# Women Gender & Sexuality Studies (WGSS)

## Courses

**WGSS 001 Women & Men in Society 4 Credits**  
The course introduces students to key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and interdisciplinary research in the field of Women's and Gender Studies. Examines how gender interacts with race, age, class, sexuality, etc., to shape human consciousness and determine the social organization of human society. The course may include topics such as: gender and work; sexuality and reproduction; women's health; media constructions of gender and race; gender, law, and public policy.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

**WGSS 008 (REL 008) Prehistoric Religion, Art, and Technology 4 Credits**  
Origins and early development of religions, with focus on interactions of religion, art, and technology in the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods. Special attention to the emergence of patriarchal social forms and the figure of the goddess. Interdisciplinary methods with a consideration of feminist theories of cultural development.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

**WGSS 041 (SOAN 041) Human Sexuality 4 Credits**  
Sexuality and gender roles across the life cycle, including human reproduction, decision-making, and the societal regulation of sexual behavior.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** ND

**WGSS 042 (SOAN 042) Sexual Minorities 4 Credits**  
How minority sexual identities have been the subject of speculation, misunderstanding, and sometimes violent attempts at correction or elimination. Sexual orientation, gender role, including transvestism and "drag", transsexualism, sexism, heterosexism, and homophobia. Emphasis on critical thinking, guest speakers, and discussions.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

**WGSS 073 (ASIA 073, GCP 073, MLL 073) Film, Fiction, and Gender in Modern China 4 Credits**  
Study of the struggle for an individual "modern" identity out of traditionally defined roles for men and women as depicted by Chinese writers and filmmakers. Class, texts, and films in English. Students interested in setting up a corollary Chinese language component for credit as CHIN 251 may discuss this possibility with the professor.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

**WGSS 091 Special Topics 1-4 Credits**  
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.  
**Repeat Status:** Course may be repeated.

**WGSS 104 (ENGL 104) Special Topics in Gender Studies 4 Credits**  
This course will involve extended study in a sub-area of English language culture, and literature with a focus on gender, sexuality, and/or race/ethnicity. Prereq: 6 hours of freshman English.  
**Repeat Status:** Course may be repeated.

**WGSS 110 (SOC 110) Women's Work in Global Perspectives 4 Credits**  
This course brings to the forefront the intersections of race, class, gender, and nation with women's employment around the world. We will examine women's paid and unpaid work in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, in effort to understand the striking persistence of gender inequality over time and across the world. Topics of study include: work and family relations, women's domestic labor, factory work, and agribusiness. In addition we will explore the ways in which women have organized for changes in work and in their communities in order to conceive of possibilities for the future of women's work.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

**WGSS 117 (HIST 117, STS 117) Women, Science, and Technology 4 Credits**  
Explores the impact of technology and science on women's social roles, and the contribution of women engineers and scientists to their disciplines. Will focus on the American experience. Among the topics discussed are invention, design, laboratory research, education, engineering professionalism, labor force participation, office mechanization, household appliances, virtual spaces, childcare and reproduction.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

**WGSS 121 (ART 121, GCP 121) Women in Art 4 Credits**  
A history of women artists from Renaissance to present day, with emphasis on artists of the 20th and 21st century from a global perspective. We explore attitudes toward women artists and their work as well as the changing role of women in art world. There may be required visits to museums and/or artists' studios.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

**WGSS 123 (ANTH 123) Anthropology of Gender 4 Credits**  
Comparative study of the meanings and social roles associated with gender. Psychological, symbolic, and cultural approaches.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

**WGSS 124 (HIST 124) History of Women In America 4 Credits**  
Roles of women in American society from colonial to present times: attitudes toward women, female sexuality, women's work, and feminism.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

**WGSS 128 (SOC 128) Race, Gender and Work 4 Credits**  
Race, Gender and Work is a class designed to help students understand racial and gender inequalities as they relate specifically to work and employment. We explore the origins and histories of inequalities, the ways in which inequalities persist and/or change today, and what steps might be taken toward creating a more equal society.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

**WGSS 129 (DES 129, THTR 129) History of Fashion and Style 4 Credits**  
Dress and culture in the Western Hemisphere from prehistory to today. The evolution of silhouette, garment forms and technology. The relationship of fashion to politics, art and behavior. Cultural and environmental influences on human adornment.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

**WGSS 138 (REL 138) Women in Jewish History 4 Credits**  
Contributions of, and limitations on, women at different stages of Jewish history, using both primary sources and secondary material. Experience of modern Jewish women, and the contemporary feminist critique of traditional gender roles.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

