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.

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 education, who will consider the request.

Only one course may fulfill two requirements (i.e., one class 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. 3 credits of an introductory-level course: WGSS 100B Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
   Students must file a copy of a paper from this course with the WGSS office (McMillan Hall, Room 210).
2. 3 credits of a theory course
3. 3 credits of a feminist research methods course or a service learning course. **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 L77 417W must submit a copy of their final paper from this course to the WGSS office (McMillan Hall, Room 210).
4. 6 credits at the 400 level (courses taken in any of the above categories will satisfy this requirement) or 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 advisers for approval of their chosen courses and to ensure that one of the courses is home-based.
5. 3 credits of a historical context course. This is a course that is home-based or cross-listed in WGSS that examines gender in a historical context. **Note:** A course that satisfies one of the previous four requirement areas in this list may also fulfill this requirement.
6. 3 credits of an ethnic/global/racial context course. This is a course that is home-based or cross-listed in WGSS that examines gender in an ethnic, global, or racial context. **Note:** A course that satisfies one of the first four requirement areas in this list may also fulfill this requirement.

Optional WGSS Major Tracks

A student majoring in WGSS may choose one of the following two tracks within the major if the student’s interests lie within these areas. With the exception of the capstone course, which must be taken by anyone who does not write an honors thesis, the tracks do not require additional course work; rather, the courses outlined in each track fulfill the WGSS requirements through a concentration of courses in one of the two tracks.

Politics Track

**Introduction (3 credits); required for all majors:**
- WGSS 100B Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Research Methods (3 credits); choose one of the following:**
- WGSS 3171 Service Learning: Women and Prison
- WGSS 3942 Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence
- WGSS 417W Feminist Research Methodologies

**Race/Ethnicity/Politics (3 credits); choose one of the following (these courses can also be electives):**
- WGSS 383A Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- WGSS 39SC Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia, and the World: Writing-Intensive Seminar
- WGSS 421 From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African-American Women Theorize Identity
- WGSS 3002 Feminist Fire!: Radical Black Women in the 20th Century

Sexuality and Politics (3 credits); choose one of the following (these courses can also be electives):
• WGSS 323A Sex Trafficking
• WGSS 3103 Sex and Money: Economies of Desire
• WGSS 3014 Queering Citizenship
• WGSS 3172 Queer Histories
• WGSS 3141 The Racial and Sexual Politics of Public Health
• WGSS 3211 American Religion, Gender, and Sexuality
• WGSS 206 Sexuality and the State: Introduction to Sexuality Studies

Non-U.S. Course (3 credits); choose one of the following:
• WGSS 39SC Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia, and the World: Writing-Intensive Seminar
• WGSS 49SC Incredible India
• WGSS 437 Transnational Feminisms
• WGSS 362A Islam, Gender, Sexuality
• WGSS 3548 Gender, Sexuality & Communism in 20th-Century Europe
• WGSS 312 Globalization and Gender

Theory (3 credits); choose one of the following:
• WGSS 3203 Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies
• WGSS 421 From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African-American Women Theorize Identity
• WGSS 371 Confronting Capitalism: Feminism, Work and Solidarity
• WGSS 429 Feminist Political Theory
• WGSS 437 Transnational Feminisms
• WGSS 4102 Everyday Unruliness: Feminist and Queer Resistance

History (3 credits):
Choose from the WGSS course offerings in this area.

Elective (3 credits); open, but one of the courses listed below is encouraged:
• WGSS 3211 American Religion, Gender, and Sexuality
• WGSS 396 Gender and Social Class
• WGSS 3203 Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies
• WGSS 348 Revolutionize It!: Second-Wave Feminism and the Struggle for a Radical Movement
• WGSS 3012 Gender and Politics
• WGSS 3410 Gender in Society
• WGSS 3561 Law, Gender, & Justice
• WGSS 393 Gender Violence (if a student wants to take WGSS 3942 Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence, this course must be taken first.)
• WGSS 4363 Sex, Gender, and Power

Capstone Project or Honors Thesis (3 credits):
Students will either complete an honors thesis or take Sex and Gender in Public, a 1.5-unit course that meets 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.

Please note that 6 credits must be taken at the 400 level.

Health Track

Introduction (3 credits): required for all majors:
• WGSS 100B Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Theory (3 credits); required for all majors:
• WGSS 3203 Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies

History (3 credits); choose one of the following:
• WGSS 3041 Making Sex and Gender: Understanding the History of the Body
• WGSS 310 From Hysteria to Hysterectomy: Women’s Health Care in America
• WGSS 4990 History of the Body
• WGSS 414 Gender, Religion, Medicine and Science

Race or Non-U.S. Course (3 credits); choose one of the following:
• WGSS 3141 The Racial and Sexual Politics of Public Health
• WGSS 3201 Gender, Culture, and Madness
• WGSS 389 The Global History of HIV/AIDS
• WGSS 4134 The AIDS Epidemic: Inequalities, Ethnography, and Ethics
• WGSS 402 Transnational Reproductive Health Issues: Meanings, Technologies, Practices

Elective (3 credits); choose one of the following:
• WGSS 316 Contemporary Women’s Health
• WGSS 360 Trans* Studies
• WGSS 393 Gender Violence

Research Methods (3 credits):
Choose from the WGSS course offerings in this area.

Other Electives (6 credits):
Choose any two WGSS home-based or cross-listed courses.

Capstone Project or Honors Thesis (3 credits):
Students will either complete an honors thesis or take Sex and Gender in Public, a 1.5-unit course that meets 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.

Please note that 6 credits must be taken at the 400 level.

Additional Information

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