Women’s Studies is an interdisciplinary program offering a major and minor. Women’s Studies courses focus on women’s accomplishments, conditions, and contributions within their cultural and cross-cultural contexts, thus illuminating the values implicit in women’s place in society. The theoretical constructs of Women’s Studies look to the social, cultural, and historical constructions of gender, considering the distinction between concepts of gender and biological sex differences. Looking at gender as a determinant across and through disciplines, Women’s Studies crosses the boundaries of traditional fields of study, offering fresh views of their subject matter and creating a new coherent way of understanding human experience. The theory-building of Women’s Studies, now generally known as Feminist Theories, works both within and across disciplines to analyze the origins and effects of power, dominance, and gender.

The major and minor combine Women’s Studies Program interdisciplinary courses with departmental courses developed specifically for the Women’s Studies Program. Courses are offered regularly by twelve departments in the college—in the social sciences, the humanities, philosophy, and religion—as well as by the School of Education.

A major or double major in Women’s Studies prepares students for graduate study and for careers in the public and private sectors, including social services, public policy, education, advocacy, creative arts, counseling, advertising and marketing. A minor in Women’s Studies strengthens preparation for many areas of graduate study, as well for a range of career opportunities in both traditional fields and in occupational areas which have opened as a result of the women’s movement.

Students who would like to know more about the Women’s Studies Program are invited to speak with the director and the other faculty members of the program.

**Core Course Faculty**

**Elizabeth A. Kelly, Ph.D.,**
Director of Women’s Studies
Associate Professor (Political Science)
Rutgers University

**Anne Clark Bartlett, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor (English)
University of Iowa

**Maria A. Beltran-Vocal, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor (Modern Languages)
University of California, Irvine

**Peg Birmingham, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor (Philosophy)
Duquesne University

**Paula Stewart Brush, Ph.D.,**
Assistant Professor (Women’s Studies)
Duquesne University

**Susan Clarke, M.L.S.,**
(Library)
Rosary College

**Frida Kerner Furman, Ph.D.,**
Professor (Religious Studies)
University of Southern California

**Sandra Jackson, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor (Education)
University of California, Berkeley

**Jeanne LaDuke, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor (Mathematics)
University of Oregon

**Mary Jeanne Larrabee, Ph.D.,**
Professor (Women’s Studies and Philosophy)
University of Toronto

**Susan Leigh, M.F.A.,**
Associate Professor (Women’s Studies)
Temple University

**Elizabeth Lillegaard, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor (Art)
Columbia University

**Susan Poslusny, Ph.D., R.N.**
Assistant Professor and Chair (Nursing)
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Francesca Royster, Ph.D.,**
Assistant Professor (English)
University of California, Berkeley
**WOMEN’S STUDIES**

**ANN RUSSO, PH.D.,**
Assistant Professor (Women’s Studies)
University of Illinois, Urbana

**BARBARA SCHÄFFER, M.A.,**
Sexual Harassment Ombudsperson
and Instructor (English)
Washington University

**BARBARA SPEICHER, PH.D.,**
Associate Professor (Communication)
Northwestern University

**NAOMI STEINBERG, PH.D.,**
Associate Professor (Religious Studies)
Columbia University

**JACQUELINE TAYLOR, PH.D.,**
Professor (Communication)
University of Texas

**LOURDES TORRES, PH.D.,**
Associate Professor (Modern Languages)

**MIDGE WILSON, PH.D.,**
Professor (Psychology)
University of North Carolina

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**

**LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM**

In addition to the 32 quarter hours required in the liberal studies core, students are required to complete 52 quarter hours distributed through six learning domains as part of their Bachelor of Arts degree in women’s studies. The number and distribution of courses in each of the areas are as follows:

**Core:** 32 quarter hours required

First Year Program: (20 quarter hours required) Discover Chicago or Explore Chicago, Focal Point Seminar, Quantitative Reasoning, and Composition and Rhetoric I and II.

**Sophomore Seminar:** (4 quarter hours required) Sophomore Seminar on Multiculturalism in the United States

**Junior Year Experiential Learning:** (4 quarter hours required) If your junior year experiential learning requirement also fulfills a major field requirement, you may substitute a liberal studies domain elective (from outside your major field area) or the third course in the modern language option for this requirement.

**Senior Capstone:** (4 quarter hours required) Women's Studies requires that all students majoring in Women's Studies complete the senior capstone in Women's Studies. If you are double majoring and/or in the Honors program you must also follow the capstone guidelines for that area.

