

## WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES — INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

119 Smith Hall

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Director: **Barbara Le Savoy**

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Women and gender studies at The College at Brockport is committed to exploring gender and women's issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, across different populations, and within a local, national and transnational context. Program knowledge seeks to provide students with the occasion to investigate the intersectionality of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, sexuality and other dimensions of social identity. The program offers both a major and a minor with course work dedicated to heightening the awareness of the political, socioeconomic, and cultural ideologies related to gender theory. The women and gender studies curriculum seeks to support pedagogy rooted in social justice and equality and to situate the classroom as a collaborative space where both instructor and students mediate knowledge production. As a social science field, women and gender studies provides its students with diversity training, leadership skills, competitive writing and editing expertise, public speaking experience, and the ability to complete original research and analyze data. These disciplinary skills equip women and gender studies majors and minors with valuable preparation for careers in public service, law, social work, education, criminal justice, the health professions, and many other fields. Women and gender studies also provides a unique and highly useful foundation when considering graduate study. Recent women and gender studies graduates have gone on to highly competitive masters and doctorate programs in law, sociology, gender studies, history, and English at nationally recognized research universities. The Women and Gender Studies Program works to make the diversity of women's and gendered perspectives visible and to position student success within an academic, professional, and personal context.

### Course of Study

#### Major in Women and Gender Studies

A major in women's studies requires 36 credits, with 24 credits in approved, interdisciplinary core courses. The remaining 12 credits in electives are chosen from the list of approved, interdisciplinary women and gender studies cross-listed electives. These electives are updated regularly, so students are encouraged to choose courses with advisement. Only courses in which a grade of "C" or higher is received are accepted as meeting the requirements for the major.

		<b>Credits</b>
WMS 101	Introduction to Women and Gender Studies	3
WMS 271	Gender, Race and Class	3
WMS 360	Sex and Culture	3
WMS 381	Feminist Theory	3
WMS 411	Feminist Research Methods	3
WMS 420	Practicum in Women and Gender Studies	3
WMS 421	Senior Seminar in Women's Studies	3

**Must chose at least one of the following courses in Women's History**

WMS 324	Politics in America 1780s-1900s; Sex, Race, Culture and Party	3
WMS 328	Women in America	3
WMS 344	Sex, Sin and Sorority	3
WMS 358	History of Family: Social Change in American History	3
WMS 359	History of Family: European Women	3
WMS 367	Gender in the Islamic World	3
WMS 438	Women and Gender in Latin American History	3
WMS 444	Medieval Women	3

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**Total:**     **24**

**Electives:**

Must choose four electives from approved, interdisciplinary cross-listed courses.     **12**

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**Total Credits in the Women and Gender Studies Major:**     **36**

**Minor in Women and Gender Studies**

A minor in women and gender studies requires 18 credits, with nine in interdisciplinary core courses: WMS 101, 360 and 381. The remaining nine credits are chosen, with advisement, from the list of approved women and gender studies electives. At least one elective must be an upper-division course. Half the credits for the minor in women and gender studies (nine credits) must be taken at The College at Brockport. Only courses in which students earn a grade of "C" or higher satisfy the core requirements in the minor.

**The required core courses for the minor are:**

		<b>Credits</b>
WMS 101	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
WMS 301	Feminist Theory	3
WMS 360	Sex and Culture	3

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**Core Total:**     **9**

**Women and Gender Studies Electives:**     **9**

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**Total for Minor:**     **18**

## WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES COURSES

**WMS 101 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies (A,D,S,W,Y).** Provides an introduction to women's studies, its perspective, and its interdisciplinary nature. Using several disciplines, examines women's position in culture and society and explores the genesis, development, and impact of our culture's assumptions about women's nature and women's roles. Major and minor requirement. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

**WMS 200 Topics in Women and Gender Studies (A,W,Y).** To be defined by the instructor in accordance with the specific topic to be covered in that semester. Typically, topic areas are gender and language or women on the margins of society. 3 Cr.

