Women's Studies

Elizabeth Groeneveld, Chair
egroenev@odu.edu
https://www.odu.edu/womensstudies (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

Lee Ellen Knight, Chief Departmental Advisor

Four-Year Plan - Women's Studies Major - BA (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsletters/womensstudies/womensstudies-ba-fouryearplan/)

- The four year plan is a suggested curriculum to complete this degree program in four years. It is just one of several plans that will work and is presented only as broad guidance to students. Each student is strongly encouraged to develop a customized plan in consultation with their academic advisor. Additional information can also be found in Degree Works.

Four-Year Plan - Women's Studies Major - BS (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofartsletters/womensstudies/womensstudies-bs-fouryearplan/)

- The four year plan is a suggested curriculum to complete this degree program in four years. It is just one of several plans that will work and is presented only as broad guidance to students. Each student is strongly encouraged to develop a customized plan in consultation with their academic advisor. Additional information can also be found in Degree Works.

Lower-Division General Education

Written Communication * 6
Oral Communication 3
Mathematics 3
Language and Culture ** 0-12
Information Literacy and Research 3
Human Creativity 3
Interpreting the Past 3
Literature 3
Philosophy and Ethics 3
The Nature of Science 8
Impact of Technology ***
Human Behavior **** 3

Total Hours 38-50

* Grade of C or better required in both ENGL 110C (http://catalog.odu.edu/search/?P=ENGL%20110C) 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>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST 201S</td>
<td>Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality 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>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 390T</td>
<td>Women, Gender, 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 and Queer Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or QUST 460W</td>
<td>Feminist and Queer Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 463W</td>
<td>Women Writers</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 477</td>
<td>Language, Gender and Power</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 363</td>
<td>Women in U.S. History</td>
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Select four of the following: 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST 303</td>
<td>Queer Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or QUST 303</td>
<td>Queer Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 304</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality in Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 305</td>
<td>Queer Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or QUST 305</td>
<td>Queer Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 306</td>
<td>Women, the Environment, and Climate Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 368</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 395</td>
<td>Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or QUST 395</td>
<td>Topics in Queer Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 396</td>
<td>Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 402</td>
<td>Feminisms and Sexualities</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or QUST 402</td>
<td>Feminisms and Sexualities</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>WMST 405</td>
<td>Gender and Media</td>
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<td>WMST 470</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 495</td>
<td>Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>or QUST 495</td>
<td>Topics in Queer Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 497</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 498</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses other than WMST approved by the department</td>
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Total Hours 36

Bachelor of Science - Major Requirements

<table>
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<td>WMST 301</td>
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**Double Majoring in Women's Studies and Philosophy**

The Departments of Women's Studies and Philosophy and Religious Studies have established an arrangement that makes it possible to complete a double major in as few as 57 hours, not much more than the 48 hours needed for a major in Women's Studies and minor in Philosophy. Women's Studies and Philosophy double majors may count any of the following courses toward both majors.

- PHIL 365 Race & Power 3
- PHIL 402 Gender and Philosophy 3
- PHIL 404 Existentialism and Phenomenology 3
- PHIL 410 Social and Political Philosophy 3

These courses will count as electives in the Women's Studies major. Certain Women's Studies courses may also be counted toward the Philosophy major with prior approval from the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, although no more than 12 credit hours total may count toward both majors.

**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:

- WMST 301 Feminist Foundations 3
- or WMST 302W Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among Women
- WMST 390T Women, Gender, and Technology 3

Two additional WMST courses (at least one at the 400 level) 6

**Total Hours** 12

* Meets impact of technology requirement.

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all courses specified as a requirement for the minor exclusive of lower-level courses and prerequisite courses and complete a minimum of six hours in upper-level courses in the minor through courses offered by Old Dominion University. Completion of the undergraduate Women's Studies minor will fulfill the upper-division General Education requirements.

**Minor in Queer Studies**

Cathleen Rhodes, Advisor

Queer Studies explores the social, historical, and cultural construction of gender and sexuality, and the diverse experiences of LGBTQ+ people. Students will examine how these experiences are shaped by race, class, disability, and other identity categories, with a focus on social equality.

- QUST 303 Queer Studies 3
- or WMST 303 Queer Studies

Select three of the following:

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<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QUST 503</td>
<td>Feminist Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or WMST 303</td>
<td>Queer Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 9

**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 [http://catalog.odu.edu/search/?P=SOC%20340], SOC 343 [http://catalog.odu.edu/search/?P=SOC%20343], and SOC 427 [http://catalog.odu.edu/search/?P=SOC%20427]) taken toward their sociology requirements as three electives for their major in Women's Studies.
* QUST 395/WMST 395 and QUST 495/WMST 495 may be used toward the minor with approval of the minor advisor.

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all courses specified as a requirement for the minor exclusive of lower-level courses and prerequisite courses and complete a minimum of six hours in upper-level courses in the minor through courses offered by Old Dominion University. Completion of the undergraduate Queer 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 BA/BS in Women's Studies and MA 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 discrete credit hours for the undergraduate degree and 30 discrete credit hours for the graduate degree). For more information consult the Humanities section of this Catalog.

**QUEER STUDIES Courses**

**QUST 302W. Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among Women. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality within society; it examines how identity has been a key site for generating knowledge and political action. Students will learn the histories and nuances of topics such as intersectionality, privilege, allyship, and cultural appropriation. Finally, the course will examine how concepts such as 'diversity' are mobilized in relation to different institutions, such as the law and education. 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, and/or performing arts courses.