**Arts and Literature:** 8 quarter hours required. At most 2 courses from the same department or program. A literature course is required as a prerequisite for the "one course must focus on women in the creative arts such as literature, art, music or film."

**Philosophical Inquiry:** 8 quarter hours required.

**Religious Dimensions:** 8 quarter hours required; 4 quarter hours in patterns and problems, and 4 quarter hours in traditions in context.

**Scientific Inquiry:** 12 quarter hours required; 4 quarter hours with a lab component, 4 quarter hours with a quantitative component, and 4 quarter hours scientific inquiry elective.

**Self, Society and the Modern World:** 8 quarter hours required. At most 2 courses from the same department or program.

**Understanding the Past:** 8 quarter hours required; 4 quarter hours of history pre-1800 and 4 quarter hours of history primarily between 1800-1945. In addition, courses must be from...
two different categories: 1) Asia, 2) Latin America, 3) Africa, 4) North America or Europe and 5) intercontinental or comparative.

Although study in Women’s Studies contributes to a student’s liberal education, courses offered by the department of Women’s Studies are not applied towards liberal studies requirements for the Women’s Studies major. Exceptions to this rule are the junior experiential learning and the senior capstone requirements.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A twelve-course major is offered. For the major, a student must take Women’s Studies 200, 300, 390, 391 and 395. The remaining courses are selected from the designated list below, as well as those listed in the Class Offering Schedule, and the Women’s Studies Newsletter, with the following provisions: At least three of the courses must come from those marked with an *, and at least one of the seven electives must focus on Women in the Creative Arts (Literature, Art, Film, Music):

- Art: 356 Women in Art.
- Communication: 361 *Gender and Communication.
- Comparative Literature: 313 Feminist Comparative Literature.
- Economics: 319 *Economics and Gender.
- English: 383 *Women and Literature.
- History: 258 *Women in History.
- Philosophy: 233 Issues in Sex and Gender.
- Political Science: 217 *Women and Politics.
- Psychology: 325 *Psychology of Women.
- Religious Studies: 270 Women in the Bible; 274 Women in African Religion and Culture; 278 *Women and Religion; 322 Feminist Ethics; 332 Gender and Family in Early Christianity; 370 Feminist Theologies.
- Sociology: 209 *Sociology of Women; 211 Gender and Society; 327 Life Cycle: Middle Age and the Aging.
- Women’s Studies: 210 Values and Gender; 230 Women’s Health; 258 Education and Social Justice: Gender; 290 Special Topics; 303 Women and Violence; 305 Women and Knowledge; 326 Women and Law (formerly WMS 299); 336 Women and Film; 392 Internship; 394 Women, Self and Society Seminar; 398 Travel/Study; 399 Independent Study.

WOMEN’S STUDIES MINOR

A six-course minor is offered. For the minor, a student must take the Women’s Studies 200 course and at least two courses coming from those with an * on the list below, as well as those listed in the Class Offering Schedule, and the Women’s Studies Newsletter. The remaining courses can be selected from the courses designated below (and can include those with an *).

- Art: 356 Women in Art.
- Communication: 361 *Gender and Communication.
- Comparative Literature: 313 Feminist Comparative Literature.
- Economics: 319 *Economics and Gender.
- English: 383 *Women and Literature.
- History: 258 *Women in History.
- Philosophy: 233 Issues in Sex and Gender.
Political Science: 217 Women and Politics.
Psychology: 325 Psychology of Women.
Religious Studies: 270 Women in the Bible; 274 Women in African Religion and Culture; 278 Women and Religion; 322 Feminist Ethics; 332 Gender and Family in Early Christianity; 370 Feminist Theologies.
Sociology: 209 Sociology of Women; 211 Gender and Society; 327 Life Cycle: Middle Age and the Aging.
Women’s Studies: 210 Values and Gender; 230 Women’s Health; 258 Education and Social Justice: Gender; 290 Special Topics; 300 Feminist Theories; 303 Women and Violence; 305 Women and Knowledge; 326 Women and Law (formerly WMS 299); 336 Women and Film; 390 Women Across Cultures; 391 Methods and Scholarship in Women’s Studies; 392 Internship; 394 Women, Self and Society Seminar; 395 Women’s Studies Advanced Seminar; 398 Travel/Study; 399 Independent Study.

