WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Sally Winkle, Director
department page (https://www.ewu.edu/css/programs/womens-and-gender-studies)
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Faculty


Affiliated/Participating Faculty: Kathryn Julyan.

Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Arts (BA)


Undergraduate Certificate


Undergraduate Minors


Undergraduate Programs

Women's and Gender Studies offers students an interdisciplinary examination of women's roles, contributions, history and experiences as well as a critical study of gender structures in societies and cultures in the U.S. and the world. It utilizes gender, along with race and class as a category of analysis, helping students investigate the role that gender plays in our history, literature, art, politics, education, sports, health and family.

The Women's and Gender Studies Program is committed to achieving the following goals:

- to contribute to a broad understanding of interdisciplinary scholarship, theories and practices concerning the role of women and gender in society;
- to enhance the credentials and experience of students preparing for careers in a wide range of fields;
- to increase students' understanding of diversity and equity in society in accordance with university mission, commitments and initiatives.

The Women's and Gender Studies Program works closely with the Women's Studies Center on projects such as the NEW Leadership Institute and the Activist-in-Residence Program. The Center maintains a library and offers numerous presentations and events. The HOME Program (Helping Ourselves Means Education) is one facet of the Women's Studies Center. This program works to support student parents by providing educational events and childcare scholarships. The Women's and Gender Studies Program and Women's Studies Center welcome participation by all members of the university community.

The Women's and Gender Studies academic program offers a major and minor in Women's and Gender Studies as well as an undergraduate Gender Studies certificate. There is also a graduate level certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

The Women's and Gender Studies major will fulfill partial requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree. This 45–52 credit major requires the completion of a minor or a certificate and provides students with the opportunity to choose a second major to enhance career or post-graduate study opportunities.

The major includes a prior learning option to allow adult learners who have acquired professional or paraprofessional experience to have their experiential learning evaluated for a block of elective credit.

Required courses in the following programs of study may have prerequisites. Reference the course description section for clarification.

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Women's and Gender Studies Courses

WMST 101. INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: HUMN 101.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
Explores the struggle for equality, the message and impact of the media, power of language, influence of religion and the effects of socialization, education, race, class, roles, stereotypes and romantic love on the experience of women.

WMST 195. INTERNSHIP. 1-5 Credits.
Internship

WMST 196. EXPERIMENTAL COURSE. 1-5 Credits.
Experimental

WMST 197. WORKSHOP, SHORT COURSE, CONFERENCE, SEMINAR. 1-5 Credits.
Workshop

WMST 296. EXPERIMENTAL COURSE. 1-5 Credits.
Experimental

WMST 299. DIRECTED STUDY. 1-5 Credits.
Directed Study

WMST 310. ISSUES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: HUMN 310.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
Analyzes causes and effects of sexual stereotypes and surveys new scholarship through women's studies in psychology, economics, female biology, history, literature and others.

WMST 314. GENDER AND COMMUNICATION. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: CMST 314.
Pre-requisites: sophomore standing.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
This course examines current research on the interactions among language, gender and communication in contemporary social and cultural contexts.

WMST 331. PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: PSYC 331.
Pre-requisites: ENGL 201 or equivalent.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
The history, biology and myths of human reproduction as they apply to women and the interaction of brain, hormones and social life.

WMST 321. SEX AND GENDER. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: SOCI 321.
Pre-requisites: SOCI 101.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
A sociological analysis of differences and similarities between women and men. Examines the impact of gender ideologies on individual identity and social and political arrangements (especially instances of stratification and inequality). Also considers how changes in the gendered nature of society (e.g., socioeconomic organization, socialization, sexuality) occur.

WMST 331. PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: PSYC 331.
Pre-requisites: ENGL 201 or equivalent.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
The psychology of women in terms of their bodies, socialization, personality, affiliation and achievement motivations, abnormal behavior patterns, therapy and personal growth needs.
WMST 338. DISCOVERING WOMEN IN SCIENCE. 1 Credit.
The course uses several scientific themes to rediscover from the past and find in contemporary research, the women who have made significant contributions to science.