**WMS 271 Gender, Race and Class (A,D,S,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as AAS 271.* Examines the intersecting socio-political forces of gender, race and class, and how these forces interact. Looks at how these forces affect individuals, and individual and social responses to these forces. Investigates the history of efforts to end discrimination, and the ways these efforts translate into issues of current concern in the US Major requirement. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

**WMS 303 Native American Women (A,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ANT 303.* Representation of Native American women generally conform to two stereotypes: the submissive drudge or the Indian princess. Both ignore the complexity and diversity of Native women's roles in their respective societies. Taught primarily from a Native women's perspective, this course moves beyond the two-dimensional portrait to engage life experiences and social institutions, emphasizing strength and endurance, the complementary nature of traditional gender roles and contemporary strategies for cultural survival. 3 Cr.

**WMS 305 Gender, Sex and Power: the View from Inside (A,I,W).** *Cross-listed as ANT 305.* Applies a cross-cultural approach to the study of gender and sex. Examines topics including socialization; identity and self; gender and biology; and intersections between gender, class, and race. Highlights contemporary issues such as migration, economic development and gender role change, and the commodification of women via sex tourism and globalization. Focuses on Samoa, Gambia, Mexico, United States, China, Burma (Myanmar) and the Dominican Republic. 3 Cr.

**WMS 307 Gendering the Past (A,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ANT 307.* Explores the relationship between past and present in the context of interpreting gender roles, with a focus on gender in the present versus gender in the past. Teaches students how to evaluate claims or interpretations

based on historic or archaeological data. Introduces students to a wide range of historically conditioned gender roles. By examining this diversity, allows students to realize that gender is not a simple or natural construct. 3 Cr. Spring.

**WMS 310 Women in Art (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ARH 310.* Examines the contributions and creations of women to the visual arts throughout history, with an emphasis on the women artists of the last two centuries. Students will gain an understanding of artistic techniques and movements and become familiar with the social and political history of women, in order to understand how such conditions affect artistic production. 3 Cr.

**WMS 313 Gender Politics (A,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as PLS 313.* Explores, from a feminist perspective, socio-political barriers that have made women the "majority minority" or "silenced majority." Includes barriers such as discriminatory legislation, political folkways, sex and gender roles, and myths that have created and perpetuated a male-dominated society. 3 Cr.

**WMS 315 Contemporary Black Woman (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as AAS 315.* Eclectically explores the various positions and roles played by black women in contemporary times against their historical backdrop. Focuses on the roles of black women in traditional and contemporary contexts in Africa; black women in rural and urban areas and in the Caribbean; and professional black women and their characteristics. 3 Cr.

**WMS 324 Politics in America, 1780s-1900s: Sex, Race, Culture and Party (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as HST 324.* Explores American politics from the 18th century until today, emphasizing central tendencies and long-term patterns in the distribution and exercise of power in America, with special attention to gender, interests, and ideologies. 3 Cr.

**WMS 328 Women in America (A,D,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as HST 328.* Focuses on cultural images of American women, such as the Victorian lady, the flapper, and Rosie the Riveter, individual as well as organized resistance to conventional definitions of womanhood; and contemporary issues, including employment, reproductive freedom, and historiographical issues in women's history. 3 Cr. Spring.

**WMS 335 Feminism and Philosophy (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed with PHL 335.* Feminist theory and philosophy converge on some basic questions of enduring importance: questions concerning, e.g., personhood, knowledge and reality. Explores some varieties of feminism, such

as liberal, radical, multicultural, postmodern and cyberfeminism. Investigates how these feminisms engage issues of contemporary moment, such as work equity, sexuality, pornography and technology, and examines the philosophical significance of these engagements. 3 Cr.

