Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Joint Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) is a truly joint program in which students, under close mentoring by advisors in both Law and WGSS, take a carefully selected set of courses in the Law School and in Arts & Sciences that are tailored to the students’ interests. Course work in Arts & Sciences provides students with advanced training in issues of gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, class, and disability. Whether they come from a gender and sexuality studies background already or they are looking to supplement their JD with a gender and sexuality studies perspective, this program is designed to prepare lawyers with a deep understanding of the cultural impacts of gender and sexuality in the workplace, in policy, and in law.

Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Our graduate certificate program allows students in PhD programs to enhance their disciplinary studies with a concentration in gender studies.

This program offers graduate certificate students an opportunity to meet and work with graduate students in other departments. Graduate certificate students are on the program’s mailing lists, and they are invited to participate in a variety of events, including special guest lectures, conferences, faculty searches and informal gatherings.

In WGSS, graduate certificate students may engage in a teaching pedagogy opportunity if they so wish. The teaching pedagogy opportunity in WGSS takes place over two semesters. During the first semester, students undergo teaching preparation in which they observe the class that they will teach; they are mentored by the instructor, and they attend instructor meetings devoted to examining content and pedagogy. In addition, they develop a syllabus — often in consultation with their WGSS teaching mentor and their department advisor — that is reviewed carefully by WGSS faculty. These students may be undergoing mentored teaching experiences in their own departments during this first semester. During the next semester, students teach the WGSS course, and they are observed by WGSS faculty and, in some cases, by faculty in their own departments. These faculty use a rubric for their assessment that is made available to the student; students receive a written assessment that they then discuss with the observing WGSS faculty member. Sometimes students are observed and assessed more than once. Participation in this program broadens students’ teaching experiences and their credentials for future job opportunities.

The following departments are involved in this program: Anthropology, Art History, Education, English, German, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Romance Languages and Literatures.

Phone: 314-935-5102
Email: wgss@wustl.edu
Website: http://wgss.artsci.wustl.edu

Faculty

Chair
Rebecca Wanzo (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/rebecca-wanzo/)
Professor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
PhD, Duke University
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Core Faculty
Barbara Baumgartner (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/barbara-baumgartner/)
Director of Undergraduate Studies and Teaching Professor
PhD, Northwestern University
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; English)

Heather Berg (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/heather-berg/)
Assistant Professor
PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Feminist Studies)

Rachel Brown (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/rachel-brown/)
Assistant Professor
PhD, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Political Science)

Ivan Bujan (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/ivan-bujan/)
Post-Doctoral Fellow
Northwestern University
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Performance Studies)

Shefali Chandra (https://history.wustl.edu/people/shefali-chandra/)
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; History)

Amy Cislo (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/amy-eisen-cislo/)
Senior Lecturer
PhD, Washington University
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; German)

René Esparza (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/rene-esparza/)
Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; American Studies)
Andrea Friedman (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/andrea-friedman/)
Professor
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; History)

Professors Emeritas
Mary Ann Dzuback (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/mary-ann-dzuback/)
Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Education, and History (courtesy)
PhD, Columbia University
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Education; History)

Linda Nicholson (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/linda-nicholson/)
Susan E. and William P. Stiritz Distinguished Professor of Women's Studies
PhD, Brandeis University
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; History)

Additional Program Faculty
Jami Ake (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/jami-ake/)
Senior Lecturer
PhD, Indiana University Bloomington
(Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Andrea Nichols
Lecturer
PhD, University of Missouri-St. Louis
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Criminology)

Trevor Sangrey (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/trevor-sangrey/)
Lecturer
PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; History of Consciousness)

Elisabeth Windle (https://wgss.wustl.edu/people/elisabeth-windle/)
Lecturer
PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
(Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; English)

Affiliate Faculty
Jean Allman (https://history.wustl.edu/people/jean-allman/)
J.H. Hexter Professor in the Humanities
PhD, Northwestern University
(History)

Susan Freligh Appleton (https://law.wustl.edu/faculty-staff-directory/profile/susan-freligh-appleton/)
Lemma Barkeloo and Phoebe Couzins Professor of Law
JD, University of California, Berkeley
(Law)

Nancy Berg
Professor
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(Modern Hebrew Languages and Literatures)

Elizabeth Childs (http://arthistory.artsci.wustl.edu/people/elizabeth-c-childs/)
Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor of Art History
PhD, Columbia University
(Art History)

Caitlyn Collins (http://sociology.wustl.edu/people/caitlyn-collins/)
Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Texas at Austin
(Sociology)

Rebecca Copeland (http://ealc.wustl.edu/people/rebecca-copeland/)
Professor
PhD, Columbia University
(Japanese)

Marion Crain (http://law.wustl.edu/faculty_profiles/profiles.aspx?id=6613)
Wiley Rutledge Professor of Law
JD, University of California, Los Angeles
(Law)

