

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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Majors

The Major in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

A Bachelor of Arts degree with a major or second major in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) requires a total of 27 credits, 21 of which must be taken in courses numbered 300 or higher. At least 18 of the 21 upper-level credits required for the major may only count for the WGSS major and may not be double-counted toward another major. Courses that count for the major should be registered as WGSS courses (i.e., with the WGSS designation, L77). All courses taken for the major must be taken for a grade, and students must earn a grade of C- or higher.

Requirements for the WGSS Major

The following six requirements must be fulfilled through WGSS home-based or cross-listed courses taken at Washington University, unless otherwise indicated. The theory and methods/service learning requirements must be completed at Washington University. Students requesting an exception and who wish to transfer credits in the theory or methods/service learning category must petition the department chair or the director of undergraduate studies, who will consider the request.

Only one course may fulfill two requirements (i.e., one course may double count for two of the six required areas). Students on approved study abroad programs may petition for one course to count toward one of these six requirements.

1. A 100-Level Introductory Course: 3 credits

Students must complete the following course and file a copy of a paper from this course with the WGSS office (McMillan Hall, Room 210):

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 100B	Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	3

2. One Theory Course: 3 credits

Choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3031	Queer Theory	3
WGSS 3203	Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies	3
WGSS 335	Feminist Theory	3

WGSS 3563	Queering the History of Health	3
WGSS 371	Confronting Capitalism: Feminism, Work and Solidarity	3
WGSS 383	Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Spectacular Blackness, Race, Gender, & Visual Culture	3
WGSS 406	Queering Theory: Collaborating, Solidarity, and Working Together	3
WGSS 416	The Politics of Pleasure	3
WGSS 419	Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory	3
WGSS 4013	Queer of Color Critique: Sense and Sexuality	3
WGSS 4014	Feminist and Queer Media Studies	3
WGSS 4102	Everyday Unruliness: Feminist and Queer Resistance	3
WGSS 421	From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African-American Women Theorize Identity	3
WGSS 429	Feminist Political Theory	3
WGSS 437	Transnational Feminisms	3

3. One Feminist Research Methods or Community-Engaged Learning Course: 3 credits

Choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3171	Community-Engaged Learning: Gender and Incarceration	4
WGSS 3173	Community-Engaged Learning: Documenting the Queer Past in St. Louis	4
WGSS 3174	Community Engaged Learning: Feminist and Queer Community Praxis	4
WGSS 3942	Community-Engaged Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence	4
WGSS 417W	Feminist Research Methodologies	3

Note: Students who write an honors thesis must take WGSS 417W Feminist Research Methodologies and enroll in WGSS 499 Honors Thesis: Research and Writing to fulfill this requirement. Students who take WGSS 417W Feminist Research Methodologies must submit a copy of their final paper from this course to the WGSS office (McMillan Hall, Room 210).

4. Two 400-level Courses or an Honors Thesis: 6 credits

Courses taken in any of the above categories will satisfy this requirement, or the student may choose to write an honors thesis. One of the 3-credit courses must be a home-based WGSS course; the second may be either home-based or cross-listed. Students should consult with their WGSS advisors for approval of their chosen courses and to ensure that one of the courses is home-based.

5. One Historical Context Course: 3 credits

Students must choose one course that explores gender, sex, or sexuality in historical context or that studies the history of these categories. This course must be home-based or cross-listed in WGSS. Courses used to fulfill this requirement must be listed under WGSS. **Note:** A course that satisfies one of the previous four requirement areas in this list may also fulfill this requirement.

Choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 2118	First Year Seminar: Angels, Prostitutes and Chicas Modernas: Women in Latin American History	3
WGSS 30GS	"I Know It When I See It." A History of Obscenity & Pornography in the United States	3
WGSS 3002	Feminist Fire!: Radical Black Women in the 20th Century	3
WGSS 3003	Writing Intensive in Ancient Studies	3
WGSS 3041	Making Sex and Gender: Understanding the History of the Body	3
WGSS 310	From Hysteria to Hysterectomy: Women's Health Care in America	3
WGSS 3101	An Intellectual History of Sex and Gender	3
WGSS 312W	Topics in English and American Literature: 30 Years of Queer	3
WGSS 3121	Topics in American Literature: Girls' Fiction	3
WGSS 3130	Sexuality in Early Christianity	3
WGSS 3152	Sex and Gender in Greco-Roman Antiquity	3
WGSS 3153	The Women of Greek Tragedy	3
WGSS 3172	Queer Histories	3
WGSS 3173	Community-Engaged Learning: Documenting the Queer Past in St. Louis	4
WGSS 330A	Native American/Euro-American Encounters: Confrontations of Bodies and Beliefs	3
WGSS 330S	Topics in Gender and American Culture	3
WGSS 3416	War, Genocide and Gender in Modern Europe	3
WGSS 345A	Sexual Politics in Film Noir and Hardboiled Literature	3
WGSS 348	Revolutionize It! The Radical History of Second-Wave Feminisms	3
WGSS 354	No Boys Allowed: Girlhood and Programming for Girls in 19th and 20th Centuries, United States	3
WGSS 3548	Gender, Sexuality & Communism in 20th-Century Europe	3
WGSS 3563	Queering the History of Health	3
WGSS 359	Topics in European History: Modern European Women	3

