maximum of 3 s.h. of work in courses focused on gender and/or sexuality for another University of Iowa major, minor, or certificate toward the GWSS minor.

Graduate Program of Study

- Certificate in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies

The certificate program is open to University of Iowa graduate students working toward a degree; interested students should contact the GWSS director of graduate studies.

Certificate

The Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies requires 16 s.h., including a two-course core, several elective courses, and a capstone course (1 s.h.), for which students attend a GWSS conference and present their own research there. Students receive certificate advising from the GWSS director of graduate studies.

The certificate requires the following course work. Students may not use one course to satisfy more than one certificate requirement.

**CERTIFICATE CORE**

GWSS:5000 Foundations for Feminist Inquiry I 3 s.h.

One approved course on theory of gender, women, or sexuality

**ELECTIVES**

Elective courses, at least one of which must be numbered 5000 or above 9 s.h.

One of the electives must have a transnational or international focus and one must focus on diversity in the United States. Students may count up to 6 s.h. of elective credit earned in GWSS courses that are cross-listed with their major department. Courses that are not cross-listed may be counted with permission of the director of graduate studies.

**CAPSTONE**

Students must present their own research at a GWSS conference, earning credit for the presentation by registering for the following course.

GWSS:7400 Graduate Research Conference 1 s.h.

Presentation
Courses

Lower-Level Undergraduate

GWSS:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

GWSS:1001 Introduction to Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies 3 s.h.
Introduction to feminist interdisciplinary study of women’s lives, with emphasis on race, class, sexual orientation; work, family, culture, political and social change. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity.

GWSS:1002 Diversity and Power in the U.S. 3 s.h.
How the intersection of gender, race, class affects individual experience, national ideology, social institutions; interdisciplinary perspective. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity.

GWSS:1005 Topics in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies 3 s.h.

GWSS:1046 People and the Environment: Technology, Culture, and Social Justice 3 s.h.
How resources, commodities, people, and ideas cross borders; examination of globalization through issues of technology, social justice, environment; perspectives from anthropology, gender studies, geography, energy science, and development. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as ANTH:1046, GEOG:1046.

GWSS:1060 Sex and Popular Culture in the Postwar U.S. 3 s.h.
Critical and historical introduction to representation of human sexuality in American popular culture from World War II to the present. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as AMST:1060, ENGL:1410.

GWSS:1070 Asian American Women Writers 3 s.h.
Introduction to major Asian American women writers of 20th and 21st centuries; construction of gender within Asian American communities and diverse experiences of Asians in America; novels, short stories, memoirs, films, and historical and critical texts. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity.

GWSS:1074 Inequality in American Sport 3 s.h.
Cultural meanings of sport in contemporary U.S. culture; American dream as promoted, challenged in sport; sport experiences, inclusion, and exclusion as affected by gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, social class, age, physical ability/disability, and nationalism. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as SPST:1074, AMST:1074.

GWSS:1310 Gender and Society 3-4 s.h.
Role and status of women in society; sex differences, sex role socialization, theories about origin and maintenance of sexual inequalities, changes in social life cycle of women, implications for social institutions and processes; focus on contemporary United States. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as SOC:1310.

GWSS:2000 Desire, Consent, and Sex in U.S. Culture(s): Replacing Coercion and Violence with Respect 3 s.h.
Exploration of desire, sex, consent, and sexual violence in practical and theoretical dimensions; recent demands by students to change the way sexual violence is addressed; theory and sources from popular media; lectures by scholars, activists, and professionals; sexual violence, rape culture, and sexuality-based oppression confronted with academic/therapeutic/political knowledge; real world strategies to help better understand and combat sexual violence, theories. Prerequisites: RHET:1030. Same as RHET:2031.

GWSS:2041 Gender Roles and Communication 3 s.h.
Interactive relationships between gender and communication in contemporary U.S. society; multiple ways families, schools, and media perpetuate, negotiate, and contest gender roles; how we are part of those processes by looking at how we enact socially-created gender differences in public and private settings. Prerequisites: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170) and (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130) and (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174) and COMM:1301 and COMM:1305. Requirements: g.p.a. of at least 2.30 and completion of four of five Foundations of Communication courses. Same as COMM:2041.

