WMST - Women's Studies

WOMEN'S STUDIES Courses

WMST 201S, Introduction to Women's Studies. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the interdisciplinary field of women's studies, drawing
on materials from the social sciences. Topics include the social construction
of gender, cross-cultural variations in women's lives, media representations,
work, health, women's roles in politics, and sexuality. Prerequisites: Must
qualify to enroll in ENGL 110C.

WMST 226S. Honors: Women in A Changing World. 3 Credits.
A special honors version of WMST 201S open only to students in the
Honors College. Prerequisites: ENGL 110C.

WMST 301. Feminist Foundations. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to develop students' skills in writing, critical reading,
research, and argument while examining topics in women's studies. The
course also covers the history of women's studies as a discipline and current
opportunities for majors and minors. Prerequisites: WMST 201S.

WMST 302W. Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among
Women. 3 Credits.
This course explores women's experiences at intersections of gender, race,
and class within society, in general, and specifically within the various
women's movements that have taken place in the 19th and 20th Centuries,
charting the development of feminism. Additionally, the course examines the
need for the discipline of Women's Studies to sponsor change for women.
(This is a writing intensive course.) Prerequisites: WMST 201S, a grade of
C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, and 6 semester
hours in literature, history, social sciences, or performing arts courses.

WMST 303. Queer Studies. 3 Credits.
This course is an interdisciplinary study of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgender, queer) experiences. It introduces students to personal, cultural,
and political aspects of queer life while examining social forces such as
heteronormativity, the social construction of gender, and homophobia
and their impact on queer lives. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor
approval.

WMST 304. Chick Flicks. 3 Credits.
This course will offer a pivotal focus on the under-representations and
misrepresentations of young women of color, lesbians, working class
women, women over forty, and women with disabilities in the majority of
commercial films targeted at the “average” American woman consumer.
Students will examine the cultural phenomenon of the chick flick and
consider Hollywood and independent media responses to the new visibility
and focus on women. Additionally, students will assess chick flicks as
possible empowering models for girls and young women of all races and
ethnicities and consider feminist responses to questions of post-feminism
within these representations. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor
approval.

WMST 306. Women, the Environment, and Climate Change. 3 Credits.
This course will examine ways that women have been actively involved in
environmental issues from earliest history through today. Students will
assess their own connection to place and examine and access ecofeminist
theory and national and global environmental justice movements, along
with briefly reviewing gender and farming practices. Finally, the course
will examine how climate change issues are affecting lives around the
earth, including ours, and question how gender-, race-, and class-sensitive
responses to the environmental challenges facing our planet can be created.
Prerequisite: ENGL 110C.

WMST 368W. Internship. 1-6 Credits.
Course provides an opportunity to gain experience working in organizations
and government agencies. Students' work should engage with women's
issues at the local, regional, national, and/or global levels. Students must
work for at least 50 hours per course credit. (Qualifies as a CAP experience.)
Prerequisites: A minimum of one WMST course, junior standing and
instructor approval.

WMST 390T. Women and Technology Worldwide. 3 Credits.
An exploration of women as designers and users of technology and of the
impact of technology on women's lives across the world. Variations in
women's experiences by race, class, and culture will be stressed, along with
particular focus on global developments that shape the context of women's
and men's lives. Prerequisites: Three semester hours in human behavior or
history.

WMST 395. Topics in Women's Studies. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected women's studies topics. These courses are usually
interdisciplinary. All topics are described on the women's studies website
and in material distributed to academic advisors. Prerequisites: WMST 201S
or instructor approval.

WMST 396. Topics in Women's Studies. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected women's studies topics. These courses are usually
interdisciplinary. All topics will be described on the women's studies website
and in material distributed to academic advisors. Prerequisites: WMST 201S
and sophomore standing or permission of the instructor.

WMST 400/500. U.S. Women's Activism. 3 Credits.
This course historicizes U.S. women's social, political, and rhetorical
activism over the last 200 years, tracing their entry into and shaping force
upon public life. The course examines the development of women's activism
in the nineteenth century, the twentieth century women's (or feminist)
movement, and its current status, particularly in relation to postfeminism and
a “third” wave. Prerequisite: WMST 201S.

WMST 401W/501. Women: A Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
An analysis of the global forces that impact women's lives throughout the
globe, including our own. Particular emphasis is placed on the status of women in
the developing world, international institutions that protect women's rights,
and efforts to promote gender equality worldwide. (This is a writing
-intensive course.) Prerequisites: WMST 201S and a grade of C or better in
ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C.

WMST 402/502. Feminisms and Sexualities. 3 Credits.
This course will examine feminist approaches to the subject of sexuality in
the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course examines theorizations
of sexuality, such as radical, critical race, and transnational feminisms,
queer theory, and trans studies. Key questions will be: how have feminists
theorized sexualities? What does sexuality have to do with feminist studies
or practices? How do other identities, such as race and class, inform
sexuality? Prerequisite: WMST 201S, WMST 390T, or instructor approval.