**WMS 338 Lesbian and Gay Literature (A,D,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ENL 338.* Focuses on gay and lesbian authors; analyzes the intersections between race, class, gender, and sexuality in contemporary literature. Requires oral presentations, intensive critical discussion, and written responses to texts. 3 Cr.

**WMS 339 Writings By African-American Women (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as AAS 339, ENL 339.* Surveys literary representations in Afro-American fiction from the Harlem Renaissance to today. Examines the degree to which sexism, cultural stereotypes and racism influence the portrayals and functions of women in black American literature. Explores concerns with women's issues and the emergence of feminist movement in America. 3 Cr.

**WMS 344 Sex, Sin and Sorority: Women in Early American Republic (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as HST 344.* Explores the origins of the modern American woman. Seeks to describe and explain the ways women in America transformed their reproductive, productive, political, and personal lives during the first century of The Great American Republic, c. 1776-1876. Is aimed at a general audience and has no prerequisites. Entails lectures, reading, discussion, quizzes, and essay exams. 3 Cr. Fall.

**WMS 350 Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Western Women (A,I,W,Y).** Examines and explores Western women's experience from ancient Greece to the present from many perspectives: historical, professional, political, social, familial, and legal. 3 Cr. Summer.

**WMS 354 American Film Genres (A,W,Y).** Focuses on American film genres such as musicals, film noir, westerns, science fiction and horror, and melodrama, stressing an understanding of film technique; theories about genre formulation; the evolution of genres within specific socioeconomic contexts during the 30s, 40s, and 50s; the relevance of genres to contemporary filmmakers; and the ideological function of film. 3 Cr.

**WMS 355 Women in Film (A).** Examines the role of women in film narratives as on-screen representations, spectators and filmmakers. Surveys some of the most influential writings in the field of feminist film theory. Approaches these representations of women in film through theoretical arguments about topics such as audience spectatorship, the psychological interplay of desire and identification,

construction of sexual difference in film narrative and society, and selected representations of women and men by various filmmakers of diverse cultures. 3 Cr.

**WMS 358 Family and Social Change in American History (A,D,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as HST 358.* Focuses on family structures and strategies, challenges to patriarchal families, and changing views of marriage and motherhood. Includes consideration of Native-American, black and immigrant experiences. Explores issues such as the women's rights movement on families and working mothers, single parents, and alternative families. 3 Cr.

**WMS 359 History of European Women (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as HST 359.* Examines the history of European women since 1500, including traditional roles in political, cultural, and social life. Focuses on change over the centuries. 3 Cr.

**WMS 360 Sex and Culture (A,D,I,W,Y).** Explores human sexuality as variously and richly patterned by different cultures. Covers the evolution of human sexuality; cultural significance of biological sex differences; sex roles; patterning of heterosexuality, homosexuality, and transsexuality in selected world cultures; and changing patterns of sexual behavior in the US. Emphasizes the female perspective and the interplay of biological, psychological, and cultural factors in the patterning of human sexuality. Major and minor requirement. 3 Cr.

**WMS 361 Sociology of Sex, Marriage and Family (A,I,W,Y).** *Prerequisite: SOC 100. Cross-listed as SOC 361.* Provides an introduction to sociological theory and research on intimate relationships and families in the US. Examines historical and contemporary variations, with the main focus on the gendered nature of marriage and family life. Looks at intimacy and family formation through topics such as love, marriage and sexuality. Investigates key concerns in family life such as the balance of power, negotiating work/family roles, parenthood and divorce. 3 Cr.

**WMS 362 Women in Western Political Thought (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as PLS 362.* Covers major theories of sexual politics, including Freud's theory of femininity, reform liberalism, socialist theory, and the theory of radical feminism. 3 Cr.

**WMS 364 Gender and Social Change (A,I,W,Y).** *Prerequisite: SOC 100. Cross-listed as SOC 364.* Examines gender as a social construction, embedded in interpersonal interactions, social institutions, and cultural systems, comparing gender in the US to gender in other cultures. Explores topics such as how we learn gender, how gender serves to maintain systems of inequality for men and women, and how the meanings of gender have changed over time. 3 Cr.

