DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Major

Sharon Barnes, Chair and Advisor

The Department of Women’s and Gender Studies (WGST) produces successful graduates who leave the University of Toledo with an interdisciplinary degree that prepares them for graduate school, professional degree programs, and the rapidly changing workplace. Our students pursue engaging careers in both the public and private sectors. Our recent alums can be found working in Washington, DC for the President’s National Security Council or working locally for a women’s advocacy organization. They can also be found in graduate programs in English, Higher Education, Theology, and Women’s Studies as well as in law school, and health programs.

WGST and Pre-Med

Students interested in the Pre-Med program may major in WGST. The Pre-Med program is a career track, not an official academic major. All students enrolled in the pre-med program must also choose a major. In the past few years, an increasing number of students interested in health-related careers have chosen WGST as their major. Students with a particular interest in women’s health and topics related to gender and healthcare may take the following: WGST 4810 Women’s Health Care, WGST 4160 Health And Gender, and WGST 3980 Topics In Women’s Studies in partial fulfillment of the Women’s and Gender Studies major electives. In addition, WGST students pursuing the Pre-Med option will be assigned a mentor, from the medical profession, to provide guidance and advice as they develop their career goals. Students who would like to pursue the WGST and Pre-Med option should speak with the department adviser and the Pre-Med adviser.

WGST and Pre-Law

Students interested in pursuing law school may major in WGST. Pre-Law is not a specific major at the University of Toledo. Students who would like to prepare themselves for law school may choose any academic major. According to the American Bar Association students interested in attending law school should prepare themselves by gaining the following skills: Analytic / Problem Solving Skills, Critical Reading and Writing Skills, Oral Communication / Listening Abilities, General Research Skills, Task Organization / Management Skills. The WGST degree provides students with the opportunity to gain all of the skills recommended for the successful pursuit of a career in law. In addition, undergraduates in Women’s and Gender Studies who wish to study legal ideas, institutions, and procedures from the perspective of gender may pursue a concentration in Law and Social Thought by taking the following: LST 2010, LST 2500 (2 hours), and LST 4900 in partial fulfillment of the women’s and gender studies major electives, and LST 4940 (3 to 6 hours) to satisfy the women’s and gender studies internship requirement. Students should meet with the department adviser to discuss their specific academic plan.

Concentrations

WGST has formal concentrations in Sexuality Studies and Law and Social Thought. Please speak to the department advisor for more information on these programs.

Degrees Offered


WGST 1150 Proseminar In Women’s And Gender Studies I

[1 credit hour (0, 0, 1)]

Students reflect on the academic and professional and community activist dimensions of Women’s and Gender Studies. Students develop a preliminary plan for the development of their portfolio.

Term Offered: Fall

WGST 2010 Introduction To Gender Studies: Gender, Sex And Difference

[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]

Interdisciplinary introduction to gender studies. Critically examines competing theories of gender and sex identification, construction, and biological determinism. Considers ethical and intersectional issues regarding differences of gender, sex and sexuality.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

Core Social Sciences, Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 2020 Girlhood and Adolescence

[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]

This class examines the adolescent experience of the American teenage girl using historical documents, current films, magazines, and popular teen fiction. This class looks at the complexities that race, socioeconomic status, ethnicity and sexual orientation have on the experience of the teenage girl. Students will have several opportunities to share their own adolescent experiences as they relate to assigned readings.

Prerequisites: WGST 2010 with a minimum grade of D-

Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 2150 Proseminar In Women’s & Gender Studies II

[1 credit hour (0, 0, 1)]

Designed for majors only. Students reflect on the academic and professional and community activist dimensions of Women’s and Gender Studies. Special emphasis will be dedicated to the completion of the portfolio for future career, community activism and graduate studies.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer
WGST 2400 Women's Roles: A Global Perspective
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
The course focuses on the current and evolving social, economic and political status of women in the United States and selected non-Western societies.
Term Offered: Fall
Core Social Sciences, Multicultural Non-US Diversity, Trans Mod Social Science