**WGSS 145 (AAS 145) African American Women Writers 4 Credits**  
Literature by African American women writers with a focus on the experiences and images of black women in the U.S. Explores the written portraits and voices of 20th century black female novelists and poets, including Hurston, Petry, Morrison, Angelou, and Walker.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

**WGSS 146 (PHIL 146) Philosophy of Sex and Gender 4 Credits**  
An examination of concepts, values, and assumptions relevant to gender and sex(uality) in our diverse society, investigating how they affect our lives in both concrete and symbolic ways. Intersections among gender, sex(uality), race, class, religion, ethnicity, etc., will be explored. Special attention will be paid to how gendered assumptions color our understandings of experiences of embodiment and emotion, reasoning and decision-making, knowledge production, and public and private relationships and activities.  
**Attribute/Distribution:** HU
WGSS 179 (POLS 179) Politics of Women 4 Credits
Selected social and political issues relating to the role of women in American society. Focuses on such questions as economics equality, poverty, and work roles, the older woman, gender gap, political leadership, reproduction technology, and sexual violence.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 184 (REL 184) Religion, Gender, and Power 4 Credits
Gender differences as one of the basic legitimations for the unequal distribution of power in Western society. Feminist critiques of the basic social structures, cultural forms, and hierarchies of power within religious communities, and the ways in which religious groups have responded.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 191 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 226 (PHIL 226) Feminism and Philosophy 4 Credits
Analysis of the nature, sources and consequences of the oppression and exploitation of women, and justification of strategies for liberation. Topics include women's nature and human nature, sexism, femininity, sexuality, reproduction, mothering. Must have completed one HU designated course in Philosophy or one course in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 232 (ENTP 232) Gender Issues in Entrepreneurship 4 Credits
Explores role of women entrepreneurs in society & economic development; impacts of women's entrepreneurship in different economic and cultural contexts; research on why women still represent a minority or entrepreneurs; gender differences in patterns of entrepreneurship; related policy challenges. Also addresses pragmatic and personal life choices facing women entrepreneurs, including identifying key characteristics of entrepreneurial opportunities and mapping those against values, skills, ethics and definitions of success; and planning for professional and personal development.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 271 Independent Reading and Research 1-4 Credits
Independent study of selected topics designated and executed in close collaboration with a member of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies faculty. Students taking this course as a requirement for the minor must elect at least the three-credit option. May be repeated for elective credit. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

WGSS 272 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 275 (LAS 275, SPAN 275) Introduction to Hispanic Women Writers 4 Credits
The objective of this class is to introduce students to Hispanic contemporary female authors from Latin America, Spain, and the United States through the analysis of all literary genres (novel, short story, poetry, essay, and drama). This class provides students with a solid introduction to Hispanic women's writing from the last years of the Nineteenth Century to the present, as well as to feminist literary theory.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 291 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 300 Apprentice Teaching 1-4 Credits
Supervised participation in various aspects of the teaching of a course. Transcript will identify department in which apprentice teaching was performed. Consent of department chairperson and permission of the Dean. The transcript will reflect the subject area in which the teaching was done.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 303 (GCP 303, GERM 303, MLL 303) Grimm's Fairy Tales: Folklore, Feminism, Film 4 Credits
This intercultural history of the Grimms' fairy tales investigates how folktale types and gender stereotypes developed and became models for children and adults. The course covers the literary fairy tale in Germany as well as Europe and America. Versions of "Little Red Riding Hood", "Cinderella", or "Sleeping Beauty" exist not only in the Grimms' collection but in films and many forms of world literature. Modern authors have rewritten fairy tales in feminist ways, promoting social change. Taught in English. German language students may receive a German component.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 304 (ENGL 304) Special Topics in Gender Studies II 3,4 Credits
This course will involve extended study in a sub-area of English language, culture, and literature with a focus on gender, sexuality, and/or race/ethnicity.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 310 (AAS 310, SOC 310) Gender, Race and Sexuality: The Social Construction of Differences 4 Credits
Students will engage with current debates about the meaning and use of racial and sexual classification systems in society. We will examine the historical and sociological contexts in which specific theories of racial and sexual differences emerged in the U.S. We will also explore the ways in which changes in the images have implications on the role racial, gender, and sexual identity plays in our understanding of the relationship between difference and inequality.
Prerequisites: SOC 103 or SSP 103
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 311 (ENGL 311) Gender and Literature 3-4 Credits
Exploration of constructions of gender and sexuality in literature from different historical periods, traditions, and nationalities. How do female and male writers envision what it means to be a “woman” or to be a “man” at various moments in history and from various places around the world? How have gendered (and sexed) identities been shaped in various constraining and empowering ways in the literary imagination? What specifically gendered issues (such as love and violence) have been represented in literature? Content changes each semester.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 318 (PSYC 318) Seminar in Gender and Psychology 4 Credits
Gender as shaped by psychological and social psychological processes. Socialization, communication and power, gender stereotypes, methodological issues in sex differences research. Consent of program director required.
Prerequisites: PSYC 210
Can be taken Concurrently: PSYC 210
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 325 (HIST 325, SOC 325) History of Sexuality and the Family in the U.S. 3-4 Credits
Changing conceptions of sexuality and the role of women, men, and children in the family and society from the colonial to the post-World War II era. Emphasis on the significance of socioeconomic class and cultural background. Topics include family structure, birth control, legal constraints, marriage, divorce, and prostitution.
Attribute/Distribution: SS
WGSS 326 (LAS 326, SPAN 326) Tradition and Resistance: Women Writers of Latin America 4 Credits
Study of poetry and narrative works by Latin American women writers. Authors include Rosario Ferré, Rosario Castellanos, Elena Poniatowska, Cristina Peri Rossi, among others.
Prerequisites: SPAN 152
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 327 (FREN 327) Women Writing in French 4 Credits
Reading and discussion of works written by women in French. The emphasis is on 19th and 20th Century writers, such as G. Sand, Colette S. de Beauvoir, M. Duras, Andrée Chédid.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 330 Internship in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 1-4 Credits
Supervised work in women's organizations or settings, combined with an analysis, in the form of a major paper, of the experience using the critical perspectives gained in WGSS courses. Placements arranged to suit individual interests and career goals; can include social service agencies, women's advocacy groups, political organizations, etc. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Prerequisites: WGSS 001