WMST 351. GENDER AND TOTAL WAR. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: HIST 351.
This course explores the relationship between social constructions of gender and the history of war in the 20th century. Topics include how gender is used to justify war, and the use of gender ideologies in pacifist movements. The course also looks at ways that individual men and women experienced war, and war's effects on the social, sexual, psychological, political and economic aspects of individuals' lives.

WMST 360. WOMEN IN PRISON. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: CRIM 360.
In this course, we examine the socio-structural relationships between women's lives and women's crimes and explore how race, class and gender assumptions shape the experiences of female correctional officers and female inmates. In addition, we analyze how the prison rules and regulations that girls and women have to abide by are deeply gendered. Since the 1980s, the number of women and girls incarcerated has increased drastically. Yet, we know very little about female criminality and women's lives inside prison.

WMST 366. WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: HLED 366.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
This course will explore the unique personal and social concerns regarding women's health. Emphasis will be placed on the social and health related issues that women face throughout the life cycle. Discussion will include the effect of gender stratification in the workforce, gender roles in the family unit, female depiction in the media, substance abuse, body image, pregnancy and sexuality and other issues that affect women's mental, physical and emotional health. Historical dimensions of women's health will also be explored, including contributions from historically noteworthy women.

WMST 370. SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: SOCI 370.
Pre-requisites: SOCI 101.
A consideration of family structures, cultures and interactions, changing family patterns and contemporary family debates.

WMST 371. CULTURAL STUDY: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND HAIR. 2 Credits.
This course covers the history of African American women's hair. Students will learn how different hairstyles and treatments document a journey of cultural and self-rejuvenation plagued by conflict and accusations. The course will also examine the relationship between hairstyles and racial identity.

WMST 377. ALTERNATIVES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. 2 Credits.
Cross listed: SOWK 377.
Analyzes theories relevant to issues of domestic violence in their historical, legal and cultural contexts. Therapeutic interventions are explored.

WMST 389. WOMEN, LITERATURE AND SOCIAL CHANGE. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: ENGL 389.
Pre-requisites: ENGL 201.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
Examines fictional images of women as these images reflect the changing roles and status of women from Greece to the present, focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries.

WMST 392. WOMEN IN THE AMERICAN WEST. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: HIST 392.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
This course examines the lives of frontier women using a variety of primary sources (letters, diaries, oral histories), as well as secondary sources (books, articles, movies, tapes).

WMST 394. WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: HIST 394.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
Brings to life and surveys the accomplishments of the lost women of the past from colonial times to the present. Society's definition of the nature of women and their proper roles will be examined, as well as the actual life conditions of women and the social and economic functions they performed.

WMST 396. EXPERIMENTAL COURSE. 1-5 Credits.
Experimental

WMST 397. WORKSHOP, SHORT COURSE, CONFERENCE, SEMINAR. 1-5 Credits.
Workshop

WMST 398. SEMINARS. 1-5 Credits.
Selection of prose writings by German female authors of the past two centuries, with an emphasis on contemporary writers.

WMST 399. DIRECTED STUDY. 1-5 Credits.
Directed Study

WMST 400. WOMEN AND MEN IN LITERATURE. 1 Credit.
Cross listed: ENGL 400.
This course teaches the integration of women authors, the ideas of men writing about women and ideas interesting to women in the study of literature. We will deal with textbook selections and a comparative treatment of women and men in a literature survey course. The course will provide a feminist approach and review the literature on gender balance.

WMST 402. WOMEN AND MEN IN THE U.S. ECONOMY. 1 Credit.
Cross listed: ECON 429.
In the course we examine the economic activity and labor force participation of women and men in the United States. Employment issues, such as labor market discrimination, affirmative action and comparable worth will be discussed. Other topics include income distribution, poverty, welfare programs and the tax system.