WGST 2510 Women In American Politics
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
An examination of the role of women in the American political system with special attention to the socializing experiences, political power bases and legal status.
Prerequisites: PSC 1200 with a minimum grade of D-Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 2640 Race, Class, And Gender
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Introduction to the study of race, class and gender as factors in American stratification.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
Core Social Sciences, Multicultural US Diversity, Trans Mod Social Science

WGST 2880 Contemporary U.S. Queer Cultures
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
An interdisciplinary, multicultural examination of diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other queer cultural productions, this course examines continuities and conflicts in aesthetics, issues, materials, and motivations for queer culture.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall
Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 2980 Special Topics In Women's And Gender Studies
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Study of selected topics relevant to Women's and Gender Studies. May be repeated for major or minor credit when topic varies.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 3010 Issues In Women's Studies
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Required for the major. An interdisciplinary introduction to basic works of feminist thought, feminist methodologies and current issues in the field world-wide. Writing Intensive (WAC) course.
Prerequisites: ENGL 1130 with a minimum grade of D-Multicultural US Diversity
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
Multicultural Non-US Diversity

WGST 3020 Visual Construction Of Gender
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Writing intensive (WAC) course. This non-studio course focuses on the ways images reflect and shape our understanding of gender. Students will learn to analyze visual material in order to identify and articulate their cultural significance in relation to gender.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer
Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 3030 Women and the Body
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
This class will look at the complexities of women's relationships to their bodies and how the intersectionalities of race, gender identity, sexuality and societal pressures help shape the ways women feel about themselves. Using popular culture, feminist theory, and other mediums, this class expects students to participate in self-reflection, critical analysis, and the application of various feminist theories to their work.
Prerequisites: WGST 2010 with a minimum grade of D-Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 3200 Issues In Lesbian, Transgender, Bisexual And Gay Communities
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course will explore current issues facing diverse LTBGQ communities including historical, socio-cultural and political perspectives.
Term Offered: Fall

WGST 3400 Feminist Approaches To Social Problems
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
This course will examine current social problems from a feminist perspective. The course will examine such issues as the feminization of poverty, violence against women, homeless, prostitution, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and addictions.
Term Offered: Spring

WGST 3550 Feminism And Philosophy
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
An examination of feminist perspectives on love, sex and marriage in philosophy, exploring the relevance of gender to central questions in ethics, political theory and epistemology.
Term Offered: Spring
Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 3650 Economics Of Gender
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Analysis of labor market outcomes and income distribution characteristics resulting from gender differences; Gender-related economic outcomes; the feminization of poverty, persistent male-female wage differential, expanding proportion of female headed households.
Prerequisites: ECON 1150 with a minimum grade of D- or ECON 1200 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 3700 Women's Studies Topics In Literature
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Specific topics vary. Check schedule of classes for specific subject.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

WGST 3750 Women And Literature
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Examines literary works in light of major issues raised by feminist criticism. Specific emphasis varies. Recommended ENGL 2700 or 3790
Term Offered: Spring, Summer
Multicultural US Diversity

WGST 3800 Sexual Politics
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course examines sexual politics through studying canonical literature of Western political theory, feminism and postmodern theory.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall
WGST 3980 Topics In Women's Studies
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Specific topics vary. Check schedule of courses for specific subject.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

WGST 4010 Women's Studies Topics In Film
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Specific topics vary. Check schedule of courses for specific subject and prerequisites.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

WGST 4160 Health And Gender
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
An examination of gender as a predisposing factor of health status, health behavior, health care delivery, and the structure and posture of health care professionals. Writing intensive (WAC) course.

WGST 4190 Gender In Cross-Cultural Perspective
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Analysis of gender stratification and its impact on culture in various nations and across ethnic groups in the United States. Multicultural Non-US Diversity

WGST 4200 Women's Studies Topics In Science
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Cross-listings of 4000-level courses with biology, chemistry, geology, math, natural sciences, physics and pre-med. Specific topics vary. Check schedule of courses for specific subject and prerequisites.