WGSS 331 (GS 331, SOC 331) Gendered Experience of Globalization 4 Credits
Women and men experience globalization differently and globalization affects women in different cultural and national contexts. Gender stratification has been intensified by the transnational flow of goods and people, provides students with a survey of new development in feminist theories on globalization and on gender stratification and development, and links these theoretical frameworks to empirical research about gender issues that have become more prominent with globalization.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 333 (HMS 334, PSYC 334) The Psychology of Body Image and Eating Disorders 4 Credits
The course addresses the psychosocial aspects of the development of healthy and unhealthy body image and eating disorders. The roles of personality traits/individual factors, family and interpersonal functioning, and cultural factors will be examined, as will the impact of representations of body image in mass media. Public health and psychological interventions for prevention and treatment will be explored. Personal accounts/memoirs, clinical case presentations, and documentary and dramatic films will be incorporated in the presentation of topics. Open only to declared HMS minors, declared WGSS minors, or those who have taken WGSS 001 or WGSS 101.
Prerequisites: WGSS 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 341 (HMS 341, SOC 341) Women and Health 4 Credits
Relationships of women to the medical system. Influence of medicine on women's lives and the impact of the women's movement on health care.
Prerequisites: ANTH 001 or ANTH 011 or ANTH 012 or SOC 001 or SOC 005 or SOC 021 or PSYC 021
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 342 (GS 342, POLS 342) Gender and Third World Development 3-4 Credits
Focus on gender implications of contemporary strategies for Third World economic growth, neo-liberalism. How do economic theories affect ‘real people?’ How do economic theories affect men vs. women? What is the role of people who want to ‘help?’ Some background in economic theories and/or Third World politics desired, but not required.
Prerequisites: POLS 001 or WGSS 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 346 (LAS 346, SPAN 346) Contemporary Hispanic Women Writers: The Novelists 4 Credits
This course explores the works of Hispanic women writers who have been oppositional to hegemonic cultural politics during the Twentieth Century in Latin America and Spain. Grounding the readings in their particular contexts, the class discusses the issues these writers define as important in their work, the impact of their creations in both the literary cannon as well as in the politics of their countries, the use of literature as a weapon to empower minority positions, and the effect of their narratives on the changing literary cannon. Special attention will be paid to issues related to interpretations of history, exile, different forms of violence and repression, expressions of desire, and sexuality.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 350 Seminar in Feminist Theory 4 Credits
An upper-level seminar serving as a capstone experience that challenges students to systematize insights gained from introductory and elective courses through the more deeply analytical lens of feminist theory. Consent of program director.
Prerequisites: WGSS 001
Attribute/Distribution: ND