Adrienne Davis (http://law.wustl.edu/faculty_profiles/profiles.aspx?id=5768)
William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law
JD, Yale University
(Law)

Tonya Edmond (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/Faculty-and-Research/Pages/Tonya-Edmond.aspx)
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Texas at Austin
(Social Work)

Vanessa Fabbre (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/Faculty-and-Research/Pages/Vanessa-Fabbre.aspx)
Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Chicago
(Social Work)

R. Marie Griffith (https://rap.wustl.edu/people/r-marie-griffith/)
John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor
PhD, Harvard University
(Director, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics)
Christine Johnson (https://history.wustl.edu/people/christine-johnson/)
Associate Professor
PhD, Johns Hopkins University
(History)

Elizabeth Katz (https://law.wustl.edu/faculty-staff-directory/profile/elizabeth-d-katz/)
Associate Professor
JD, University of Virginia
(Law)

Stephanie Kirk (https://rll.wustl.edu/people/stephanie-kirk/)
Associate Professor
PhD, New York University
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Rebecca Lester (https://anthropology.wustl.edu/people/rebecca-lester/)
Associate Professor
PhD, University of California, San Diego
(Anthropology)

Erin McGlothlin (https://german.wustl.edu/people/erin-mcglothlin-0/)
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Virginia
(Germanic Languages and Literatures)

Rebecca Messbarger (https://rll.wustl.edu/people/rebecca-messbarger/)
Professor
PhD, University of Chicago
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Melanie Micir (http://english.artsci.wustl.edu/people/melanie-micir/)
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(English)

Angela Miller (https://artsci.wustl.edu/faculty-staff/angela-miller/)
Professor
PhD, Yale University
(Art History)

Patricia Olynk (http://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/portfolios/faculty/patricia_olynk/)
Florence and Frank Bush Professor of Design and Visual Arts
MFA, California College of the Arts
(Art)

Shanti Parikh (https://anthropology.wustl.edu/people/shanti-parikh/)
Associate Professor
PhD, Yale University
(Anthropology; African and African-American Studies)

Anca Parvulescu (https://english.wustl.edu/people/anca-parvulescu/)
Professor
PhD, University of Minnesota
(English)

Nancy Reynolds (https://history.wustl.edu/people/nancy-reynolds/)
Associate Professor
PhD, Stanford University
(History)

Jessica Rosenfeld (https://english.wustl.edu/people/jessica-rosenfeld/)
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
(English)

Julie Singer
Associate Professor
PhD, Duke University
(Romance Languages and Literatures)

Peggie Smith (http://law.wustl.edu/faculty_profiles/profiles.aspx?id=7971)
Charles F. Nagel Professor of Employment and Labor Law
JD, Yale University
(Law)

Gaylyn Studlar (https://fms.wustl.edu/people/gaylyn-studlar/)
David May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities
PhD, University of Southern California
(Film and Media Studies)

Lynne Tatlock (http://complit.artsci.wustl.edu/people/lynne-tatlock/)
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities
PhD, Indiana University
(Germanic Languages and Literatures)

Karen Tokarz (http://law.wustl.edu/faculty_profiles/profiles.aspx?id=448)
Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest and Public Service Law
JD, Saint Louis University
LLM, University of California, Berkeley
(Law)

Corinna Treitel (https://history.wustl.edu/people/corinna-treielt/)
Associate Professor
PhD, Harvard University
(History)
Degree Requirements

Joint Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Students entering this four-year program spend their first year taking the required 1L courses in the Law School. As a result, a law student might decide to apply for the joint-degree program after entering law school.

Students in the program fulfill the usual JD requirements, including one ethics course, one upper-class writing course (seminar), 6 units of experiential credits in designated courses, and 67 units of law classroom credits. Because the upper-class JD curriculum may vary from year to year, students should choose their electives in consultation with their Law School advisors. Students in the joint Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in WGSS program may take courses from Arts & Sciences during their second through fourth years.

Master of Arts Program Requirements

The Master of Arts in WGSS requires 32 credit units, including at least 21 units from specific areas, with the remainder satisfied through elective courses in the student’s area of interest. A 2-credit master’s thesis is optional, in which case the student would complete 30 units of course work as well as the thesis. For the JD/Master of Arts in WGSS, specific courses in the upper-class Juris Doctoris curriculum offer opportunities for electives, but these courses must be taken for a grade. Courses offered pass/fail or for credit only will not count toward the 32 credits required for the Master of Arts in WGSS, with the exception of externships approved by the WGSS MAJD program director.

Courses in the advanced seminar categories should be chosen in consultation with the student’s WGSS advisor. The curriculum includes courses that are home-based in WGSS, courses that are cross-listed with WGSS and taught by feminist and gender scholars on the faculty, and courses that are offered by the Law School.

