Women's Studies

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(757) 683-3823
https://www.odu.edu/womensstudies

Women's Studies is a multi- and interdisciplinary field of study that examines gender in historical and contemporary contexts with an emphasis on women's lives and perspectives. The department values the complex intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality, ability, nation, and other identities.

Both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees are offered through this department. Students in any discipline can also earn a graduate certificate in Women's Studies. These degrees enhance career opportunities in governmental and non-governmental agencies, law, criminal justice, public relations, journalism, counseling, the health professions, business, social welfare, education, and many other fields. They also provide a strong foundation for students interested in pursuing graduate work.

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science—Women's Studies Major

Lower-Division General Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Written Communication*</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language and Culture**</td>
<td>0-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Information Literacy and Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Creativity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interpreting the Past</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philosophy and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Nature of Science</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impact of Technology***</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Behavior ****</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 38-50

* Grade of C or better required in both ENGL 110C and the second written communication course before declaring a major.

** Proficiency through 102 level-BS only; Proficiency through 202 level-BA only and not met by associate degree.

*** Satisfied in the major by WMST 390T.

**** WMST 201S cannot be used to satisfy this requirement.

Bachelor of Arts - Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST 201S</td>
<td>Introduction to Women's Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 301</td>
<td>Feminist Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 302W</td>
<td>Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among Women</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 390T</td>
<td>Women and Technology Worldwide</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 401W</td>
<td>Women: A Global Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 460W</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 470</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 463W</td>
<td>Women Writers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENGL 477</td>
<td>Language, Gender and Power</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 363</td>
<td>Women in U.S. History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 36

Select four of the following:

| WMST 303   | Queer Studies                            | 3     |
| WMST 304   | Chick Flicks                             |       |

Courses approved by WMST

Total Hours 36

Elective courses may be taken for the remainder of the minimum 120 credits required for the degree.

Upper-Division General Education

- Option A. Approved Minor, 12-24 hours; also second degree or second major.
- Option B. Interdisciplinary Minor, 12 hours specified by the department, 3 of which may be in the major area of study.
- Option C. International business and regional courses or an approved certification program, such as teaching licensure.
- Option D. Two Upper-Division Courses from outside the College of Arts and Letters or from the Arts and Humanities Component within the College of Arts and Letters that are not required by the major (6 hours).

Requirements for Graduation

Requirements for graduation include a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 overall and in the major; 120 credit hours, which must include both a minimum of 30 credit hours overall and 12 credit hours of upper-level courses in the major program from Old Dominion University; completion of ENGL 110C, ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C;
completion of a writing intensive (W) course in the major with a grade of C
or better; and completion of Senior Assessment.

Women's Studies as a Second Major

Students interested in Women's Studies but who already have a major may
be able to fulfill their upper-division general education requirements by
selecting Women's Studies as a second major. Such students must complete
the same departmental requirements as those majoring solely in Women's
Studies, but may count up to three Women's Studies approved courses
taken for their other major toward their Women's Studies major as well.
For instance, a student majoring in both Sociology and Women's Studies
may count three courses (such as SOC 340, SOC 343, and SOC 427) taken
toward their sociology requirements as three electives for their major in
Women's Studies.

Minor in Women's Studies

WMST 201S is a prerequisite for the minor and is not included in the grade
point average for the minor. Required courses are:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST 301</td>
<td>Feminist Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or WMST 302W</td>
<td>Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among Women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 390T</td>
<td>Women and Technology Worldwide *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two additional WMST courses (at least one at the 400 level)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Meets impact of technology requirement.

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of
2.0 in all courses required for the minor. Completion of the undergraduate
Women's Studies minor will fulfill the upper-division General Education
requirements.

Advising

To declare a Women's Studies major or minor, students must see an advisor
in the Women's Studies Department. All Women's Studies majors are
required to have a conference with their advisor before each semester
(preferably during preregistration).

Linked B.A./B.S. in Women's Studies and
M.A. in Humanities

The linked program in Women's Studies and Humanities makes it possible
for exceptional Women's Studies majors to count up to 12 hours of graduate
courses toward both an undergraduate and graduate degree. Students must
earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 for the graduate degree and
30 for the graduate degree). For more information consult the Humanities
section of this Catalog.

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 202W. 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 flics 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 ecosocialist
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
globe, 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 307. 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 309. 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 309T. Women and Technology Worldwide. 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 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. 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 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 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. The 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.