WMST 405. WOMEN AND MEN IN HISTORY. 1 Credit.
Cross listed: HIST 405.
This course will deal with the placing of women and men within history. A comparative analysis will be made of the historical treatment given to both women and men. Using American history as an example, the workshop will set forth principles that will effectively help the classroom teacher create a gender balanced course and the student to recognize gender balance in history education. Attention will be given to non-sexist textbooks, audiovisual materials and testing.
WMST 406. WOMEN AND MEN IN THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE. 1 Credit.  
Cross listed: GEOG 406.  
The created landscape reflects human values and experience. This course examines ways in which women and men create, use, and experience the humanized landscape. We will examine spatial patterns of human activity from a variety of times and places, linking geographic theory to everyday environments. The course will include map work, slide analysis and a field exercise as tools for identifying and interpreting cultural landscapes.

WMST 409. WOMEN AND MEN IN CONTEMPORARY ART. 1 Credit.  
Cross listed: ART 409.  
Pre-requisites: ENGL 201 or equivalent.  
The class focuses on how the cultural arts describe society, examining as it does so a variety of social issues. Students will suggest ways in which they can integrate women into the arts and into their understanding of larger cultural relationships.

WMST 410. FEMINIST THEORY. 4 Credits.  
Cross listed: HUMN 410.  
Pre-requisites: WMST 101 or HUMN 310/WMST 310.  
Feminist theories developed to explain women’s subordinate position in society and current trends in feminist thought. Includes psychoanalytic feminism, feminist literary criticism and cross-cultural views of feminism.

WMST 411. FEMINIST METHODOLOGIES. 5 Credits.  
Pre-requisites: HUMN 101 or HUMN 310 or WMST 101 or WMST 310 or permission of instructor.  
This course introduces fundamental concepts and methodological approaches to conducting feminist research. A specific focus is placed on examining and interrogating power relations and ways of knowing, and connecting theory and practice.

WMST 413. GENDER AND YOUTH CULTURE. 5 Credits.  
Pre-requisites: HUMN 101/WMST 101 or HUMN 310/WMST 310 or permission of instructor.  
This course investigates the shaping of gender generationally, culturally and historically. A specific focus on girl culture invites critical considerations of the ways that masculinity and femininity change over time and simultaneously interact with socially imposed dichotomies of “girlhood / boyhood.”

WMST 414. GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN CINEMA. 5 Credits.  
Pre-requisites: HUMN 101/WMST 101 or HUMN 310/WMST 310 or permission of instructor.  
This course investigates various constructions of sexuality within cinematic representations of intimacy, desire and the body. Students develop media literacy skills for critically engaging with dominant cultural stories and images that communicate changing understandings of sexuality, gender, class, race and nation.

WMST 415. GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER STUDIES. 5 Credits.  
Cross listed: HUMN 415.  
Pre-requisites: one course in or cross-listed with WMST.  
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.  
This course consists of a theoretical examination of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender identities. The course material will include texts from queer theory and a wide variety of academic disciplines.

WMST 416. GENDER AND MEDIA. 5 Credits.  
Cross listed: CMST 416.  
Pre-requisites: junior standing.  
This course examines some of the relationships between media in the U.S. and social constructions of gender and sexuality.
WMST 427. ECONOMICS OF WOMEN AND WORK. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: ECON 427.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
Economic impact of the increasing participation of women in the paid labor force of the United States. Economic theories of labor force participation, discrimination and occupational segregation. Current issues such as comparable worth, affirmative action, nontraditional careers, corporate policies, sexual harassment, child care and social welfare programs.

WMST 430. AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: AAST 430
Pre-requisites: ENGL 201.
This course examines historical writings by and about Black women, discussing slavery, lynching, combating prejudices and encouraging racial pride to provide a framework that will deepen understanding of the topic.

WMST 432. ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: ANTH 432.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
This course examines notions of sex and gender from a cross-cultural perspective. Material covered includes understandings of gender, third genders, human sexuality, and the gendered nature of activities in both non-Western and Western societies.

WMST 437. WOMEN AND ISLAM. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: ANTH 437 GEOG 437, HIST 437.
Pre-requisites: junior or senior standing.
This course examines the status and identity of women in Islamic communities throughout the world and assesses how different interpretations of Islam, as a simultaneous religious, social, cultural, political and economic system, influences perceptions of women within Islamic communities. It further considers the perceptions of Islam vis-à-vis women and Islamic women themselves by non-Muslim communities.