GWSS:2052 Women in Islam and the Middle East 3 s.h.
Women in the Islamic community and in non-Muslim Middle Eastern cultures; early rise of Islam to modern times; references to women in the Qur'an and Sunnah, stories from Islamic history; women and gender issues. GE: International and Global Issues; Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as RELS:2852.
GWSS:2075 Gender, Sexuality, and Media 3 s.h.
Mediated representations of gender and sexuality (television, film, and internet) to understand how these complex and complicated codes influence meaning of sex, sexuality, and gender; contemporary and historical examples used to engage texts that illuminate cultural conceptions of femininity, masculinity, heterosexuality, and homosexuality; cases that confuse and trouble the stability of these categories. Prerequisites: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170) and (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130) and (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174) and COMM:1301 and COMM:1305. Requirements: g.p.a. of at least 2.30 and completion of four of five Foundations of Communication courses. Same as COMM:2075.

GWSS:2078 Women, Sport, and Culture 3 s.h.
Feminist analysis of girls' and women's sports experiences, including reproduction of gender through sport, recent changes in women's intercollegiate athletics, media representations of women's sport, feminist critiques, alternatives to sport. Same as SPST:2078.

GWSS:2080 The Cultural Politics of HIV-AIDS 3 s.h.
Complex historical shifts in cultural perceptions about HIV-AIDS in the U.S. and transnationally; controversies around HIV-AIDS and their links with questions of gender and sexuality; how HIV-AIDS subsequently became the basis of a transnational industry comprising nongovernmental organizations, donors, and activists across the global north and south, starting from 1980s in the U.S. when HIV-AIDS first emerged into public sphere as a gay disease; link between HIV-AIDS and ideologies of development or progress, neocolonialism, and emergence of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ) movements in many parts of world. Recommendations: background in gender studies, and completion of Rhetoric or at least one social sciences course. Same as GHS:2080.

GWSS:2102 Anthropology of Marriage and Family 3 s.h.
Classic anthropological theories of kinship and marriage, including topics such as cousin marriage and incest; recent work on new reproductive technologies and transnational marriage. Same as ANTH:2102.

GWSS:2108 Gendering India 3 s.h.
Aspects of Indian culture, including nation, family, sexuality, work, and religion, through the lens of gender; Hindu India, differences in region, caste, and class. Same as ANTH:2108.

GWSS:2150 Transnational Feminism 3 s.h.
Introduction to feminist perspectives from U.S. and non-U.S. contexts; how geopolitics shapes understanding of familiar feminist issues (e.g., reproduction, cultural practices, sexualities, poverty); emphasis on global south regions. Same as ANTH:2150.

GWSS:2172 The History of African American Women from Slavery to Freedom 3 s.h.
Survey of African American women's history from its beginnings through emancipation and Reconstruction; expansion of slavery in the South and its gendered implications, ways black women influenced antebellum slave culture, female modes of resistance, abolition of slavery in the North, and ways Northern emancipation shaped black women's experiences in the region; development of a free black community and black women's roles in these new social configurations; African American female body under slavery; impact of war and revolution on African American women's lives; black women's experiences during Reconstruction.

GWSS:2193 Literature, Culture, and Women 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: 18th/19th-Century Literature, or 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:2193.

GWSS:2325 Women, Crime, and Justice 3 s.h.
Overview of women's experiences with crime and criminal justice system, with reference to experiences of men for purposes of comparison; role of race, ethnicity, and poverty in women's experiences; causes of crime, inequalities in police-citizen interactions, imprisonment, and other aspects of criminal justice system experience. Same as SOC:2325.

GWSS:2600 Men, Masculinity, Identity, and Health 3 s.h.
Impact of male gender roles, masculine identity, and biology on men's health throughout the life course; focus on description, causes, and possible solutions for health related disparities for men in general and for men of color; concepts including machismo, caballerismo, John Henryism, Man Points, hegemonic, and other gender roles related to promoting and reducing quality of health and well-being of U.S. males.

GWSS:2651 Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World 3 s.h.
Survey of gender and sexuality issues in the social, political, and religious life of ancient Greece and Rome; evidence from literature, the visual arts, archaeology. Requirements: completion of rhetoric requirement and sophomore standing. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as CLSA:2651.