WGSS 361	Women and Social Movements: Gender and Sexuality in U.S. Social Movements	3
WGSS 366	Caste: Sexuality, Race and Globalization.	3
WGSS 369A	Reading Sex in Premodern England	3
WGSS 3751	Topics in Women's History: Women, Gender and Sexuality in Postwar America	3
WGSS 375	Topics in Women's History	3
WGSS 385A	Topics in Jewish Studies	3
WGSS 389	The Global History of HIV/AIDS	3
WGSS 389A	Furies and Die-Hards: Women in Rebellion and War	3
WGSS 39F8	Gender and Sexuality in 1950s America: Writing-Intensive Seminar	3
WGSS 39SC	Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia, and the World: Writing-Intensive Seminar	3
WGSS 396	Gender and Social Class	3
WGSS 408A	Nuns	3
WGSS 414	Gender, Religion, Medicine and Science	3
WGSS 4154	Decolonization to Globalization: How to End an Empire	3
WGSS 4231	Topics in American Literature I	3
WGSS 455	Topics in Korean Literature and Culture: Gender in Korean Literature and Film	3
WGSS 4551	Intersectional Identities in Medieval France	3
WGSS 4601	Taboo: Contesting Race, Sexuality and Violence in American Cinema	3
WGSS 4700	Ancient Greek and Roman Gynecology	3
WGSS 4918	Advanced Seminar: Sexuality in the United States	3
WGSS 4993	Advanced Seminar: Women and Religion in Medieval Europe	3
WGSS 3141	The Racial and Sexual Politics of Public Health	3

6. One Ethnic/Global/Racial Context Course: 3 credits

Students must choose one course that considers gender and ethnicity, gender and race, or gender in a global context. This course must be home-based or cross-listed in WGSS. Courses used to fulfill this requirement must be listed under WGSS. **Note:** A course that satisfies one of the first four requirement areas in this list may also fulfill this requirement.

Choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 104	First Year Seminar: Gender, Sexuality and Settler Colonialism	3
WGSS 207	Constructions of Black Womanhood and Manhood in the Black Community	3

WGSS 2118	First Year Seminar: Angels, Prostitutes and Chicas Modernas: Women in Latin American History	3
WGSS 2232	Gender and Sexuality in the African Diaspora	3
WGSS 270A	Sophomore Seminar: Globalization and its Discontents	3
WGSS 280A	Sex in Italian Culture and Media	3
WGSS 3002	Feminist Fire!: Radical Black Women in the 20th Century	3
WGSS 3014	Queering Citizenship: Gender/Abolition	3
WGSS 3141	The Racial and Sexual Politics of Public Health	3
WGSS 3152	Sex and Gender in Greco-Roman Antiquity	3
WGSS 3153	The Women of Greek Tragedy	3
WGSS 3181	Gender, Sexuality and Power in Brazil	3
WGSS 319A	The Body in Brazil: Race, Representation, Ontologies	3
WGSS 330S	Topics in Gender and American Culture	3
WGSS 340	Israeli Women Writers	3
WGSS 3416	War, Genocide and Gender in Modern Europe	3
WGSS 350B	Topics: Global Italy: Race, Gender, Migration and Citizenship	3
WGSS 3548	Gender, Sexuality & Communism in 20th-Century Europe	3
WGSS 357B	Gender and Politics in Global Perspective	3
WGSS 3560	Black Women Writers	3
WGSS 366	Caste: Sexuality, Race and Globalization.	3
WGSS 371	Confronting Capitalism: Feminism, Work and Solidarity	3
WGSS 383	Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Spectacular Blackness, Race, Gender, & Visual Culture	3
WGSS 383A	Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	3
WGSS 3861	Psychology of Black Women	3
WGSS 389	The Global History of HIV/AIDS	3
WGSS 39SC	Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia, and the World: Writing-Intensive Seminar	3
WGSS 409	Gender, Sexuality and Change in Africa	3
WGSS 4013	Queer of Color Critique: Sense and Sexuality	3
WGSS 4134	The AIDS Epidemic: Inequalities, Ethnography, and Ethics	3
WGSS 4154	Decolonization to Globalization: How to End an Empire	3
WGSS 416	The Politics of Pleasure	3
WGSS 418C	Sexuality and Gender in East Asian Religions	3

