



# women's studies

special major ■ minor

## Program Description

The field of Women's Studies is dedicated to studying women's lives and facilitating political activism and community participation. What makes Women's Studies such a dynamic field is the conviction that theoretical knowledge is best illuminated when connected to political projects and personal experiences.

Our Women's Studies curriculum is multi-disciplinary and focuses on women, gender, and sexuality in relation to other social and economic forces such as racism, ethnocentrism, capitalism, and militarism. Students have opportunities to examine women's diverse experiences—locally, nationally, and globally—within feminist and social justice frameworks.

The course of study situates gender in specific historical and cultural contexts, and examines how our lives are shaped by social and economic institutions, political movements, and individual experiences. We also place a strong focus on community involvement and activism, and we offer many opportunities for internships and service work credit.

Women's Studies affirms the Preamble and Purpose of the National Women's Studies Association which states:

"Women's Studies owes its existence to the movement for the liberation of women; the women's liberation movement exists because women are oppressed... Feminist aims include the elimination of oppression and discrimination on the basis of sex, race, class, religion, disability, and sexual orientation."

## Faculty

Stephanie Antalocy, Christina Bellon, Helene Burgess, Rita Cameron Wedding, Sherri Carinci, Lynn Cooper, Jackie Donath, Marjorie Lee, Mary Mackey, Joanne Marrow, Michelle Renee Matisons, Todd Migliaccio, Linda Palmer, Arline Prigoff, Annette Reed, Hortense Simmons, Leah Vande Berg, Valerie Wheeler, Lynn Wilcox, Julie Yen

## Requirements - Special Major

Units required for the Special Major: 36; all must be upper division courses.

The special major in undergraduate and graduate programs allows for specially designed patterns of study leading to a degree when academic and professional aims are not adequately accommodated by standard degree majors. This provision is used to assist students in areas where courses already available allow completion of multidisciplinary programs, particularly in areas such as Women's Studies. A student interested in a special major should contact the Women's Studies Coordinator.

## Requirements ■ Minor

Units required for the Minor: 21; all must be upper division courses. The minor emphasizes the position and achievement of women in various fields of study

**Courses in parentheses are prerequisites.**

### A. Required Courses (9 units)

- (3) WOMS 110 Introduction to the Women's Movements in Contemporary Society
- (3) WOMS 115 Introduction to Women's Studies
- (3) WOMS 180 Seminar in Feminist Theory (WOMS 110 or instructor permission)

## Contact Information

Rita Cameron Wedding, *Coordinator* ■ Anne Nyugubo, *Administrative Support Assistant* ■ Amador Hall 561B ■ (916) 278-6817 ■ [www.csus.edu/ssis](http://www.csus.edu/ssis) ■ E-mail: [womensstudies@csus.edu](mailto:womensstudies@csus.edu)

**B. Electives (12 units)**

At least one course must be taken from each of the following categories:

**Identities and Intersectionality**

- WOMS 120 Mother, Woman, Person
- WOMS 136\* Gender, Race and Class
- WOMS 137 Women of Color
- WOMS 170 Topics in Feminism
- WOMS 181 Seminar in Gender Roles (SOC 001 or WOMS 115)
- WOMS 195A Fieldwork in Women's Studies (Instructor permission)
- WOMS 196 Experimental Offerings in Women's Studies
- WOMS 199 Special Problems (WOMS 115 and instructor permission)
- ANTH 183 Women Cross-Culturally
- EDTE 165\* Sex Role Stereotyping in American Education
- ETHN 132 La Mujer Chicana
- ETHN 151 Native American Women
- ETHN 172 Black Women in America
- GOVT 166 Women and Politics in Contemporary America
- OBE 151 Diversity and Management
- PSYC 134 Psychology of Human Sexuality
- PSYC 157 Psychology of Women

**The Humanities**

- WOMS 144 Women and Theatre: Staging Diversity
- WOMS 145 Feminism and the Spirit
- WOMS 146 Women in Art
- ART 234 Women Studio Artists Seminar
- ENGL 185B\* 20th Century Fiction by Women
- ENGL 185C British Women Novelists
- ENGL 185D American Women Writers
- ENGL 185E Chicana/Latina Women Writers
- HIST 122A\* History of American Women in Western Civilization: Prehistory-Middle Ages
- HIST 122B\* History of American Women in Western Civilization: Renaissance-present
- HIST 167 History of American Women
- HRS 185 Women in Film and American Culture
- JOUR 172 Women in the Mass Media
- PHIL 123 Philosophy and Feminism

**Society, Politics and Social Movements**

- WOMS 139 Violence Against Women
- CRJ 157\* Women and the Criminal Justice System
- EDTE 266 Women and Education
- GOVT 166 Women and Politics in Contemporary America
- SOC 126 Sociology of Gender
- SWRK 134 Crimes Without Victims
- SWRK 278 Family Violence

**Economic Globalization and Transnational Feminism**

- WOMS 121 Women of the Middle East
- WOMS 138\* Women and Work
- WOMS 147 Transnational Feminisms
- ECON 184 Women and the Economy

\* **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE.