GWSS:2700 Transgender People, Politics, and Cultures 3 s.h.
How people live across and beyond social differentiation of sex and gender; how practices of identity building and political resistance transform or negotiate with social structures of gender, race, and class; burgeoning field of transgender studies which pushes to interrogate some fundamental aspects of human societies and question how supposedly "natural" categories of sex and gender are constructed and transformed; exploration of lives, politics, and subcultures of people who differ from gender norms in the United States and across the world; how transgender cultures and politics negotiate with structures of race and class. Recommendations: background in gender studies or social sciences.
GWSS:2750 Fertility and Reproduction 3 s.h.
Exploration of when, why, how, and with whom Americans bear children, comparison to other developed and developing countries in the world; infertility and its treatments; ethics of surrogacy; voluntary childlessness; rapid rise of nonmarital childbearing in the U.S. and other countries; politics of childbirth; declining populations; rapid aging of rich where women have basically stopped having children. Same as SOC:2750.

GWSS:2771 Sexual Ethics 3 s.h.
Introduction to religion and ethics; diverse secular, Jewish, and Christian perspectives on human sexuality and sexual activity; religious views underlying divergent attitudes toward same-gender sexuality and abortion. Same as RELS:2771.

GWSS:2778 American Indian Women: Myth, Ritual, and Sacred Power 3 s.h.
Participation of women and girls in native religious traditions; obstacles to knowing and understanding native women's religious roles and experiences. Same as AINS:2078, RELS:2778.

Upper-Level Undergraduate and Graduate

GWSS:3005 Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies Practicum 3-4 s.h.
Experience in volunteer work for organizations that provide services for women. Prerequisites: GWSS:1001.

GWSS:3010 Transnational Sexualities 3 s.h.
How ideas about normative and nonnormative sexuality, gender/sexual identities, and related social movements travel across geographical, political, and cultural boundaries; potentials and limits of using conceptual frameworks (i.e., sexuality, gender, LGBT, queer) across the west and global south; how sexuality always intersects with race, class, nationhood, and transnational systems of power; power structures that shape gender/sexuality through a transnational approach; connection of inequalities within the United States with those across the world. Same as GHS:3015.

GWSS:3020 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Identities 3 s.h.
Historical and contemporary experiences of sexual minorities; identity, community, culture, art, politics, representation, diversity, assimilation.

GWSS:3050 Topics in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies 1,3 s.h.
Representative topics: American Indian/First Nations Women; population and the environment; feminism and the family; women, health, and healing; women of color.

GWSS:3100 LGBTQ/Queer Studies 3 s.h.
Overview of queer theory and queer studies; development of critical thinking skills in relation to cultural constructions of gender, sexuality, race, and other identity categories. Requirements: for COMM:3100 or communication studies majors — (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170) and (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130) and (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174) and COMM:1301 and COMM:1305 and g.p.a. of at least 2.30 and completion of Foundations of Communication requirement and 6 s.h. of intermediate-level course work. Same as COMM:3100.

GWSS:3101 Anthropology of Sexuality 3 s.h.
Practice, definition, and regulation of sex in different cultures and times; use of anthropological tools, including cross-cultural comparison and social constructionist analysis; how social and historical forces shape sex; how a range of topics relate to sexuality, including science, love, work, globalization, ethnicity, health, aging, pornography, and deviance; focus on ways that dynamics (i.e., class, race, gender norms) shape people's culturally- and historically-specific ways of having and thinking about sex. Same as ANTH:3101.

GWSS:3118 Politics of Reproduction 3 s.h.
Debates over women's reproductive experience, including its medicalization. Same as ANTH:3118.

GWSS:3120 Prose by Women Writers 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: 18th/19th-Century Literature, or 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3120.

GWSS:3121 Love and Kinship in South Asia 3 s.h.
Anthropological understandings of love in India and the region of South Asia more broadly; emphasis on contemporary society; filial and motherly love, arranged marriage and romantic love, devotional and artistic expressions, love between siblings. Prerequisites: ANTH:1101 or ANTH:2100 or GWSS:1001 or GWSS:1002. Same as ANTH:3121.

GWSS:3131 Gender and Sexuality in Asia 3 s.h.
Conceptions of sex, gender, and sexuality in the religions of China, Korea, and Japan; asceticism and celibacy; sexual alchemy; the difference between male and female bodies and souls; intersexed persons; female saints and immortals; transgressive sexuality; gender and sexuality in colonial Asia; East Asian religions and postcolonial feminism. Same as RELS:3431.