WGST 4350 Women's Studies Topics In Communication
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Cross-listings of 4000-level courses with the communication department. Specific topics vary. Check schedule of courses for specific subject and prerequisites determined by the department of communication.
Term Offered: Summer, Fall

WGST 4400 Women's Studies Topics In History
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Cross-listings of 4000 level courses with the history department. Specific topics vary. Check schedule of courses for specific subject and prerequisites.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

WGST 4510 Women In American History
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
This course presents American history from early settlement to the present by examining the contributions of women, in interaction with men, to the immensely complex fabric of American life.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

WGST 4540 Witchcraft And Magic In Medieval And Early Modern Europe
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Witchcraft, religion and magic in western Europe from the 12th through 17th centuries, focusing on the origins of witchcraft belief, diabolical magic, the witchcraft and its decline.
Term Offered: Spring

WGST 4590 Law, Policy, And The Politics of Sexuality
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course explores law, policymaking, and public attitudes that affect gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals in the U.S. Topics include hate crimes legislation, discrimination law, and same-sex marriage.
Term Offered: Spring

WGST 4610 Feminist Political Theory
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Readings in and interpretation of feminist political theories about the state, power, citizenship, and identity.
Prerequisites: PSC 2800 with a minimum grade of D-

WGST 4700 Women's Studies Topics In Literature
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Specific topics vary. Check Course Schedules for specific subject.
Term Offered: Spring

WGST 4760 Feminist Readings Of Literature
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Classic works by diverse American and English men and women considered in light of significant recent feminist scholarship and how such perspectives enhance classroom teaching and academic production.

WGST 4770 American Women Writers
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Author/authors vary with each offering. Consult schedule of courses for specific subject. Recommended ENGL 2700, 2800 or 3790.

WGST 4810 Women's Health Care
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
The course is designed to consider those personal health topics of special interest and applicability to women. The focus will be upon the role of self-understanding and self-help in promotion of health and well-being.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

WGST 4870 Feminisms
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
This introduction to global feminist thought familiarizes students with feminist terminology and a variety of feminist theoretical frameworks.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

WGST 4880 Queer Theory WAC
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
This course explores the theoretical concepts/texts of Queer Theory and its locations in communities and identities, focusing principally on the theories that have emerged since the late 1990s.
Prerequisites: WGST 3010 with a minimum grade of D- or WGST 2010 with a minimum grade of D-
Term Offered: Spring

WGST 4890 Women's Studies Research And Methodologies
[4 credit hours (0, 0, 4)]
Investigates and applies current trends in Women's Studies as a discipline and the ways in which Women's Studies methodologies inform other disciplines. Requires research project.
Term Offered: Fall
WGST 4900 Seminar In Women's Studies  
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]  
Seminar focused on timely topics in Women's Studies chosen by rotating faculty.  
**Term Offered:** Spring, Summer  

WGST 4910 Honors Thesis In Women's And Gender Studies  
[1-3 credit hours (0, 0, 0-3)]  
Supervised research and writing for honors students only.  
**Term Offered:** Spring, Summer, Fall  

WGST 4940 Internship In Women's Studies  
[1-3 credit hours (0, 0, 0-3)]  
Practical field experience applying Women's Studies theories, arranged in conjunction with the department of women's and gender studies. Students must have pre-approval based on detailed written proposal.  
**Term Offered:** Spring, Summer, Fall  

WGST 4980 Advanced Topics In Women's Studies  
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]  
A course on a special topic in Women's Studies. Consult schedule of courses for topic to be studied and semester offered. Recommended WGST 3010.  
**Term Offered:** Spring, Fall  

WGST 4990 Independent Study In Women's Studies  
[1-4 credit hours (0, 0, 0-4)]  
Supervised independent reading and research on selected topics. Before the end of open registration, students must present the supervising instructor a detailed written proposal and get written approval.  
**Term Offered:** Spring, Summer, Fall  

A student majoring in Women's and Gender Studies who is seeking departmental honors should make formal application near the end of the junior year. The following requirements must be met in order to earn the departmental honors designation at the time of graduation:  

1. minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 overall and 3.5 in WGST courses,  
2. Two WGST 3000-4000-level elective courses and  
3. WGST 4910 Thesis for three hours, an honors thesis, or a paper from a 4000-level class submitted for review by the department honors committee.