**QUST 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.

**QUST 305. Queer Literature. 3 Credits.**

This course provides a historical sampling of queer literary voices in the U.S. Students explore fiction, poetry, drama, and visual literary forms through the lens of queer theory. Students investigate the ways in which queer authors and subjects have been excluded from the traditional canon and how readers, academics, critics, and authors of anthologies have ignored or obscured queer possibilities and homoeroticism in literary works. Students also explore the benefits of thinking of queer literary works as queer literatures (in the plural sense rather than the singular Queer Literature) and attempt to answer the question, is there such a thing as Queer Literature? Prerequisites: ENGL 112L, ENGL 114L, or WCS 100L.

**QUST 395. Topics in Queer Studies. 1-3 Credits.**

A study of selected topics in Queer Studies. These courses are usually interdisciplinary and align with faculty teaching and research strengths. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor approval.

**QUST 402. 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 a 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? Prerequisites: WMST 201S, WMST 390T or instructor approval.

**QUST 460W. Feminist and Queer Theory. 3 Credits.**

This course will examine feminist and queer theories, specifically intersectional, transnational, and radical perspectives. It explores how feminist and queer scholars approach research, writing, and knowledge production, and applies these insights to students' own interests. The course analyzes how feminist and queer scholars have written about storytelling, the body, and desire, and links these discussions to how to produce positive social change in our world. This course is fundamentally interdisciplinary; students are encouraged to make connections between the course materials, their research interests, and other fields of study. This is a writing intensive course. Prerequisites: WMST 201S, QUST 302W or WMST 302W, and a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C.

**QUST 495. Topics in Queer Studies. 3 Credits.**

Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matters is usually interdisciplinary and aligns with faculty teaching and research strengths. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor approval.

**WOMEN'S STUDIES Courses**

**WMST 201S. Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, drawing on materials from the humanities and 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: Gender and Sexuality 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, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The course also covers the history of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality 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 the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality within society; it examines how identity has been a key site for generating knowledge and political action. Students will learn the histories and nuances of topics such as intersectionality, privilege, allyship, and cultural appropriation. Finally, the course will examine how concepts such as 'diversity' are mobilized in relation to different institutions, such as the law and education. 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, and/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 495. Topics in Queer Studies. 3 Credits.**

Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matters is usually interdisciplinary and aligns with faculty teaching and research strengths. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor approval.
WMST 304. Gender and Sexuality in Film. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to feminist methods of analyzing media, with a focus on gender and sexuality in film. Key questions include: How do films influence and reflect our social locations? What are the points that they raise about the intersections of gender, race, and sexuality? Students will interrogate if, and in what ways, film can be a tool to effect social change. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor approval.

WMST 305. Queer Literature. 3 Credits.
This course provides a historical sampling of queer literary voices in the U.S. Students explore fiction, poetry, drama, and visual literary forms through the lens of queer theory. Students investigate the ways in which queer authors and subjects have been excluded from the traditional canon and how readers, academics, critics, and authors of anthologies have ignored or obscured queer possibilities and homoeroticism in literary works. Students also explore the benefits of thinking of queer literary works as queer literatures (in the plural sense rather than the singular Queer Literature) and attempt to answer the question, is there such a thing as Queer Literature? Prerequisites: ENGL 112L, ENGL 114L, or WCS 100L.

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 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 368. Internship. 1-3 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: A minimum of one WMST course, junior standing and instructor approval.

WMST 390T. Women, Gender, 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, culture, and sexuality will be stressed, along with particular focus on global developments that shape the context of people's lives. Prerequisites: Three semester hours in human behavior or history.

WMST 395. Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These courses are usually interdisciplinary and align with faculty teaching and research strengths. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor approval.

WMST 396. Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. 1-3 Credits.
A study of selected topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These courses are usually interdisciplinary and align with faculty teaching and research strengths. Prerequisites: WMST 201S and sophomore standing or permission of the instructor.

WMST 400/500. 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. 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 406/506. Gender, Fashion & the Body. 3 Credits.
This interdisciplinary class explores the body as a canvas for both history and the future of our concept of individualism. Students will have the opportunity to reflect not only on their own understanding of the body but also that of the body across a variety of experiences. Students will complete auto-ethnographic essays and a course paper on the body relating to her/his/ their academic research interests. Prerequisites: WMST 201S.

WMST 410/510. Sexing the Body. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the spectrum of what it means when we consider humans to exist in a gendered and sexed world. Students will critique their own preconceived notions of sex, probe issues of equality and social justice, and discuss what these questions mean both in the United States and globally. This course will culminate with a restructuring of how we understand the ways in which we define sex, sexuality, and sexual practice, taking into consideration how our own identities are impacted by culture and society. Prerequisites: WMST 201S.

WMST 460W/560. Feminist and Queer Theory. 3 Credits.
This course will examine feminist and queer theories, specifically intersectional, transnational, and radical perspectives. It explores how feminist and queer scholars approach research, writing, and knowledge production, and applies these insights to students' own interests. The course analyzes how feminist and queer scholars have written about storytelling, the body, and desire, and links these discussions to how to produce positive social change in our world. This course is fundamentally interdisciplinary; students are encouraged to make connections between the course materials, their research interests, and other fields of study. This is a writing intensive course. Prerequisites: WMST 201S, WMST 302W or QUST 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, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. 3 Credits.
Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matter is usually interdisciplinary and aligns with faculty teaching and research strengths. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor approval.

WMST 496/596. Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. 3 Credits.
Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matter is usually interdisciplinary and aligns with faculty teaching and research strengths. Prerequisites: WMST 201S or instructor approval.
WMST 497/597. Independent Study. 1-6 Credits.
Independent study of an interdisciplinary topic in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, or a reading plus internship project to be selected under the direction of a faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: WMST 201S and approval of instructor and chair of department.

WMST 498/598. Independent Study. 1-6 Credits.
Independent study of an interdisciplinary topic in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, or a reading plus internship project to be selected under the direction of a faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites: WMST 201S and approval of instructor and chair of department.