GWSS:3138 Writing to Change the World 3 s.h.
Writers who can frame questions, weigh competing perspectives, structure an argument, and write with clarity and respect for diverse audiences as powerful agents for change; writers who have inspired human rights movements; public forms of writing with local organizations whose missions are shaped by social attitudes to gender and sexuality; how language, imagery, popular culture, and history affect perceptions of gender and sexuality; conducting research and evaluation of evidence; best practices for communicating and collaborating; skills needed to be an effective advocate.
GWSS:3140 Feminist Anthropology 3 s.h.
Development and evolution of feminist critiques in cultural anthropology; readings from early studies by women ethnographers, classic writings that sought to give women cross-cultural visibility, recent experimental texts. Same as ANTH:3140.

GWSS:3141 Women, Health, and Healing 3 s.h.
Women's experience as recipients and providers of health care; intersection of race, class, cultural variation, and women's health; reproductive and nonreproductive health concerns. Same as ANTH:3141.

GWSS:3154 Sexuality in the United States 3 s.h.
Same as HIST:3254.

GWSS:3157 Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights 3 s.h.
History of gender and sexuality as components in international human rights activism and law; current debates, representative topics. Same as HIST:3157.

GWSS:3173 Gender, Sexuality, and Literature 3 s.h.
Representations of gender, class, and sexuality in British, American, or postcolonial literature. English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3173.

GWSS:3177 Women and Their Bodies in Health and Illness 3 s.h.
Basic facts about structure and functioning of female body; particular attention to adjustments the body makes during normal physiological events (menstruation, sexuality, reproduction, menopause) and during illness processes; women's mental and physical health issues in relation to women's lives and roles in society; relationship of women as consumers, practitioners, and activists to health system; achievements and limitations of women's health movements; anti-oppression, intersectionalities, and cross-cultural perspectives. Same as NURS:3739.

GWSS:3185 Global Women's Cinema 3 s.h.
Introduction to contemporary women's cinema and feminist filmmaking from around the world; emphasis on post-1968 period and cinema produced outside the United States. Same as WLLC:3185, CINE:3185.

GWSS:3200 Feminist Debates and Social Movements 3 s.h.
Historical and contemporary feminist analyses of women's position in culture and society; variety of theoretical approaches, political perspectives; contemporary issues, controversies.

GWSS:3266 Women and Nonfiction 3 s.h.
Issues of representation and self-representation by and about women through the study of documentary film and personal essay; focus on paired texts in literature and cinema for analysis and critical reflection; development along historical and transnational lines of inquiry to explore literary and cinematic depictions of racial and cultural identity; motherhood, friendship, and the family; women during wartime, violence against women, domestic and industrial women's work. Requirements: junior or senior standing.

GWSS:3300 Mothers and Motherhood 3 s.h.
Treatment of motherhood; role of motherhood and devaluation of social status. Same as ANTH:3300.

GWSS:3326 The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality 3 s.h.
How nonprofit sector increasingly plays a significant role in countering socioeconomic inequalities in the United States and global south; role of nonprofit organizations in relation to governmental policies of development, transnational funders, and ideas of sexual progress; critics of development institutions' arguments that western ideas of progress impose and adversely affect groups they claim to empower, yet also may foster struggles for social justice that go beyond development policy; examination of transnational nonprofit sector in relation to gender/sexuality and how it impacts women and gender/sexual minorities around the world. Recommendations: background in gender studies or social sciences. Same as GHS:3327.

GWSS:3360 Latin American Women Writers 3 s.h.
Focus on 20th century; how Latin American women subjects view themselves through literature; textual practice specific to women; psychoanalytic approaches, contemporary feminist criticism. Requirements: at least one course taught in Spanish at the 2000 level or above. Same as SPAN:3360.

GWSS:3400 GWSS Advocacy and Engagement Colloquium 1-3 s.h.
How to capitalize on volunteer experience; how experience can lead to careers in health care, law, advocacy, social work, social justice, education; issues related to domestic violence, community education, sexual assault, health care for women, youth, and LGBTQ populations; field journal. Recommendations: active volunteer work at feminist-centered organizations in Iowa, completion of 40-hour training, plan to serve organization for up to ten or more hours each month, and attendance at regularly scheduled volunteer meetings.

GWSS:3415 Cultural Diversity and Identity 3 s.h.
Nature of personal and cultural identity within a pluralistic society; race, ethnicity, national identity, class, sexuality, and gender as categories of cultural difference. Same as THTR:3415.