COURSES
All courses carry four quarter hours credit unless otherwise specified.
WMS 200 WOMEN’S STUDIES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SURVEY This course provides a theoretical framework for the discipline of Women’s Studies and examines research by and about women in selected academic fields. May be waived for majors or minors with permission of WMS director.
WMS 210 VALUES AND GENDER This course explores the dominant issues stemming from our being gendered subjects and examines the values underlying various theories on the nature and roles of females and males in different cultures.
WMS 212 GROWING UP FEMALE IN AMERICA This course examines what it means to grow up female in the contemporary U.S. It explores the ways in which girls develop and are socialized through childhood and adolescence, focusing on how families, schools, peers, and the larger culture influence young women’s lives and the ways in which race, ethnicity, class and sexual orientation affect their growth and learning and how these interactions might affect the behaviors and choices of young women as they mature.
WMS 230 WOMEN’S HEALTH (Cross-listed as NSG 230) This course explores theoretical and applied information concerning women’s health, with an emphasis on a wellness perspective.
WMS 240 WOMEN, TECHNOLOGY AND THE SCIENCES Women, technology and the sciences.
WMS 258 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: GENDER (Cross-listed as LSE 258) A variable topics course designed to examine education within a philosophical framework which focuses upon the relatively great potential of education as an agent for social justice and change. Through the examination of current issues and concerns, students are expected to engage in critical analysis, reflect upon theoretical frameworks, examine public policies and values, and consider ways in which schools and educators can promote the development of social justice. Each time the course is offered it will focus on one of the following topics: gender; ethnicity; language and culture; or social class and economic opportunity. For each topic, attention will be given to the issues of institutional responses to differences, equity, access and outcomes.
WMS 290 SPECIAL TOPICS See course schedule for current offerings.

WMS 300 FEMINIST THEORIES (Cross-listed as WMS 400 and MLS 440) A discussion and assessment of the various theories concerning the place of women in society, including theories that have advocated a more positive role for and valuation of women than those of the dominant society. The course will take both a historical and a topical approach. PREREQUISITE(S): WMS 200 and completion of one course, junior/senior standing or permission of instructor required.

WMS 303 WOMEN AND VIOLENCE This course explores the social and cultural contexts of interpersonal violence in women’s lives, with a focus on domestic violence, rape, harassment. The course seeks to understand how gender, race, class, sexual, and national differences and inequalities shape the experiences of violence, the social and institutional responses to violence, and strategies for resistance and change.

WMS 305 WOMEN AND KNOWLEDGE (Cross-listed as WMS 405, MLS 468 and PHL 661) This course studies the impact of the current Women’s Movement on our understanding of knowledge, learning and the institutions that define and provide these.

WMS 307 WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST: BEYOND THE VEIL This course explores how Middle Eastern Women have been represented in the media outside of the Middle East, by Arab women scholars, and “Third World” feminists and challenges these representations by focusing on issues such as veiling, the everyday lives of Middle Eastern Women, political activism, literary works, economics and social class, and media representations.

WMS 310 FEMINIST ETHICS This course explores theoretical issues regarding women’s moral experience and feminist approaches to liberation from various forms of socio-cultural and political oppression. It explores the moral status of women from their own experiences and perspectives, in contrast to traditional Western ethics’ characterizations. It examines and evaluates the ethic of care as an alternative moral perspective and investigates a variety of themes and values discerned in women’s moral experiences. It explores feminist ethical perspectives on oppressive social practices, such as racism and violence against women, and examines the ethical dimensions of difference among women.

WMS 312 CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST SEX DEBATES This course examines, analyzes, and engages in contemporary debates over sexual identities, desires, and practices along with their relationship to gender, race, class, and national politics. Some of the issues to be considered include institutionalized heterosexuality; lesbian, gay, and bisexual identities; sexual double standards; sexual “deviance” and transgression; pornography; prostitution; and gendered and transgendered identifications, among others.
WMS 314 ANTRIRACIST FEMINISMS This course introduces students to the wide array of feminist thinking regarding ideologies of race, racism, white privilege, ethnocentrism, racial and ethnic identifications, and their relationship to gender, class, sexual and national identities and locations. The ways that racism has divided women’s movements and feminist organizations will be examined along with the work of feminist scholars, writers, activists, and advocates who have articulated explicitly anti-racist theories, analyses, and programs within the U.S. as well as internationally.