Descriptions of non-Women's Studies courses may be obtained by consulting the listings under the appropriate departments. Please consult the Women's Studies Program for any new courses added to these categories. The minor and special major in Women's Studies is planned in advance and approved for graduation by the Women's Studies Coordinator.

**Additional Information**

- **Course Offerings:** To meet the feminist goals of Women's Studies, two types of courses are offered. Women's Studies courses taught by Women's Studies faculty and funded by Women's Studies; and service courses offered by other departments. Service courses are funded by their respective departments.
- **Approved Service Courses:** Women's Studies courses are offered in many departments including: Anthropology, Art, Teacher Education, Business Administration, Counselor Education, Economics, English, Ethnic Studies, Family and Consumer Sciences, Government, History, Humanities and Religious Studies, Criminal Justice, Journalism, Kinesiology, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work. A complete listing of semester courses may be obtained from the Program Office, Amador Hall 561B.

Listed below are the regularly offered service courses, approved for the Women's Studies Program, although many experimental offerings are taught in departments each semester. Please refer to departmental listings for a complete description of these courses.

- ANTH 183 Women Cross-Culturally
- ART 234 Women Studio Artists Seminar
- COMS 186 American Women in Media and the Arts
- CRJ 157 Women and the Criminal Justice System
- ECON 184 Women and the Economy
- EDTE 165 Sex Role Stereotyping in American Ed
- EDTE 266 Women and Education
- ENGL 185 Studies in Women's Literature
- ETHN 132 La Mujer Chicana
- ETHN 172 Black Women in America
- GOVT 166 Women + Politics in Contemporary America
- HIST 122A History of Women in Western Civilization: Prehistory-Middle Ages
- HIST 122B History of Women in Western Civilization: Renaissance-present
- HIST 167 History of American Women
- HRS 185 Women in Film and American Culture
- JOUR 172 Women in the Mass Media
- OBE 151 Diversity and Management
- PSYC 134 Psychology of Human Sexuality
- PSYC 157 Psychology of Women
- SWRK 134 Crimes Without Victims
- SWRK 278 Family Violence

**Upper Division Courses**

**WOMS 110. Introduction to the Women's Movements in Contemporary Society.** Examination of women's issues in the current women's movement. Emphasis is on detailed examination of feminist topics important to women today. 3 units.

**WOMS 115. Introduction to Women's Studies.** Introduction to the origins and models of Women's Studies. Explores the significance of a new field of study, and examines the methods of interdisciplinary study. Provides an opportunity to read a number of Women's Studies "classics" and to trace the development of feminist theory. 3 units.

**WOMS 120. Mother/Woman/Person.** Application of feminist analyses to the role of mother in this culture. Focuses on the evolution of the institution of motherhood and its effects upon our lives. 3 units.

**WOMS 121. Women of the Middle East.** Provides an introduction to historical and contemporary conditions affecting women's lives and contributions to Middle Eastern societies. Readings will be framed with a focus on women within state systems and political life, economic activity, family systems, religious thought and law, health, arts and literature. 3 units.

**WOMS 136. Gender, Race, and Class.** Designed to examine the effects of the dynamic interaction of gender, race, and class on women. The social construction of gender, race, and class will also be examined. Other topics to be discussed and researched are the effects of sexism, racism, and classism on institutions such as academia, business, government, religion, and social movements. Also provides an analysis of effective techniques to end sexism, racism, and classism. **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

**WOMS 137. Women of Color.** Examines the social, economic, and cultural uniqueness of various ethnic groups in the United States. Includes discussion of definitions of sexism, racism, economic exploitation, feminism, and the nature and evolution of the women's movement in relation to women of color. 3 units.

