Department of Women's Studies

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(757) 683-3823
Jennifer N. Fish, Chair

Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies

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. We are committed to a social justice-based approach, and seek to bridge academic and community work.

Students who want to pursue only the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, must hold either a B.A. or B.S. degree with an overall GPA of 2.80 OR a graduate degree.

Those admitted to a graduate program have the option of earning a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies in conjunction with a graduate degree from another department or college. Students must satisfy all admission requirements for their chosen graduate program before enrolling in the courses required for the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. Please consult the Director of the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate and the relevant sections of the Catalog for additional information.

Students pursuing the Certificate in combination with another graduate degree will be advised by both a Women's Studies faculty member and an advisor from their graduate program.

The Certificate will be awarded upon completion of the following program of courses.

Certificate Requirements

Students must maintain a 3.00 GPA in the 15 credit hours required for the Certificate.

Required Courses

| WMST 560 | Feminist Theory | 3 |
| WMST 570 | Feminist Research Methods | 3 |

Additional Courses ***

| Total Hours |
| 9-12 |

| Total Hours |
| 15-18 |

* Additional courses must be approved for the Women's Studies curriculum. In addition to Women's Studies (WMST-listed) courses, students may draw from various disciplines (e.g., Art History, English, History, Humanities, International Studies, Philosophy, Political Science & Geography, Sociology & Criminal Justice). At least one of the courses must be at or above the 600 level. With the exception of Women's Studies courses, students may not take more than six credit hours in any single field.

** Students planning to teach Women's Studies courses at the post-secondary level in Virginia must complete an additional three credit hours, for a total of 18 credit hours, in order to meet accreditation requirements.

WOMEN'S STUDIES Courses

WMST 500, History of 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.

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: 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 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 506, 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.

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 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.

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WMST 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. Tutorial work, either library-based or field work, must be approved by the instructor and the women's studies chair before a student may enroll in the course. No more than three credits of tutorial work may be counted within the basic requirements for the women's studies minor or major. Prerequisite: at least one women's studies course.

WMST 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. Tutorial work, either library-based or field work, must be approved by the instructor and the women's studies chair before a student may enroll in the course. No more than three credits of tutorial work may be counted within the basic requirements for the women's studies minor or major. Prerequisite: at least one women's studies course.
WMST 668. Internship. 3-6 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. Prerequisites: graduate standing and instructor approval required.

WMST 695. Selected Topics in Women's Studies. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics which permit small groups of qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest under the direction on 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 696. Topics in Women's Studies. 1-3 Credits.

WMST 697. Independent Study. 1-3 Credits.
Independent study of an interdisciplinary women's studies topics to be selected under the direction of a women's studies faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

WMST 698. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Independent study of an interdisciplinary women's studies topics to be selected under the direction of a women's studies faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

WMST 795. Selected Topics in Women's. 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. Prerequisites: Instructor approval.

WMST 797. 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.

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.