**WMS 365 Lesbian and Gay Cultures in America (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ANT 365.* Explores the history and emergence of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender cultures in the US from the 1940s to present. Topics include the history of the movement before and after Stonewall; the intersections between sexuality and ethnicity, gender and social status; and urban/rural/suburban differences in attitudes and approaches within the homosexual rights movement. 3 Cr.

**WMS 367 Gender in the Islamic World (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as HST 367.* Covers gender in the Islamic world, and goes beyond the veil and women's oppression to deal with the array of culturally-specific discourses that shape men's and women's lives in Islamic cultures. Presents a detailed look at Islamic history to make sense out of gender in the contemporary world. 3 Cr.

**WMS 375 Latin American Women (A,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed FCE 375.* Analyzes gender roles and women's political and economic contributions in Latin America. Covers the role of history, ethnicity and social class in shaping female socialization. 3 Cr.

**WMS 378 Women Writers in American Literature (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ENL 378.* Examines the ways in which American women writers address the particular circumstances of women's lives during particular decades. Explores the diversity of women's writing by including the works of best-selling writers, women of color, working-class women, and radical experimentalists. Provides students with an historical, social and cultural context in which to locate various works. 3 Cr. *Spring.*

**WMS 380 Issues in Women's and Men's Health (A,D,I,W,Y).** Examines various perspectives and issues related to healthcare of men and women. Historical, biological, psychosocial, political, cultural, religious, ethical, moral and legal issues affecting healthcare will be investigated. Topics include sexuality, STDs, abortion, rape, violence in the family, eating disorders, substance abuse, mental health/illness, healthy aging, health promotion and interacting with the medical system. 3 Cr.

**WMS 381 Feminist Theory (A).** *Prerequisite: WMS 101.* Provides an advanced interdisciplinary and multicultural introduction to the main traditions of feminist theory, to the impact of feminist theory on a variety of disciplines, and to feminist theory as applied to various issues in society and culture. Major and minor requirement. 3 Cr. *Every Semester.*

**WMS 396 Women in Sport (A,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as PES 396.* Examines the historical, contemporary, and future perspectives of women in sport. Reviews insights from history, psychology, and

sociology related to women in sport, as well as athletes' perceptions of their performance. Focuses on information and issues which are fundamental to understanding women's participation in sport. 3 Cr. *Every Semester.*

**WMS 402 Women's Health (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as HLS 402.* Provides a study of women as healthy functioning human beings. Includes lecture and discussion with guest speakers (when available) to present positive information and insights on the anatomical, physiological, mental, spiritual, and emotional aspects of contemporary women. 3 Cr.

**WMS 403 Biography and Life History (A,W,Y).** Explores the expression of life stories, their collection and recording, and their presentation in written format. Covers the evolution of the life history in anthropology and oral history; life history as a Western genre; life stories in non-Western form; gender and life stories; the life history as an expression of the self versus the life history as a window on culture; and the limitations of life history research. 3 Cr. *Spring.*

**WMS 410 Contemporary Women Playwrights (A,D,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as THE 410.* Explores ways in which contemporary female playwrights present gender and gendered experiences, and how the construction of women is staged in a variety of cultural contexts through an examination of selected works by 20th-century female playwrights from America, Africa, China and England (with units on African-American, Chicana, Lesbian and Asian-American writers). Includes an investigation of feminist theory as it applies to theatre practices. 3 Cr.

