

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:

An educated perspective on topics of gender and sexuality is essential to constructive communication. Knowing, for example, the vocabulary of sexual and gender identity and social discourses concerning race and class empowers students to develop their own opinions and values, and to express them clearly and with confidence. The interdisciplinarity of the Women's and Gender Studies minor makes multiple perspectives and backgrounds on current social and political concerns essential, not just possible.

During the course of the Women's and Gender Studies minors, students:

- Understand women's centrality to society, culture, and history
- Study gender roles and differences
- Benefit from elective courses in a variety of different fields
- Build a capstone project of their own design

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

The minor in Women's and Gender Studies will enrich every major and make students more attractive to employers as well as graduate and professional schools. Students who minor in women's studies are valued contributors to a variety of fields because the minor demonstrates the graduate's interest in and awareness of the progressive visions reshaping all areas of society.

This minor elective also demonstrates a commitment to learning and personal growth beyond meeting the requirements of a degree. Students who minor in Women's and Gender Studies can go on to a variety of fields:

- Law
- Technical writing
- Children's or patient advocacy
- Politics
- Human Resources

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**FAIRMONT STATE
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WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES MINOR

THE WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

Women's and Gender Studies highlights Fairmont State's most valuable opportunity—to develop genuine leadership qualities that directly result from small classes and the intimate community of professors and students. Professors know students, students know professors, and students get to know each other because of discussion-based classroom practices. In these courses, participants must listen carefully, articulate questions for clarification/understanding connect points of view, and formulate their own. The ability to do this well—and there's not just one way to do this well—takes practice and cannot be practiced alone. Big universities typically cannot offer the circumstances for this development until the last semesters of college, if then.

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CUSTOMIZATION

A look at the WGS Minor in the Undergraduate Catalog indicates the program's flexibility. There are only two required courses; one is the introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, the other the Women's and Gender Studies Capstone. The remaining four courses of the standard 18 hours/six course minor are chosen from a menu of 28 courses from 8 disciplines, from Business and Criminal Justice to History and Sociology.

ELECTIVES

The abundance of electives allows students to pursue a range of disciplines or to focus study within a preferred area. For example, a Criminal Justice major could combine Business, Sociology, and History electives with an eye to solving problems in the court system or he could focus on literature and writing courses to prepare for interacting with juvenile offenders.

CAPSTONE

Best of all is the Capstone, modeled on directed readings courses in graduate programs. The Capstone is a one-on-one project completed with a professor, usually in the student's major.

WOMEN'S STUDIES COLLOQUIUM

The Women's and Gender Studies Colloquium, offered every fall, is a lecture series organized directly in response to students' interests. WV Professor of the Year winner Greg Noone has presented a retrospective on the history of Roe V Wade, Suarez Award recipient Fran Kirk has shared research on women and Title 9, and professors Jeri Kirby and Mandy Sanchez have explained the success and gratification of their Inside/Out program in state and federal prisons.

MINOR IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES: 18 credit hours

REQUIRED COURSES: 6 credit hours

WGST 2201 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	3
WGST 4402 Capstone Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies	3

ELECTIVES: 12 credit hours

Select four courses from the following list:

BSBA 3325 Women and Work	3
COMM 4420 Contemporary Storytelling	3
CRIM 3304 The Female Offender	3
CRIM 3305 Changing Roles of Women in Criminal Justice	3
ENGL 3363 American Novel	3
ENGL 3365 American Modernism	3
ENGL 3366 Contemporary Literature	3
ENGL 3379 Literature of the Victorian Period	3
ENGL 3380 20th Century British Literature	3
ENGL 3381 The British Novel	3
ENGL 3388 Women's Literature	3
ENGL 3389 Minority Literature	3
ENGL 3391 The Short Story	3
ENGL 3393 Southern Literature	3
ENGL 3396 Literature and Film	3
FOLK 3301 Material Culture	3
FOLK 3302 Regional Cultural Geography and History	3
FREN 4426 Main Currents of French Literature and Culture	3
HIST 3333 Women in American History	3
HIST 3335 Women in World History	3
HIST 4450 History of American Sexualities	3
WGST 1150 Women's and Gender Studies Colloquium	3
SOCY 2205 Principles of Race, Class, and Gender	3
SOCY 3310 Sociology of the Family	3
SOCY 4450 Race and Ethnicity	3



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