Women's and Gender Studies

Nature of the Program

The Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies is available to any student admitted to a graduate degree program at West Virginia University. The graduate certificate consists of fifteen hours of graduate-level work in women’s and gender studies, using courses approved as primary or component courses by the Women’s and Gender Studies Curriculum Committee. The certificate offers students interdisciplinary perspectives on gender and its intersection with race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. The breadth of the curriculum provides dynamic courses in theory and methods that help students understand the complex social, cultural, economic, political, and historical dimensions of men’s and women’s lives.

In pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, students make connections between their primary field of study and issues surrounding gender, race, class, culture, and sexuality. By applying multifaceted problem solving and critical thinking skills learned in women’s and gender studies courses to their primary field of study, students bring a broader base of experience and perspectives to their future careers.

FACULTY

DIRECTOR
• Sharon Bird - Ph.D. (Washington State University)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
• Kelly Watson - Ph.D. (Bowling Green State University)

PROFESSORS
• Lupe Davidson - Ph.D. (Duquesne University)
  Woodburn Professor of Women's and Gender Studies
• J. Kasi Jackson - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
• Cynthia Gorman - Ph.D. (Rutgers University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Gloria Negrete-Lopez - Ph.D. (University of Arizona)
• Kelly Watson - Ph.D. (Bowling Green State University)

TEACHING INSTRUCTOR
• Kristiina Riivald - M.A. (WVU and CUNY Lehman College)

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG30

CORE COURSES* 6
- WGST 530 Feminist Theory
- WGST 696 Graduate Seminar

ELECTIVES** 9
Select from the following:
- WGST 448 Sexuality in American Culture
- WGST 450 Sex and Science at the Movies
- WGST 460 Men and Masculinities
- WGST 484 Seminar: Capstone
- WGST 595 Independent Study
- WGST 696 Graduate Seminar
- WGST 790 Teaching Practicum
- WGST 795 Independent Study
- Additional WGST courses at the 400 level or above
- ACE 671 Women in Sport
- ARHS 548 Women in Art
- COMM 611 Intergroup Communication
Women's and Gender Studies

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 622</td>
<td>Gender and Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>C&amp;I 689</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity in the Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISB 682</td>
<td>Disability and the Community</td>
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<td>DISB 585</td>
<td>Disability and Society</td>
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<td>DISB 580</td>
<td>Disability and the Family</td>
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<td>ENGL 634</td>
<td>Studies in Drama</td>
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<td>ENGL 648</td>
<td>American Literature, 1915-Present</td>
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<td>ENGL 666</td>
<td>Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature</td>
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<td>ENGL 671</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century British Literature</td>
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<td>ENGL 682</td>
<td>Recent Literary Criticism</td>
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<td>ENGL 741</td>
<td>Seminar in American Studies</td>
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<td>GEOG 603</td>
<td>Qualitative Research in Geography</td>
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<td>GEOG 612</td>
<td>Gender, Society and Space</td>
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<td>GERO 512</td>
<td>Public Policy of Aging</td>
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<td>GERO 628</td>
<td>Aging Women &amp; Cultural Issues</td>
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<td>GEOG 640</td>
<td>Geopolitical Perspectives</td>
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<td>HIED 750</td>
<td>Diversity Issues in Higher Education</td>
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<td>HIED 754</td>
<td>Women and Gender Issues in HIED</td>
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<td>HN&amp;F 610</td>
<td>Nutrition and Fitness</td>
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<td>SPAN 630</td>
<td>Latin American Culture</td>
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<td>SPAN 651</td>
<td>Medieval and Golden Age</td>
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<td>Spanish Literature 1898-1936</td>
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<td>SPAN 656</td>
<td>Spanish Literature after 1975</td>
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<td>SPAN 672</td>
<td>Spanish Women Writers</td>
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<td>SPAN 674</td>
<td>Afrohispanic Literature</td>
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Total Hours 15

* Students may repeat WGST 696. Additional attempts may count toward the electives.

** Students may petition to have other courses count toward electives. Email the Graduate Certificate Advisor (listed on the Faculty tab) for information. Nine credit hours must be unique to the Certificate. Normally, the following restrictions also apply: no more than one 400 level course; no more than 3 credits of any combination of independent study, internship, research credits, or teaching practica. Thus, electives may use a maximum of 3 hours total and a maximum of one attempt each of 590/690/790; 495/595/695/795; 697/797; or internship courses.

Degree Progress

Students should meet at least once a semester with their Women's and Gender Studies advisor to update their progress toward completion of the certificate.

Certificate Learning Outcomes

**WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES**

In completing a graduate certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies, students will be able to:

- Use the lens of feminist and gender theory to analyze manifestations of human endeavor
- Integrate key terms and concepts related to women’s and gender studies in an interdisciplinary approach to their primary discipline
- Engage in discourse addressing how gender, class, race, ethnicity, age, sexualities and sexual identities shape experience and reflect societal constructs
- Analyze, dissect, and criticize arguments to demonstrate an understanding of the scholarship and theoretical underpinning of the field of women’s and gender studies

COURSES

**WGST 530. Feminist Theory. 3 Hours.**

Explores feminist theory through works of diverse scholars, focusing on questions of essentialism, difference, sexuality, bodies, language, power, economic and ecological justice; intersections of race, class, and gender, as well as global social justice struggles.
WGST 592. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

WGST 593. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

WGST 595. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

WGST 693. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

WGST 696. Graduate Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Series of meetings that may include research presentations by students, faculty, or visitors; discussions of professional issues or current literature; or other varying topics.

WGST 790. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of women's studies. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It will also present a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be S/U.).

WGST 791. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

WGST 792. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

WGST 793. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

WGST 795. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

WGST 796. Graduate Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

WGST 797. Research. 1-9 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.).