WMST 440. WOMEN AND PHILOSOPHY. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: PHIL 440.
Pre-requisites: at least 4 credits in WMST and/or PHIL.
The course offers an examination of the treatment of concepts relating to women and femininity, both by traditional philosophers and by more recent feminist philosophers. The course will address key issues within philosophy while simultaneously exploring the role of gender in the production of philosophical knowledge.

WMST 448. LGBTQ ISSUES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: SOWK 448.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
The course is designed to assist professionals working with individuals whose identity includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered or queer/questioning. Topics include: historical oppression, “coming out” as a process, counseling approaches and resources, and social inclusion and exclusion of sexual minorities. Personal attitudes are explored in order to improve professional response to the needs of the LGBTQ communities.

WMST 450. WOMEN AND SOCIAL CHANGE. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: SOWK 450.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
This course examines the historical and contemporary role of women as leaders and participants in U. S. social movements. The course critiques the models and strategies used to organize communities and groups to improve the status of marginalized people.

WMST 452. GENDER AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: SOWK 452.
Pre-requisites: ENGL 201.
This course addresses contemporary concerns about sexual assault, primarily, but not exclusively, against women. Feminist perspectives on gender socialization and sexual violence provide frameworks for understanding personal and societal responses to sexual violence. Dynamics of trauma and recovery, treatment, prevention and change strategies will be discussed.

WMST 456. THE OLDER WOMEN. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: AGST 456, SOWK 456.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
This course examines the research and practice knowledge on the social, economic and health problems confronting older women. Older women's needs and potential for change are considered. The course explores U.S. social policy and program alternatives that work to improve the status and quality of life for a growing and diverse population of older women.

WMST 468. HISTORY OF MODERN AMERICAN WOMEN. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: HIST 468.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
This course explores the history of women in America from the 1900s to the present through the use of a wide range of contemporary documents that allow a variety of women of the immediate past to speak for themselves.

WMST 471. HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: SOWK 471.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
The course examines the history of human rights and dignity using the declaration of rights by the United Nations and research and initiatives by the World Health Organization and other international human rights groups. The course covers topics on the human rights of women and children including health, food insecurity, economic status, housing, education, violence, war crimes and residency/citizenship status. It also examines international and national strategies for furthering human rights on the global stage.

WMST 475. HISPANIC WOMEN WRITERS. 4 Credits.
Cross listed: SPAN 475.
Pre-requisites: SPAN 310 or SPAN 312 and SPAN 321 or HIST 365.
This is a panoramic course that covers a wide, but representative array of Hispanic writers writings in Spanish from Latin America, Spain, Africa and the United States. Literary readings will be paired with other media in order to discuss issues of wars, revolutions, dictatorships, exile, migrations, race, class, gender, education and identity.

WMST 477. CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS WOMEN. 5 Credits.
Cross listed: IDST 477.
Pre-requisites: junior standing.
Satisfies: international studies university graduation requirement.
This course is designed to introduce students to the role of indigenous women in the struggles for national self determination from a historical/cultural/spiritual/political context. Historically, Indigenous women have always played a very prominent and powerful role within all spheres of indigenous social/political/cultural and economic issues affecting indigenous nations from a contemporary context.
**WMST 483. SOCIOLOGY OF CHILDREN. 5 Credits.**

Cross listed: SOCI 483.

Pre-requisites: SOCI 101.

Addresses children and childhood from the preschool years through adolescence. Examines historical shifts in the meanings of childhood and the methods used for studying the worlds of children. Explores the theoretical approaches to child development and socialization and how these can be used to understand children's experiences in different cultural settings and situations.

**WMST 489. LGBT WRITERS: THEIR LIVES AND THEIR WORKS. 5 Credits.**

Cross listed: ENGL 489.

Pre-requisites: ENGL 270 or HUMN 101 or WMST 101 or HUMN 310 or WMST 310 or HUMN 410 or WMST 410.