WMS 316 REPRESENTATIONS OF THE BODY This course reflects the current explosion of intellectual interest in the body as a site of cultural meaning. We will enter this discussion by examining how the body, which seems to be a natural, universal fact, is also a deeply cultural symbolic construction. The readings attempt to capture the complexity of this evolving field using a multidisciplinary approach, including such fields as history, art, medicine, philosophy, religion, sociology, women’s studies, and cultural studies. The course addresses the questions of how the body is socially created and sustained. It explores those questions in terms of tensions between nature and culture (to what extent is the body natural? cultural?), body and spirit (what does human “embodiment” mean? are we our physical bodies—and nothing else?), and how discourses of power converge in and on the body (gender/race/class/age/ability). Course topics include: the meaning of physical pain in Western history; the personal experience of and social construction of race in the U.S., with its background assumptions about skin color; the social constructions of gender, sexualities, and sexual desire; personal experience and the cultural “readings” and representations of male and female, old, disabled, and transgressive bodies; socio-cultural “readings” of physical violence pertaining to both victim and perpetrator.
WOMEN’S STUDIES

WMS 324 WOMEN IN THEATRE: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE This course examines the concepts of gender and theatrical performance with reference to history, culture, critical response, viewer interpretation, and identity in a global context. Students will study character as a dramatic image with respect to gender, race, and class; examine how dramatic images are as diverse as their cultural contexts; explore the concepts of reader and viewer response to theater; and interrogate the relationship between the American theatrical image and the larger global context within which images are created.

WMS 326 WOMEN AND LAW (Formerly WMS 299). This course investigates the variety of ways in which women come into relation with the law, e.g., through laws and judicial decisions dealing with equal opportunity.

WMS 336 WOMEN AND FILM This course explores one or more ways in which film as art, as cultural product, or as industry has dealt with women, either as subjects, artists, consumers or critics of film.

WMS 339 DIVIDED SISTERS This course explores in depth the historical, political, social, and emotional nature of relationships between Black women and White women in America. Societal constructions of race and gender, along with the constant interplay of class, sexual orientation, and other dimensions of difference will be identified, as will key themes and defining tensions and points of connections in women’s cross race relations. The course aims to improve understanding of the history between African American and European American women, to gain awareness of the political tensions stemming from with Civil Rights and Women’s Liberation movements, to gain understanding of the shared and varying beauty concerns of Black women and White women in this culture, and to develop strategies for improving communication and cooperation between women of varying racial identities.

WMS 339 DIVIDED SISTERS This course explores in depth the historical, political, social, and emotional nature of relationships between Black women and White women in America. Societal constructions of race and gender, along with the constant interplay of class, sexual orientation, and other dimensions of difference will be identified, as will key themes and defining tensions and points of connections in women’s cross race relations. The course aims to improve understanding of the history between African American and European American women, to gain awareness of the political tensions stemming from with Civil Rights and Women’s Liberation movements, to gain understanding of the shared and varying beauty concerns of Black women and White women in this culture, and to develop strategies for improving communication and cooperation between women of varying racial identities.

WMS 390 WOMEN ACROSS CULTURES (Cross-listed as WMS 490 and MLS 441) A critical analysis of the experiences of women around the world in diverse social contexts, examined through different disciplines, with a special emphasis on economics, politics and culture. Focus is on African, Asian and Latin American cultures and nondominant groups within western societies. PREREQUISITE(S): WMS 200, one WMS course and either junior/senior standing or permission of Women’s Studies Director required.
WMS 391 METHODS AND SCHOLARSHIP IN WOMEN’S STUDIES (Cross-listed as WMS 491)
An exploration of the transforming effects that feminist methodologies and scholarship have had in the social sciences and humanities. This course emphasizes interdisciplinary research approaches, feminist publishing, and the interplay of research and activism, as it prepares students to write a research proposal. Not recommended for non-majors. PREREQUISITE(S): WMS 300.

WMS 392 INTERNSHIP By arrangement. Variable credit.

WMS 394 WOMEN, SELF, AND SOCIETY SEMINAR (Cross-listed as WMS 480 and Master’s of Liberal Studies 468) Variable Topics. See course schedule for current offerings. PREREQUISITE(S): Completion of one course or permission of instructor.

WMS 395 WOMEN’S STUDIES ADVANCED SEMINAR The Advanced Seminar emphasizes interdisciplinary methodology and students’ independent research. Designed to be an integrating experience, the seminar will focus on discussion, response to research, and blending theory and application. Not recommended for non-majors. PREREQUISITE(S): WMS 200, WMS 300 and WMS 391. Junior/senior standing or permission of Women’s Studies Director required.

WMS 398 TRAVEL/STUDY (Cross-listed with WMS 498)

WMS 399 INDEPENDENT STUDY Permission of the instructor and the Women’s Studies Director required before registration. By arrangement. Variable credit.