For students pursuing the master’s thesis option: Students who choose to write a thesis will determine a subfield of focus during the first year of study in Arts & Sciences. The following year, in collaboration with their advisors, students will develop a thesis project or a practicum with a substantial writing component. JD/MA students are not eligible for the graduate certificate in WGSS.

During their final semester of courses, students take a comprehensive written examination that will test their competence in the field of study. The examining committee will consist of the director of graduate studies, the student’s advisor, and one other faculty member who is either core or affiliated with WGSS.

Note that any particular course can count only toward one requirement.

The following courses apply to the JD/MA; new courses may also count with the approval of the student’s WGSS advisor.

Advanced Theory and Research (9 units):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 417W</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methodologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 419</td>
<td>Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 429</td>
<td>Feminist Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 501</td>
<td>Advanced Feminist Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Advanced Seminars in Race/Ethnicity (3 units):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 416</td>
<td>The Politics of Pleasure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 421</td>
<td>From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African-American Women Theorize Identity</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGSS 5313</td>
<td>Intersectionality: Theory, Method, and Praxis</td>
<td>3</td>
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Advanced Seminars in Gender/Sexuality (3 units):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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### Bulletin 2022-23
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (09/13/22)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 406</td>
<td>Queering Theory: Collaborating, Solidarity, and Working Together</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 4102</td>
<td>Everyday Unruliness: Feminist and Queer Resistance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 419</td>
<td>Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Advanced Seminars in Transnational Feminist and Gender Analysis (6 units):**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 402</td>
<td>Transnational Reproductive Health Issues: Meanings, Technologies, Practices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 409</td>
<td>Gender, Sexuality and Change in Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 429</td>
<td>Feminist Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 437</td>
<td>Transnational Feminisms</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Electives in the Student’s Area(s) of Interest (9-12 units):**

These electives can be chosen from any of the advanced seminars from the above categories or from the following Law School courses, which **must** be taken for a grade to count toward the 32 credits required for the Master of Arts; students should discuss this with their WGSS advisor:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAW 590D</td>
<td>Children's Rights Clinic</td>
<td>var.; max 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 508C</td>
<td>Domestic Violence &amp; the Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 590D</td>
<td>Employment Discrimination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 548</td>
<td>Family Law</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 8295</td>
<td>Feminist Theories/Feminist Judgments (seminar)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 8275</td>
<td>Implicit Bias, Law, &amp; the Legal Profession (seminar)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 609S-01</td>
<td>The Law of the Fourteenth Amendment</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 784</td>
<td>Regulating Sex: Historical and Cultural Encounters</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 602D</td>
<td>Sexuality &amp; the Law: Theory &amp; Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW 802B &amp; LAW 802C</td>
<td>Supervised Instruction: Law, Gender, &amp; Justice (pass/fail, by selection only; can only count toward the JD portion of the program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis Procedures**

Students who choose to write a thesis will determine a subfield of focus during the first year of study. During the second year, in collaboration with their advisors, students will develop a thesis project or a practicum with a substantial writing component. Students who do not complete the Master of Arts portion of the joint-degree program are not eligible for the graduate certificate in WGSS. Students must earn grades of B or higher in graduate Arts & Sciences courses for those courses to count toward the Master of Arts in WGSS.

### History and Theory

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 4675</td>
<td>Beyond the Harem: Women, Gender, and Revolution</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Literature

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 4231</td>
<td>Topics in American Literature I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 455</td>
<td>Topics in Korean Literature and Culture: Gender in Korean Literature and Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 4611</td>
<td>The Shaping of Modern Literature: Queer Historical Fiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 482</td>
<td>Reading Seminar: Gender and Chinese Literature: Writing Women of Imperial China</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Gender Violence

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 427</td>
<td>Technology and Feminist Practice: Gender Violence Prevention Tools</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate students interested in the graduate certificate in WGSS should first apply for admission to the Washington University department in which they wish to obtain an advanced degree. After being admitted, each student should notify their department advisor and the WGSS program director of their plans to obtain the WGSS certificate. In addition, each student should submit an “Application for Admission to Certificate Program” form to the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, with a copy also given to the WGSS office. The earlier that the WGSS department knows who these students are, the earlier these students can be included in mailings about program activities, lectures, conferences and other events. Certificate application forms are available from the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences.
The graduate certificate in WGSS requires the completion of five courses, at least two of which must be drawn from 400-level or above home-based WGSS courses. The other three required courses must be drawn from 400-level or above home-based or cross-listed WGSS courses or from other program-approved, gender-based courses; students will consult with the program director for approval. Since the certificate requires three courses beyond those required for a student's home degree, participation in the certificate program may require an extra semester of graduate courses. Those students who are not interested in the certificate but who want to concentrate on gender within their disciplines to enhance their credentials and enrich their training may do so by pursuing a graduate minor in accordance with the policies of their individual departments. Other students may participate in WGSS courses without commitment to a concentration.