GWSS:3420 Sex and Gender in Performance 3 s.h.
Relationship between sex and gender in the performing body across a range of public venues, including stage, film, athletic events, and social spaces; articles, texts, plays, films, television, and videos; attendance at live performances of theatre, sports, and other events scheduled in the University and local community; discussion format. Same as THTR:3420.

GWSS:3421 Performing Autobiography 3 s.h.
Write and perform original pieces stemming from personal experiences and interests; readings and videos; genre of contemporary autobiographical performance as established artists have developed it; improvisational performance and writing exercises to foster deeper reflection on personal experiences; final staging of students’ original work. Same as THTR:3421.

GWSS:3450 Writing About Girls 3 s.h.
Examination of a wide range of critical and creative works by contemporary women writers on girhood; common use of the word “girls” to describe adult women; representations of girls in film and television; role of media in sexualization of girls; impact of gender, race, and class in girls’ lives; nature of girls’ relationships with one another; ways in which girhood traumas can continue into adult life; contemporary issues of body image and sexuality (e.g., pressures to be thin, disparagement of sexually active girl as “slut”); poverty, hunger, and homelessness; resistance and rebellion.

GWSS:3540 Gender and Sexuality in French Cinema 3 s.h.
Cultural, historical, semiotic approach to studying construction of gender identity and sexual codes in French cinema from 1920s to present. Taught in English. Prerequisites: FREN:3060 or CINE:1601 or CINE:1602 or GWSS:1001. Same as FREN:3540, CINE:3647.

GWSS:3610 Writing in the Presence of Death: Rhetoric, Narrative, and Hospice 3 s.h.
Role of rhetoric in health care practice, decisions, and ethics; rhetorical production of patient and professional selves in health care; varied practices, diverse perspectives, and situated production of medical and health care knowledge. Requirements: satisfactory completion of General Education rhetoric requirement. Same as RHET:3610, ASP:3610.

GWSS:3710 African American Women Writers 3 s.h.
Introduction to major African American women authors of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries; major debates of black feminist literary scholarship; analyze African American literary representations by reading novels, poetry, short stories, plays, relevant historical and critical texts. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as AFAM:3710.

GWSS:3990 Independent Readings and Research in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies 3 s.h.

GWSS:4000 Sex/Text:: Engendering the Essay 3 s.h.
Analyze and discuss significant essays that have engaged and articulated sexuality and gender in contemporary societies, in the U.S. as well as other cultures; students write and workshop on these topics: bodies are battlegrounds, gender is convoluted, sex is serious; gender and sexuality are emotionally charged, politically volatile, and socially complex issues. Recommendations: major or minor in writing-intensive disciplines, or previous writing classes.

GWSS:4026 French Women Writers 3-4 s.h.
Survey of 20th-century French women writers with emphasis on Simone de Beauvoir; broad range of literary works by writers including de Beauvoir, Colette, Marguerite Yourcenar, Nathalie Sarraute, Marguerite Duras, Sarah Kofman, Annie Ernaux, Christiane Rachefort; French feminist theorists who followed in de Beauvoir’s footsteps, including Helene Cixous, Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray. Prerequisites: FREN:3060 or GWSS:1001. Same as FREN:4026.

GWSS:4090 Senior Research Seminar 3 s.h.
Design and development of individual creative or scholarly projects in the field of gender, women’s and sexuality studies; emphasis on strengthening students’ research and writing skills; synthesizing and extending work already completed in the major. Prerequisites: GWSS:1001. Requirements: two women’s studies courses numbered above GWSS:1001.

GWSS:4095 Honors Senior Thesis arr.
Supervised research, writing. Requirements: honors standing and completion of course work for minor in women’s studies.

GWSS:4140 The Anthropology of Women’s Health 3 s.h.
How female gender intersects with culture, environment, and political economy to shape health and illness; reproductive health, violence, drug use, cancer; readings in anthropology, public health. Prerequisites: ANTH:1101. Same as ANTH:4140, CBH:5140, GHS:4140.

