Women’s and Gender Studies

Degree Offered:
UW-Parkside offers a concentration in women’s and gender studies through the interdisciplinary studies major (ISTD). This major draws upon existing UW-Parkside courses, and students may also receive credit for appropriate transfer courses, distance education courses, and credit for experiential learning.

UW-Parkside also offers a minor in women’s studies through the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies. Interested students should consult the program director of Interdisciplinary Studies for the major and the program director of the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies for the minor.

Director:
Lenard, Ph.D. (Director, Center for Women’s and Gender Studies)

Faculty:
Many faculty teach women’s and gender studies courses through their departments; serve on the women’s and gender studies steering committee; or work on collaborative projects and initiatives such as Women in Math and Science Day, and Women in Technology Day.

Affiliated Organizations:

Career Possibilities
Nonprofit organizations, business, creative arts, education, government, health, journalism, law, medicine and social work, especially pertaining to women’s issues. Graduate school with emphasis in the humanities, social sciences or the professions. Many careers are strengthened and enhanced by a minor in women’s and gender studies. Students are encouraged to discuss career options early with the program director and to consider internships and other activities which allow them to explore career possibilities.

Program Overview
The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies provides an interdisciplinary program that draws upon all departments in the university to provide a systematic analysis of gender roles and women’s experiences in society. Its goal is to provide insights and generate activities that will lead to an improvement in the position of women and to transform society in the process. In such courses, women’s positions are often analyzed relative to those of men, and these courses are relevant for both women and men who are seeking a fuller understanding of past, present and future social trends.

These five learning objectives should guide students’ selection of elective courses and guide their approach to the work they do in their course study.

Analysis: The ability to read and interpret gendered elements of verbal and nonverbal texts and imagery.

Communication: The ability to perceive gender bias in language choices and rhetorical strategies, and to communicate effectively using the media of the 21st century.

Ethics and Social Justice: The ability to recognize social injustice, inequality, and discrimination, particularly in regard to gender, and to explore and articulate options for change.

History, Culture, and Society: The ability to recognize patterns in past events and see their impact on the status of women and the construction of gender roles.

Critical Thinking: The ability to analyze how value systems shape human knowledge with respect to gender.

Interdisciplinarity: The ability to make deliberate connections among various academic disciplines, to comprehend and participate in more than one discipline.

Students electing the women’s and gender studies concentration in the interdisciplinary studies major or the women’s and gender studies minor may combine it with any major to give those students enhanced knowledge of gender issues within their major area. Graduates have found jobs in the community that focus on women’s issues such as program coordinator, program director, counselor, etc., in organizations dedicated to women’s issues. In addition, students have often been able to redirect the focus of existing organizations to address the needs of women, which are often neglected.

Preparation for Graduate School
Students who graduate with this minor can go on to professional and graduate programs in law, sociology, humanities, medicine and health, theology and other fields. Consult the director for further information to develop a plan of study.

Internships
Internships and applied experiences in other courses or independent study projects are encouraged. These experiences assist students in evaluating developing skills for possible job settings.
Requirements for the Women’s Studies Minor

Eighteen credits are required for the minor. Students must take three core courses:

Core courses (9 credits, one from each of the following):

1) WOMS 110 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies ............... 3 cr
2) WOMS 112 Women in Literature ........................................... 3 cr
or
WOMS 213 Gender in Society .............................................. 3 cr
or
WOMS 236 Women in Modern Society .................................. 3 cr
3) WOMS 494 Internship in Women’s and Gender Studies ............. 1-6 cr
or
WOMS 495 Women’s and Gender Studies Seminar ...................... 3 cr
or
WOMS 497 Women’s and Gender Studies Seminar ...................... 3 cr
or
WOMS 499 Independent Study .............................................. 1-3 cr

The minor also requires three elective courses, deriving from at least two of the following three areas: Creativity, Institutions in Society, and Science and Professions. Each semester, courses available for women’s and gender studies credit will be listed in the course schedule.

1. Creativity: These are courses offered by the departments of Art, English, Philosophy, Modern Languages, Music, and Theatre Arts and are listed under “Women’s and Gender Studies” in the semester course schedule.

Examples include but are not limited to:

THEA 391 Women in Theatre .............................................. 3 cr
ENGL 112/ WOMS Women in Literature .............................................. 3 cr
ENGL 367 Studies in American Ethnic Literature (depending on topic) .............................................. 3 cr
ENGL 358 Film Genres: Women in Film .............................................. 3 cr
ENGL 464 Studies in Cultural Patterns: Gay and Lesbian Literature .............................................. 3 cr
ENGL 469 Studies in Women Writers .............................................. 3 cr

2. Institutions in Society: These are courses offered by the departments of Communication, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology/ Anthropology and listed under “Women’s and Gender Studies” in the semester course schedule.