**WOMS 138. Women and Work.** Explores topics basic to discussion of women's paid and unpaid work from historical and crosscultural perspectives. Consideration is given to popular conceptions and stereotypes of work and "women's issues" in the industrialized world; the private and public lives of women and men with emphasis on work and social realities; and the maintenance of patriarchy under capitalism, socialism and communism, with some possible feminist "solutions." **Prerequisite:** Passing score on the WPE. 3 units.

**WOMS 139. Violence Against Women.** Consider from a feminist perspective the forms of violence directed at women. It will also look at contemporary attitudes towards women, children, power, aggression and sexuality in order to examine how these attitudes affect the rates and types of crimes directed at women. Topics include sexual assault; child abuse; medical violence; psychiatric violence; economic violence; suicide and self-hatred, pornography, violence in the media; etc. Also examines the ways in which women are individually and collectively combating violence. 3 units.

**WOMS 144. Women and Theatre: Staging Diversity.** Includes study of recent feminist performance theory and criticism and its application to acting, directing, and writing for the theatre. Students will participate in both lecture/discussion and activities, including the creation of a final performance. Lecture two hours; lab two hours. Cross-listed as THEA 144; only one may be counted for credit. 3 units.

**WOMS 145. Feminism and the Spirit.** Provides a critique of traditional patriarchal religions and traces women's participation in the evolution of the human spirit. Consideration is given to the history of Goddess religion and its resurgence in the contemporary world; sexism in institutionalized religions and the current advances women are making in the churches; and dimensions of woman spirit incorporated in today's feminist art and literature. 3 units.

**WOMS 146. Women in Art.** Study of the unique and important contributions of women to the visual arts (Renaissance to present) and their personal struggle toward success and recognition. The Women's Art Movement and its impact on education, museums and women's status in the arts are important topics of this class. 3 units.

**WOMS 147. Transnational Feminisms.** Provides a historical overview, as well as in-depth studies of the similarities and differences in feminist developments from an international

perspective. Examples will be drawn from industrialized democracies, centrally planned socialist states, and third world countries. Pluralistic trends in feminist development within countries will also be examined with a view to understanding the differential impact of gender based discrimination on different categories of women. 3 units.

**WOMS 166. Women and Politics in Contemporary America.** Examination and evaluation of several approaches to women's equality in America today. A brief historical examination of the political aspects of the women's movement. A more thorough examination of the various factions; moderate, radical and revolutionary. Such approaches as community projects, electoral politics, consciousness raising, separatism and violent revolution will all be individually considered. Open to both sexes. Cross-listed as GOVT 166; only one may be counted for credit. 3 units.

**WOMS 170. Topics in Feminism.** Current topics relevant to women's lives will vary widely from semester to semester. Emphasizes current developments in feminist scholarship as well as current socio-political changes relevant to women. **Note:** May be repeated for credit provided topic is not repeated. 3 units.

**WOMS 180. Seminar in Feminist Theory.** Advanced course providing detailed inquiry into specific feminist theories, including their conceptual framework and development, relationship to other political theories and application to the current practices of feminism. **Prerequisite:** WOMS 110 or instructor permission. 3 units.

**WOMS 181. Seminar in Gender Roles.** Advanced seminar designed to help students understand women's and men's behaviors by studying their historical and contemporary roles. Students will learn and apply a critical approach towards social institutions, beliefs, customs, social trends and socio-economic conditions and their effect on women and men. Critically examines research results and statistics and assesses multidisciplinary theories and methodologies used in the study of gender roles. **Prerequisite:** SOC 001 or WOMS 115. 3 units.

**WOMS 195A. Fieldwork in Women's Studies.** Supervised experience in selected women's organizations and projects in the Sacramento area; for example, the Rape Crisis Center, Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE), Sacramento Women's Center. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission. Graded Credit/No Credit. 1-3 units.

**WOMS 196. Experimental Offerings in Women's Studies.** Several courses are offered under this number. Some are small seminars, some regular lecture-discussion classes. They are designed to study a subject of particular interest to an instructor, to students and to allow exploration of a topic of timely concern. Students may take any number of these courses, provided they differ in subject. The Class Schedule each semester will show the classes and the topics covered at that time. Course descriptions will be available in the department office before the semester begins. 3 units.

**WOMS 199. Special Problems.** Supervised individual research projects or directed reading specifically related to Women's Studies topics. Should be taken by students who can work on an individual basis. **Prerequisite:** WOMS 115 and instructor permission. 1-3 units.

**WOMS 299. Special Research Problems.** Supervised research projects and directed study specifically related to Women's Studies and taken on an individual basis by Graduate students in the Special Major Graduate Program. 1-3 units.