GWSS:4169 Feminist Rhetorics 3 s.h.
Exploration of multiple, varied, and complex histories of U.S. feminisms from rhetorical perspectives; focus on primary documents, the letters, speeches, essays, and manifesto/as that shaped women’s movements and inspire social change from late 18th century to present; social, political, and personal issues that feminists sought to address and transform, communicative and rhetorical methods utilized, and implications of these efforts for women’s lives and broader U.S. American culture. Prerequisites: (COMM:1112 or COMM:1170) and (COMM:1117 or COMM:1130) and (COMM:1168 or COMM:1174) and COMM:1301 and COMM:1305. Requirements: g.p.a. of at least 2.30, completion of Foundations of Communication requirement, and 6 s.h. of intermediate-level course work. Same as COMM:4169.

GWSS:4180 Women’s Lives in Alternative Texts 3 s.h.
Work of contemporary comics creators; how they craft memoir-based texts that explore intersections of aging, sexuality, race, gender, and relationships. Same as INTM:4780.
GWSS:4280 Women and Power in U.S. History Through the Civil War 3 s.h.
Exploration of how women, as political actors, shaped the outcome of familiar events (the American Revolution, the Civil War); how they organized social movements around important issues of their lives such as the abolition of slavery and the right to consent to sexual intimacy; how women's inequality was established in law and social practice; how women thought about and challenged inequality, both as individuals and in social movements. Same as HIST:4280.

GWSS:4282 Women and Power in U.S. History Since the Civil War 3 s.h.
Major events and themes in U.S. women's history from late 19th century to present; how women's experiences have differed from men's; exploration of distinct, but interconnected histories of different groups of women; changing ideals of femininity; women's experience of industrialization, immigration, depression, war, and sexual revolution; women's activism for social reform, women's rights, labor, civil rights, peace, and the New Right. Same as HIST:4282.

GWSS:4283 U.S. Women's History as the History of Human Rights 3-4 s.h.
History of human rights in the United States traced through the perspective of women; aspects of women's experience (social, political, intellectual) related to fundamental human rights—right to a nationality, right to life, liberty and personal security, right to freedom of movement, right to take part in the government of their country, right to own property; these and other rights specified by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; different history of men and women enjoying these rights; how human rights have been constructed and experienced in the United States from the era of colonial settlement to present. Same as HIST:4283, AMST:4283, HRTS:4283.

GWSS:4427 Society and Gender in Europe 1200-1789 3 s.h.
Social and gender ideologies as inscribed in patterns of authority (household, church, state); ranges of human endeavor (intellectual, psychological, biological); community organization (social, economic, legal, sexual); their influence on concept of community. Same as HIST:4427.

GWSS:4461 Gender and Violence 3 s.h.
Extent and nature of gendered violence, interpretation of patterns using feminist theory and perspectives on masculinities and heterosexism; examination of interpersonal violence, including criminal violence committed by women and men, violence against women and men (victimization), spousal/intimate partner abuse, youth gangs, bullying in schools, sexual violence, femicide, and genocide. Same as SOC:4461.

GWSS:4560 Native American Women and Religious Change 3 s.h.
Native women's diverse experiences and their roles in native societies, examined through contact experiences between native and nonnative peoples; changes in women's roles in context of interactions between native people, missionaries, European colonists, and Americans; approaches to re-imaging women's early contact roles presented in cultural narratives, archaeology, history, ethnography, and missionary records. Same as AINS:4560, RELS:4920.

GWSS:4725 Women and Gender in African History 3 s.h.
Importance of female agency in African history; African women's history in historiographical framework of women's history, challenges historians face in exploring African women's past; varied sources (e.g., novels, films, court records) from sub-Saharan Africa, urban and rural settings; current literature on African women, African women's experiences in a comparative context. Same as HIST:4725.

GWSS:4820 Sociology of Sexuality 3 s.h.
Sociological perspectives on sexuality, including theoretical and conceptual developments, empirical regularities, and social implications; sexual expression in the United States. Prerequisites: SOC:1010 or SOC:1020. Same as SOC:4820.

Graduate

GWSS:5000 Foundations for Feminist Inquiry I 3 s.h.
Theory, critique, methodology, practice.

GWSS:5120 Reading Transnational Feminist Theory 3 s.h.
Issues in transnational feminist scholarship, including colonialism, globalization, the nation-state, religion, cultural traditions, and human rights, in global and U.S. domestic contexts; interdisciplinary readings with focus on anthropology, other social sciences. Same as ANTH:5120.

GWSS:6050 Topics in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies 3 s.h.
Special topics in women's studies.