**WMS 411 Feminist Research Methods (A).** Feminist research methods challenges traditional quantitative and qualitative research methods in the social sciences. Feminist research methods are explicitly concerned with the choice of research subjects, the standpoint of the researcher, the effects of social structures on knowledge creation, and with aspects of social reality that may be hidden from traditional research methods. Students will complete a research project that responds to the main themes of the course. Major requirement. 3 Cr. *Fall Semester.*

**WMS 417 Feminism, Gender and Medical Discourses (A,D,I,W,Y).** Considers how theories of gender, social organization, and biological sex shape the questions asked and explanations and interventions offered in the areas of health and medicine. Examines the effects of gender, social class and race on social and medical knowledge with particular emphasis on women's embodiment and health. Readings include ancient and contemporary anatomical texts, contemporary theoriza-

tions of sexual difference, and autobiographical interventions in the fields of health, medicine, and reproductive politics. 3 Cr.

**WMS 419 Human Sexuality (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as HLS 419.* Provides each student with the opportunity to gain an awareness of him/herself and others as sexual beings. Examines sexual knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors throughout the various life stages, in order to integrate human sexuality into one's total health and well-being. 3 Cr.

**WMS 420 Practicum in Women and Gender Studies (A).** Provides students with the opportunity to work from a feminist framework on a service learning project under faculty direction. Students complete an internship in an organization where they work on gender and/or women related issues. Students devise a project that makes use of the internship experience and places that experience within a larger theoretical and feminist organizational framework. Major requirement. 1-9 Cr.

**WMS 421 Senior Seminar in Women and Gender Studies (A).** *Prerequisites: WMS 101 and WMS 301.* Culminating seminar that integrates service-learning and research on gender and women's studies. Students produce a senior-level paper based on their internship experience, prior course work, and research methods under the directorship of a faculty leader. Major requirement. 3 Cr.

**WMS 422 Women's Education in the Developed World: Comparative Perspective (A,I,W,Y).** This course looks at women's education in the developing world. It raises questions on social mobility, inequality, women's role in the economic and social development of the third world society. Recent research on the topic will be reviewed; case studies will be drawn from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. A comparative analysis approach will be used throughout this course. 3 Cr.

**WMS 425 Women and Safety (A,W,Y).** Examines issues of violent crime and personal victimization, especially for women, and the implications for personal crime prevention. Includes an in-depth examination of these violent crimes (e.g.: sexual assault, relationship violence), followed by a focus on individual strategies for maintaining personal safety and reducing crime risks. Considers crime prevention for children and other special populations. 3 Cr.

**WMS 427 Women in the Novel (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ENL 427.* Provides in-depth examination of select novels, with some touching upon novels from other countries, to consider their thematic forms and functions, their literary significance, and especially what they reveal about the roles of women and attitudes to patriarchy. 3 Cr.

**WMS 433 Psychology of Gender (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as PSH 433.* *Prerequisites: PSH 110 or PSH 112.* Surveys the psychological and social impact of sex differences, sex roles, and the development of gender identity on behavior. Examines historical antecedents of gender differences, development of gender identity, and sex differences in performance, attribution, achievement, cognition, interpersonal behavior, psychopathology, and response to therapy to illustrate facts and fictions in gender research. 3 Cr.

**WMS 435 Legal Rights of the Disadvantaged (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as AAS 435, PLS 435.* As an issue-oriented course, provides an understanding of how the US system can be used to improve the status of the disadvantaged, such as blacks, Hispanics, women, prisoners, the poor, students, Native Americans, homosexuals, and those with mental and physical disabilities. 3 Cr.

**WMS 436 Gender Issues K-12 (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as EDI 436.* Course focuses on the issue of gender in schools K-12. It identifies and examines the ways in which gender roles are reinforced in schools. It studies the ways in which race and class interact with gender to influence the schooling experience. Students learn the ways in which teachers and other educators can promote equitable educational experience for all students. 3 Cr. *Spring Semester.*

**WMS 438 Women and Gender in Latin American History (A).** *Cross-listed as HST 438.* As an advanced course, examines the diversity of Latin-American and Caribbean women's experiences from the Iberian conquest to the 20th-century. Analyzes the gender dynamics of colonial, national, dictatorial and revolutionary states, economies and cultures, and the importance of women's movements and feminism. Includes discussion of Latina history in the US and of Latin-American and Caribbean masculinity in historical perspective. 3 Cr.