Examples include but are not limited to:

COMM 315 Communication and Gender .............................................. 3 cr
HIST 236 Women in Modern Society .............................................. 3 cr
POLS 203 Women, Power, and Politics .............................................. 3 cr
PSYC 230 Psychology of Human Sexuality .............................................. 3 cr

3. Science and Professions: Courses offered by a variety of departments including Biological Sciences, Business Management, Geosciences, Computer Science, Teacher Education, Sociology/ Anthropology, and Health, Physical Education and Athletics. Courses applicable to the minor are listed under “Women’s and Gender Studies” in the semester course schedule.

Examples include but are not limited to:

MGT 446 Global Issues in Management .............................................. 3 cr
HPEA 321 Women’s Health Issues .............................................. 3 cr
HPEA 330 Women’s and Gender Studies .............................................. 3 cr
SOCA 213 Gender and Society .............................................. 3 cr
SOCA 230 Sport in Society .............................................. 3 cr
SOCA 430 Medical Sociology .............................................. 3 cr
WOMS 250 Women in Science .............................................. 3 cr

Each semester, courses appropriate for the women’s studies minor are listed in the course schedule. Since courses are offered on a rotating basis, students are advised to consult with women’s studies faculty and directors to assist them with course selection and proper completion of requirements.

Students may count 3 credits of internship (494) or independent study (499) toward the minor. Arrangements for these projects must be made with individual women’s and gender studies faculty.

Courses in Women’s Studies (WOMS)

110 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies.................3 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Fall.

This course introduces students to the field of women’s studies, its theoretical and methodological bases, and the challenges it creates for other academic disciplines. It emphasizes the diversity among women including diversity in race and ethnicity, sexual preferences, physical abilities, etc.

112 Women in Literature ...............................................3 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Alternate Spring.

This course surveys women writers from classical times to the modern era, in their cultural contexts, and identifies the way in which their writing illuminates women’s experience. Works by women from various cultures and backgrounds are considered. Cross listed as ENGL 112.

213 Gender and Society ...............................................3 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.

Overview of theory and research on gender roles and gender stratification, focusing on political, economic, family and other settings; historical, cross cultural and sub-cultural comparisons. Cross listed with SOCA 213.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>Women in Modern Society</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Surveys the social and demographic patterns of pre-industrial society; focuses on the role of women in modern, industrial society. Topics include working-class women, middle class and modernization reform movements, feminism, suffrage, socialism, women in the era of the world wars, the 1950's and the contemporary women's movement. Cross listed with HIST 236.</td>
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<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>Women in Science</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.</td>
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<td>Study of the role of women in science; analysis of the gendered social structure of science and how it is changing; and imagining the future. Consult with WOMS program director if interested.</td>
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<td>290</td>
<td>Special Topics in Women's and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Selected topics in women's and gender studies will be examined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>366</td>
<td>Women, Crime and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Examines the study of female crime and delinquency. In addition to women as offenders, this course focuses on women as victims and workers in the criminal justice system. Cross listed with CRMJ 366.</td>
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<td>390</td>
<td>Special Topics in Women's and Gender Studies</td>
<td>1-4 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.</td>
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<td>Selected topics in women's and gender studies will be studied.</td>
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<tr>
<td>490</td>
<td>Special Topics in Women's and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.</td>
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<td>Selected topics in women's studies will be examined.</td>
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<td>494</td>
<td>Internship in Women's and Gender Studies</td>
<td>1-6 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: Consent of instructor. Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Work experience in a women's and gender studies-related environment or supervised experience in planned projects that expose students to applied settings that serve women. Emphasis on applying feminist analysis, qualitative research methods, communication and other skills, while increasing career knowledge and awareness.</td>
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<td>495</td>
<td>Women's Studies and Gender Seminar</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: WOMS 110 and two other WOMS credited courses. Freq: Alternate years.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Focuses on developments in feminist theory and methodology, with the goal of integrating theory and methods acquired in earlier women's and gender studies courses and encouraging students to apply the material to the community around them. The seminar allows students to work in their own interests within a broad theme selected by the instructor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>497</td>
<td>Women's Studies and Gender Senior Thesis</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: WOMS 110 and two other WOMS credited courses; and consent of instructor. Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Independent research and writing of an essay of substantial length under faculty supervision. Agreement of faculty member to undertake supervision is necessary before registration.</td>
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<td>499</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1-3 cr</td>
<td>Prereq: Consent instructor and program director. Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Individual research projects in women's and gender studies. Up to 3 credits may be applied to the minor.</td>
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