GWSS:6125 Seminar: Feminist Ethnography 3 s.h.
Feminist critiques of traditional ethnographies; informed by contemporary feminisms. Same as ANTH:6125.

GWSS:6130 Studies in Francophone Literatures 3 s.h.
Historical, anthropological, comparative approach to Francophone literatures and cultures; Afro/Indo-Caribbean religions in literatures, theoretical and critical discourses, women's literature and cinema. Same as FREN:6130.

GWSS:6225 Feminist Critical Theory 3 s.h.
Questions of difference, the body, agency, identity politics, gender performativity, power as both productive and oppressive; perspectives from texts in poststructuralist and feminist philosophy.

GWSS:6238 Gender and Education in Historical Perspective 3 s.h.
Gender in context of history of education in the United States; coeducation in common schools, academies, and high schools; women's arrival and experiences as college students; masculinity in higher education; single-sex versus coeducation; emphasis on conflicting historical interpretations. Same as EPLS:6238.

GWSS:6256 Gender and Mass Communication 3 s.h.
Approaches to the study of gender and communication; topics vary. Same as JMC:6256.

GWSS:6310 Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Gender 3 s.h.
Science and technology done in particular social and structural contexts; theoretical approaches for understanding cultures of science and social uses of technology; focus on gender-related aspects of real world cases. Recommendations: graduate standing in any discipline with interest in understanding cultural context of scientific practice. Same as ANTH:6310.

GWSS:6350 Gender and Religion 3 s.h.
What contemporary religious and spiritual groups and their members believe about sex, sexuality, and gender; how they define and redefine what it means to be a "man" and a "woman"; exploration of contemporary "conservative" and "progressive" cosmologies and theologies; underlying beliefs that construct these perspectives and the impact on individual and group practices; broader implications of individual and group beliefs and practices on national and global policies. Same as RELS:6350.

GWSS:6415 Seminar: Language, Gender, and Sexuality 3 s.h.
Role of language and discourse in cultural constructions of gender identities and relations, including domination and subordination; theoretical perspective and methodological approaches that have shaped thought on the language/gender nexus. Same as ANTH:6415, LING:6415.

GWSS:6660 Critical Ethnography 3 s.h.
How power relations constitute the work of ethnographic research; ethnography as a rhetorical form—how ethnographic inscription renders self, other, culture, and the world intelligible in ways that reinscribe and/or challenge dominant social relations; axes of power such as race, class, gender, sexuality, and nation within postcolonial, feminist, and antiracist approaches to ethnographic/autoethnographic theory and praxis; negotiating researcher privilege and epistemic violence; crisis of representation. Same as COMM:6660.

GWSS:6710 Seminar: Women in Sport 3 s.h.
Women's sport involvement in historical and/or contemporary contexts; focus on social class, religion, race, ethnicity, sexuality, medical opinion, economic considerations, political events, and educational philosophies that have influenced women's participation. Same as SPST:6078, AMST:6078.

GWSS:6990 Independent Study arr.

GWSS:7020 Feminist Research Seminar arr.
Feminist research methodologies; how to conduct original research, write a research proposal and research paper, and read and criticize others' work. Same as HIST:7120.

GWSS:7205 Gender and Race in Nineteenth-Century U.S. arr.

GWSS:7207 French Theory and the Politics of Gender arr.
Introduction to structuralist, poststructuralist, and deconstructionist theory; influence of post-WWII French thought on the development of French and gender theory.

GWSS:7214 Readings: African American Women's History arr.

GWSS:7220 Readings: History of Sexuality arr.
History of sexuality within the family, its move into the marketplace; social customs and taboos, methods of birth control and abortion, religion, medical and psychological writings, state policies. Same as HIST:7220.

GWSS:7275 Readings in the History of Women and Gender in the U.S.A. arr.

GWSS:7289 Readings: Gender in Latin American History arr.

GWSS:7400 Graduate Research Conference Presentation 1 s.h.
Presentation of conference paper based on current research activities; for students pursuing the Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies. Requirements: gender, women's, and sexuality studies graduate certificate standing.

GWSS:7435 Readings: Women, Men, and Gender in Modern Europe arr.


GWSS:7920 Innovative Methods in Pedagogy: Radical Feminist Pedagogy 3 s.h.
Readings in history, theory, and practice of pedagogical innovations appropriate to composition instruction and other interdisciplinary teaching; project-based assignments that produce materials appropriate for classroom use. Same as RHET:7920.