WGSS 351 (SOC 351) Gender and Social Change 4 Credits
Changes in gender roles from social psychological and structural perspectives. Comparative analyses of men and women (including people of color) in the social structure; their attitudes and orientations toward work, family, education, and politics.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 364 (SOC 364) Sociology of the Family 3,4 Credits
Sociological analysis of families in the United States, including investigations of historical and contemporary patterns. Issues addressed include parenting, combining work and family, divorce and remarriage, family policies.
Prerequisites: ANTH 011 or SOC 001 or SOC 005 or SOC 021 or PSYC 021
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 365 (SOC 365) Inequalities at Work 4 Credits
Primary focus is on race, gender, and class as axes of disadvantage and privilege in work and employment. We will explore both theories and empirical studies of inequality as well as their social, political, and practical ramifications for the workplace. The course will be conducted seminar-style and the class will rely heavily on student participation.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 371 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Prerequisites: WGSS 001

WGSS 373 Internship in Women's Center 1-3 Credits
Supervised work in the Women's Center allows students to bring critical perspectives on women and gender into the campus community. Students who wish to fulfill the internship requirement of the WGSS minor must take the Women's Center internship for (3). Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Prerequisites: WGSS 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 376 (AAS 376, COMM 376) New Media, Race and Gender 4 Credits
This class explores the relationship among race, gender and new media. It examines depictions of racial minorities and women online; how users access and use new media across race and gender (including a look at the digital divide); and differences in use of social media websites across race and gender. The goal is for students to understand how existing racial and gender categorizations are/are not transmitted to the online community and do/do not become extensions of present social hierarchy.
Attribute/Distribution: SS
WGSS 381 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 382 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 391 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 392 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Intensive study of a topic of special interest not covered in other courses. May be cross-listed with relevant offerings in major department or other programs. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

WGSS 399 Senior Thesis 2-4 Credits
Research during senior year culminating in a senior thesis. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: ND

WGSS 403 (MLL 403) Grimms' Fairy Tales: Folklore, Feminism, Film 3 Credits
This intercultural history of the Grimms' fairy tales investigates how folktales types and gender stereotypes developed and became models for children and adults. The course covers the literary fairy tale in Germany as well as Europe and America. Versions of "Little Red Riding Hood", "Cinderella", or "Sleeping Beauty" exist not only in the Grimms' collection but in films and many forms of world literature. Modern authors have rewritten fairy tales in feminist ways, promoting social change. Taught in English. German language students may receive a German component.

WGSS 405 (CIE 405) Experiencing the United Nations: NGOs in Education Policy and Practice 3 Credits
Building on the Lehigh University/United Nations partnership initiative, this course provides a structured practical experience for students to learn about the dynamics of NGO/UN relationships by representing one of the underrepresented international NGOs at the United Nations. Equips students with necessary experience, understanding, and skills in international education development such as policy brief writing and education sector analysis.

WGSS 411 (ENGL 411) Gender and Literature 3 Credits
This seminar explores constructions of gender and sexuality in literature from different historical periods, traditions, and nationalities. Content changes each semester.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 418 (SOC 418) Gendered Experience of Globalization 3 Credits
Women and men experience globalization differently and globalization affects women in different cultural and national contexts. Gender stratification has been intensified by the transnational flow of goods and people. Provides students with a survey of new development in feminist theories on globalization and on gender stratification and development, and links these theoretical frameworks to empirical research about gender issues that have become more prominent with globalization.

WGSS 430 Internship in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 1-3 Credits
Internship related to women, gender, and sexuality studies. Supervised by WGSS faculty. Consent of program director required.

WGSS 441 (SOC 441) Women and Health 3 Credits
Relationships of women to the medical system. Influence of medicine on women's lives and the impact of the women's movement on health care.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 450 Seminar in Feminist Theory 3 Credits
A graduate seminar providing foundational study of multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks of women, gender, and sexuality studies.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, ND

WGSS 458 (HIST 458) Readings in Gender History 3 Credits
Study in small groups under the guidance of a faculty member on the literature of an issue, period, country or culture within gender history.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

WGSS 465 (SOC 465) Inequalities at Work 3 Credits
Primary focus is on race, gender, and class as axes of disadvantage and privilege in work and employment. We will explore both theories and empirical studies of inequality as well as their social, political, and practical ramifications for the workplace.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

WGSS 484 (PSYC 484) Psychology of Gender 3 Credits
Major theoretical approaches and empirical debates in the psychology of gender, with a focus on the interplay of nature and nurture in producing gender similarities, gender differences and gender variation in personality, social behaviors, cognitive abilities, achievement, sexuality, and mental health. Methodological issues in gender research. Consent of program director required.

WGSS 491 Independent Study 3 Credits
Individually supervised course in area of women, gender, and sexuality studies not ordinarily covered in regularly listed courses. Consent of program director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.