WGSS 4231	Topics in American Literature I	3
WGSS 432	Women Writers of the 20th Century	3
WGSS 437	Transnational Feminisms	3
WGSS 4401	Intersectionality	3
WGSS 441A	Gender Analysis for International Affairs	3
WGSS 445A	Japanese Fiction	3
WGSS 4494	Modern Japanese Women Writers	3
WGSS 455	Topics in Korean Literature and Culture: Gender in Korean Literature and Film	3
WGSS 457	Gender and Modernity in Latin America	3
WGSS 4601	Taboo: Contesting Race, Sexuality and Violence in American Cinema	3
WGSS 4675	Beyond the Harem: Women, Gender, and Revolution	3
WGSS 480	Topics in Buddhist Traditions: Gender and Sexuality in Buddhism	3
WGSS 483	Gender and Genre	3
WGSS 49MB	Advanced Seminar: Women and Gender in Modern Caribbean History	3
WGSS 4993	Advanced Seminar: Women and Religion in Medieval Europe	3

General WGSS Education Credits

Courses that count toward the major should be registered under WGSS (L77). A single course may not fulfill both the historical context category and the ethnic/global/racial context category. In other words, one may not double count a class even if it is listed in both categories. Students may transfer up to 9 credit units from study abroad from approved WGSS courses. Students may transfer up to 6 credit units from another university; however, these courses will be considered general education credits. Pass/Fail credits may not count toward the major, even if they are WGSS Internships. For a course to count for major credit, the student must earn a C- or better; however, Arts & Sciences will only grant credit for a writing intensive class if the student earns at least a C+.

General WGSS education credits may be chosen from the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 103	First-Year Seminar: Sex & Gender in the Gutter: An Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies Through Comics	3
WGSS 205	Introduction to Queer Studies	3
WGSS 206	Sexuality and the State: Introduction to Sexuality Studies	3
WGSS 3012	Gender and Politics	3
WGSS 303	Gender and Education	3
WGSS 308	Masculinities	3
WGSS 3103	Sex and Money: Economies of Desire	3
WGSS 315E	Topics in Literature: Queer Love in Public	3
WGSS 316	Gender and Health	3
WGSS 3211	American Religion, Gender, and Sexuality	3
WGSS 3221	Girls' Media and Popular Culture	3

WGSS 323A	Sex Trafficking	3
WGSS 3410	Gender in Society	3
WGSS 3522	Topics in Literature: Drama Queens: Cleopatra in Elizabethan England	3
WGSS 3561	Law, Gender, & Justice	3
WGSS 360	Trans* Studies	3
WGSS 3666	Women and Film	3
WGSS 393	Gender Violence	3
WGSS 3943	Violence Against Women Court Project	1
WGSS 4112	Body and Flesh: Theorizing Embodiment	3
WGSS 427	Technology and Feminist Practice: Gender Violence Prevention Tools	3
WGSS 4331	Topics in Feminist Theory: Feminist Philosophy	3

Optional WGSS Major Concentrations

A student majoring in WGSS may choose one of the following two concentrations within the major if the student's interests lie within these areas. The concentrations do not require additional courses; rather, the courses outlined in each track fulfill the WGSS requirements through a concentration of courses in one of the two tracks. One course can be double-counted for two of the following requirements. Only 6 units may be taken at the 100 or 200 level.