**WMS 441 American Literature: 19th Century Women's Novel (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ENL 441.* Provides an intensive study of the novel as a form of women's self-representation and cultural criticism. May include novels about family life, anti-slavery and temperance, slave narratives; historical novels; and representations of urban and industrial experience. 3 Cr.

**WMS 442 Topics in Women's Literature (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ENL 442.* Provides advanced study of women in literature and women's literature, focusing, for example, on some aspect of female lives, such as adolescence; on one or more female authors writing in a shared tradition, genre, or period; or on women writing on a common topic or from perspectives held in common. 3 Cr.

**WMS 444 Medieval Women (A).** *Cross-listed as HST 444. Prerequisite: HST 101 and HST 390.* Studies European Middle Ages, ca. 500-1500, particularly as women experienced them. Examines the perceptions medieval society fostered about gender; analyzes factors such as social class, work and professional status, legal structures, and sexuality and compares/contrasts their effect on women's and men's lives. 3 Cr.

**WMS 453 Contemporary Women's Issues (A,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as SOC 453.* Focuses on issues concerning women and their changing role in today's society. Although various issues are singled out for analysis through reading, lecture, and class discussion, all of them are interrelated by virtue of their focus on women. 3 Cr.

**WMS 457 Women and Film (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ENL 457.* Focuses on films by women. Considers the following questions: Have women filmmakers depicted the world differently from "dominant" cinema? What possibilities exist for forms of "feminine" film discourse that are truly different from dominant film discourse? What has been the history of women filmmakers? How many of these women have indeed tried to speak a different "language"? 3 Cr.

**WMS 470 Women's Popular Culture (A,D,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ENL 470.* Explores women's popular culture to engender a cultural analysis. Considers questions such as how women's popular culture responds to women's psychosocial needs, and how it functions within the dominant culture. Examines samples of the fiction and films that represent 20th-century women's popular culture. 3 Cr.

**WMS 475 Women's Lives (A,D,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as SWO 475.* Examines women as clients, helpers, and policy makers in the context of social forces, values, and attitudes. Explores the theoretical, developmental, political, and social implications of women's changing roles. Open to selected upper-division undergraduates. 3 Cr.

**WMS 479 Victimology (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as CRJ 479.* Develops an understanding of crime victimization, both direct and indirect. Focuses on street crime, social and political oppression, victimization of women, and victims of corporate deviance. Emphasizes theory and policy analysis. 3 Cr.

**WMS 481 Women and the Criminal Justice System (A,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as CRJ 481.* Examines women's relationships with crime and the criminal justice system. Specifically provides a study of women and crime, victimization and occupational obstacles and opportunities. Develops students' understanding of how social, political and economic conditions affect these problems. 3 Cr.

**WMS 487 Black Women's Marriage and Sexualities (A,D,I,W,Y).** Provides students with the opportunity to understand and examine the experiences of African American women in the U.S. through the lens of marriage and sexuality. In addition, students will explore the historical constructions of black female sexualities and their relation to discourses of black families and communities. 3 Cr.

**WMS 496 Sex and Censorship in Literature and the Media (A,I,W,Y).** *Cross-listed as ENL 496. Prerequisite: ENL 112.* Considers the expression of sexual themes-- and censorship of them--in contemporary literature, film and media. Includes topics such as the erotic in art, definitions of pornography and obscenity, evolution of censorship standards and practices, the Hollywood Code, the US Commission on Obscenity and Pornography (1970) and its critics, and recent feminist perspectives. 3 Cr.

**WMS 499 Independent Study in Women's Studies (A).** Arranged in consultation with the professor and in accordance with the procedures of the Office of Academic Advisement prior to registration. 1-6 Cr.