This course examines the lives and works of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) writers as well as the historical and social contexts of their writing. Genres may include LGBT fiction, nonfiction, auto-ethnography, letters, diaries, film, critical accounts of authors' work, social networks and other artifacts. The readings focus on the lived experiences of the writers and their characters while (1) identifying "relevant gaps" within the traditional literary canon, (2) questioning "existing modes;" (3) examining "connections among societal structures such as gender, race, class, age, and sexuality that contribute to (LGBT) oppression" and (4) connecting theory to practice.

**WMST 490. SENIOR CAPSTONE SEMINAR. 4 Credits.**

Pre-requisites: WMST 101 or WMST 310 and one additional WMST course of 3 credits or more and ENGL 201.

Satisfies: senior capstone university graduation requirement.

The advanced student of women's studies consolidates and synthesizes feminist scholarship in the seminar. Working collaboratively, instructor and students draw together scholars and their work in numerous disciplines, relating them and drawing conclusions about the nature of society and feminist reality.

**WMST 495. INTERNSHIP. 1-5 Credits.**

Pre-requisites: permission of the instructor, department chair and college dean.

**WMST 496. EXPERIMENTAL COURSE. 1-5 Credits.**

Experimental

**WMST 497. WORKSHOP, SHORT COURSE, CONFERENCE, SEMINAR. 1-5 Credits.**

Workshop

**WMST 498. SEMINAR. 1-5 Credits.**

Seminar

**WMST 499. DIRECTED STUDY. 1-12 Credits.**

Directed Study

**WMST 511. FEMINIST METHODOLOGIES. 5 Credits.**

Notes: core requirement for Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Pre-requisites: Graduate standing and WMST 410 or WMST 510 or permission of instructor.

This course introduces fundamental concepts and methodological approaches to conducting feminist research. A specific focus is placed on examining and interrogating power relations and ways of knowing, as well as connecting theory and practice.

**WMST 513. GENDER AND YOUTH CULTURE. 5 Credits.**

Notes: elective for Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Pre-requisites: Graduate standing.

This course investigates the shaping of gender generationally, culturally and historically. A specific focus on girl culture invites critical considerations of the ways that masculinity and femininity change overtime and simultaneously interact with socially imposed dichotomies of "girlhood / boyhood."

**WMST 514. GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN CINEMA. 5 Credits.**

Notes: elective for Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Pre-requisites: Graduate standing.

This course investigates various constructions of sexuality within cinematic representations of intimacy, desire and the body. Students will develop media literacy skills for critically engaging with dominant cultural stories and images that communicate changing understandings of sexuality, gender, class, race and nation.

**WMST 517. WOMEN AND ETHICS. 5 Credits.**

Notes: elective for Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Pre-requisites: Graduate standing.

The course will begin with a brief examination of the treatment of women within traditional ethics. We will then address the views of early women philosophers, followed by a close analysis of contemporary feminist approaches to ethics.

**WMST 520. QUEER THEORY. 5 Credits.**

Notes: elective for Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Pre-requisites: Graduate standing and WMST 410 or WMST 510 or permission of instructor.

This course examines a variety of texts in the emerging field of queer theory. Queer theory questions the stability of various identity categories, suggesting instead that all performances of sex, gender and sexuality are influenced by cultural, historical and political factors.

**WMST 540. WOMEN AND PHILOSOPHY. 5 Credits.**

Notes: elective for Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Pre-requisites: Graduate standing.

The course offers an examination of the treatment of concepts relating to women and femininity, both by traditional philosophers and by more recent feminist philosophers. The course will address key issues within philosophy while simultaneously exploring the role of gender in the production of philosophical knowledge.

**WMST 596. EXPERIMENTAL. 1-5 Credits.**

Experimental.

**WMST 598. GRADUATE SEMINAR. 1-5 Credits.**

Notes: elective for Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Pre-requisites: Graduate standing.

This special topics seminar offers students an opportunity to engage in new and experimental topics within the field of Gender and Sexuality Studies.
WMST 599. INDEPENDENT STUDY. 1-5 Credits.
Notes: elective for Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies.
Pre-requisites: permission of instructor, program director, department chair and college dean.
Graduate level directed study and research projects in Gender and Sexuality Studies, varying according to faculty and student interest.