WMST 405/505. Gender and Media. 3 Credits.
This course examines media-based sites of knowledge production using a
feminist approach, in order to imagine new and more complex ways
to think about media rhetorics; celebrity culture; digital media; and the
politics of representation. Key questions will be: What roles do media
play in shaping social movements? What are the promises and pitfalls of
activist interventions in the realm of commercial culture? In what ways
might we complicate narratives of co-optation or selling out? The class
tackles these questions using an intersectional lens attentive to the complex
interconnections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Case studies will
include national, international, and transnational media events. Prerequisite:
WMST 201S, WMST 390T, or instructor approval.

WMST 460W/560. Feminist Theory. 3 Credits.
A study of the renaissance in feminist thought since the 1960s through close
readings of key documents and texts. This course covers a variety of feminist
perspectives as expressed in both theory and practice. (This is a writing
-intensive course.) Prerequisites: WMST 201S or WMST 302W and a grade
of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C.

WMST 470/570. Feminist Research Methods. 3 Credits.
The course explores the ethics, practice, and multiple forms of conducting
feminist research. Narrative research methods are practiced through
hands-on oral herstory assignments. Throughout the course, the process of
knowledge construction is interrogated from a feminist perspective.
Prerequisites: WMST 460W.
WMST 495/595. Topics in Women's Studies. 3 Credits.
Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matter is usually interdisciplinary. These seminars are more fully described on the women's studies website and in material distributed each semester to academic advisors. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor approval.

WMST 496/596. Topics in Women's Studies. 3 Credits.
Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matter is usually interdisciplinary. These seminars will be more fully described on the women's studies website and in material distributed each semester to academic advisors. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or permission of the instructor.

WMST 497/597. Independent Study. 1-6 Credits.
Independent study of an interdisciplinary women's studies topic, or a reading plus internship project to be selected under the direction of a women's studies faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: A minimum of one women's studies course and approval of instructor and chair of department.

WMST 498/598. Independent Study. 1-6 Credits.
Independent study of an interdisciplinary women's studies topic, or a reading plus internship project to be selected under the direction of a women's studies faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: A minimum of one women's studies course and approval of instructor and chair of department.

WMST 500. U.S. Women’s Activism. 3 Credits.
This course historicizes U.S. women’s social, political, and rhetorical activism over the last 200 years, tracing their entry into and shaping force upon public life. The course examines the development of women’s activism in the nineteenth century, the twentieth-century women’s (or feminist) movement, and its current status, particularly in relation to postfeminism and a “third” wave.

WMST 501. Women: A Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
An analysis of the global forces that impact women’s lives throughout the world. Particular emphasis is placed on the status of women in the developing world, international institutions that protect women’s rights, and efforts to promote gender equality worldwide. (This is a writing intensive course.).

WMST 502. Feminisms and Sexualities. 3 Credits.
This course will examine feminist approaches to the subject of sexuality in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course examines theorizations of sexuality, such as radical, critical race, and transnational feminisms, queer theory, and trans studies. Key questions will be: What does feminism mean? What does sexuality have to do with feminist studies or practices? How do other identities, such as race and class, inform sexuality? Prerequisite: WMST 201S, WMST 390T, or instructor approval.

WMST 505. Gender and Media. 3 Credits.
This course examines media-based sites of knowledge production using a feminist approach, in order to imagine new and more complex ways to think about media rhetorics; celebrity culture; digital media; and the politics of representation. Key questions will be: What roles do media play in shaping social movements? What are the promises and pitfalls of activist interventions in the realm of commercial culture? In what ways might we complicate narratives of co-optation or selling out? The course explores these questions using an intersectional lens attentive to the complex interconnections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Case studies will include national, international, and transnational media events. Prerequisite: WMST 201S, WMST 390T, or instructor approval.

WMST 560. Feminist Theory. 3 Credits.
A study of the renaissance in feminist theory since the 1960s through close readings of key documents and texts. The course covers a variety of feminist perspectives as expressed in both theory and practice. (This is a writing intensive course.).

WMST 570. Feminist Research Methods. 3 Credits.
This course explores the ethics, practice, and multiple forms of conducting feminist research. Narrative research methods are practiced through hands-on oral herstory assignments. Throughout the course, the process of knowledge construction is interrogated from a feminist perspective.
WMST 895. Special Topics in Women's Studies. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics that permit small groups of qualified
students to work on subjects of mutual interest under the direction of an
instructor. Courses may not be offered regularly; when offered, courses
appear in the course schedule and are more fully described in information
distributed to advisors.

WMST 897. Independent Study. 1-3 Credits.
Independent study of an interdisciplinary women’s studies topic to
be selected under the direction of a women’s studies faculty member.
Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisite: graduate standing;
doctoral level only for 897.