Politics Concentration

Introduction (3 credits); required for all majors:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 100B	Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	3

Race/Ethnicity/Politics (3 credits); choose one of the following (these courses can also be electives):

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3002	Feminist Fire!: Radical Black Women in the 20th Century	3
WGSS 383A	Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	3
WGSS 39SC	Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia, and the World: Writing-Intensive Seminar	3
WGSS 421	From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African-American Women Theorize Identity	3

Sexuality and Politics (3 credits); choose one of the following (these courses can also be electives):

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 206	Sexuality and the State: Introduction to Sexuality Studies	3
WGSS 3014	Queering Citizenship: Gender/Abolition	3
WGSS 3103	Sex and Money: Economies of Desire	3
WGSS 3141	The Racial and Sexual Politics of Public Health	3
WGSS 3172	Queer Histories	3
WGSS 3211	American Religion, Gender, and Sexuality	3
WGSS 323A	Sex Trafficking	3

Non-U.S. Course (3 credits); choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3416	War, Genocide and Gender in Modern Europe	3
WGSS 3548	Gender, Sexuality & Communism in 20th-Century Europe	3
WGSS 362A	Islam, Gender, Sexuality	3
WGSS 39SC	Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia, and the World: Writing-Intensive Seminar	3
WGSS 437	Transnational Feminisms	3

Theory (3 credits); choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3203	Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies	3
WGSS 371	Confronting Capitalism: Feminism, Work and Solidarity	3
WGSS 4102	Everyday Unruliness: Feminist and Queer Resistance	3
WGSS 421	From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African-American Women Theorize Identity	3
WGSS 429	Feminist Political Theory	3
WGSS 437	Transnational Feminisms	3

History (3 credits):

Choose from the WGSS course offerings in this area.

Methods (3 credits); choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 417W	Feminist Research Methodologies	3
WGSS 444 & 444B	Sex and Gender in Public and Sex and Gender in Public (These are 1.5-credit courses that meet once a week during both semesters of the senior year and that will result in a capstone project exploring gender and/or sexuality and politics broadly conceived.)	3

Electives (6 credits); choose any WGSS courses, but one of the courses listed below is encouraged:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3012	Gender and Politics	3
WGSS 3203	Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies	3
WGSS 3211	American Religion, Gender, and Sexuality	3
WGSS 3410	Gender in Society	3
WGSS 348	Revolutionize It! The Radical History of Second-Wave Feminisms	3
WGSS 3561	Law, Gender, & Justice	3
WGSS 393	Gender Violence (If a student wants to take WGSS 3942 Community-Engaged Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence, this course must be taken first.)	3
WGSS 396	Gender and Social Class	3

Note: 6 credits for this concentration must be taken at the 400 level.

Health Concentration

Introduction (3 credits); required for all majors:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 100B	Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	3

Theory (3 credits); required for all majors:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3203	Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies	3
WGSS 3563	Queering the History of Health	3

History (3 credits); choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3041	Making Sex and Gender: Understanding the History of the Body	3
WGSS 310	From Hysteria to Hysterectomy: Women's Health Care in America	3
WGSS 3141	The Racial and Sexual Politics of Public Health	3
WGSS 414	Gender, Religion, Medicine and Science	3

Race or Non-U.S. Course (3 credits); choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 3141	The Racial and Sexual Politics of Public Health	3
WGSS 3201	Gender, Culture and Madness	3
WGSS 389	The Global History of HIV/AIDS	3
WGSS 402	Transnational Reproductive Health Issues: Meanings, Technologies, Practices	3
WGSS 4134	The AIDS Epidemic: Inequalities, Ethnography, and Ethics	3

Required Health Elective (3 credits); choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 316	Gender and Health	3
WGSS 360	Trans* Studies	3
WGSS 393	Gender Violence	3

Methods (3 credits); choose one of the following:

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 417W	Feminist Research Methodologies	3
WGSS 444 & 444B	Sex and Gender in Public and Sex and Gender in Public (These are 1.5-credit courses that meet once a week during both semesters of the senior year and that will result in a capstone project exploring gender and/or sexuality and politics broadly conceived.)	3
WGSS 3942	Community-Engaged Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence	4
WGSS 3174	Community Engaged Learning: Feminist and Queer Community Praxis	4

Other Electives (9 credits):

Choose any WGSS courses.

Note: 6 credits for this concentration must be taken at the 400 level.

Additional Information

We strongly encourage and support students who wish to study abroad. Therefore, we will accept up to 9 credits from approved programs. Please contact Barbara Baumgartner (bbaumgar@wustl.edu), WGSS Study Abroad Faculty Advisor, about this option.

Current students who wish to take courses at other universities during the summer may transfer up to 6 credit units. However, these credits cannot be used to fulfill the introductory, theory, or methods/service learning requirements.

Students transferring to Washington University who wish to complete a major in WGSS may transfer no more than 9 credits of WGSS course work taken elsewhere.