

Fall 2025

Courses in Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies (GWS)

GWS interrogates the beliefs, attitudes, assumptions, and norms about gender, women, and sexuality, and how they intersect with other axes like race, ability, nationality, and class. GWS students are strong critical thinkers who address issues of power and inequity, offering creative solutions to pressing problems of social injustice. GWS alums enter a broad range of careers in law, advocacy and activism, policy analysis, politics and political organizing, social work, nonprofits, education, healthcare, and arts and culture.

COURSES OFFERED BY THE GWS PROGRAM:

SEX, GENDER, AND POWER

GWS 2421-101/410, Instructor: Annu Daftuar (daftuara@appstate.edu), TTh 11:00 am-12:15 pm (In-Person)

GWS 2421-102, Instructor: Annu Daftuar (daftuara@appstate.edu), TTh 2:00-3:15 pm (In-Person)

GWS 2421-103, Instructor: TBA, MW 2:00-3:15 pm (In-Person)

GWS 2421-104, Instructor: Kelly Sharron (sharronk@appstate.edu), Asynchronous Online

This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to the critical study of sex, gender, and power in historical and contemporary contexts. It utilizes an intersectional approach that considers how gender, race, sexuality, disability, class, and other axes of identity are interrelated. This course is the introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies.

GWS 2421 fulfills a Gen Ed (2.0) requirement for the "Intersections: Race, Class and Gender" ILE and a Gen Ed (3.0) requirement for "Intercultural Literacy." It is a requirement for the GWS major and the minors in GWS and Girls' Studies. It is an option for the minor in LGBT Studies.

INTRO TO LGBT STUDIES

GWS 2600-101/412, Instructor: TBA, MWF 10:00-10:50 (In-Person)

GWS 2600-102, Instructor: TBA, MWF 11:00-11:50 (In-Person)

This course will provide a multi-disciplinary introduction to the study of historical, cultural, political, and theoretical issues relevant to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and communities and their allies.

GWS 2525 fulfills a Gen Ed (2.0) requirement for the LSE and a Gen Ed (3.0) requirement for "Intercultural Literacy." It is a requirement for the GWS major and LGBT Studies minor. It is an option for the minors in GWS and Girls' Studies.

FEMINIST THEORIES

GWS 3000-101/410, Instructor: Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu), MW 3:30-4:45 (In-Person)

This course surveys a wide range of contemporary theories of gender, sex, sexuality, and inequality. Students will engage intersectional and transnational approaches to feminist theorizing and develop a critical framework for questioning assumptions about sex, gender, and sexuality.

GWS 3000 is a requirement for the GWS major and the GWS minor. For the GWS major, it fulfills the Gen Ed WID requirement (Prerequisite: RC 2001 or its equivalent). It is an elective for the minors in Girls' Studies and LGBT Studies.

WOMEN, FOOD, AND NATURE

GWS 3400-101, Instructor: Melissa Stone (stonemm2@appstate.edu), MW 2:00-3:15 (In-Person)

This course brings food studies and environmental studies together to examine gender and sustainability. The course thus considers women as the majority of the world's agricultural workers, and further considers gender in issues of the production, consumption, processing, and organization of food. Contemporary issues such as famine, genetically modified foods, and the "slow food" movement are discussed.

GWS 3400 is an option for the intermediate course requirement in the GWS major. It is also an option for the minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies.

MAJOR FIGURES/CAPSTONE IN MAJOR FIGURES AUDRE LORDE, MERIDEL LE SUEUR, AND ADRIENNE RICH

GWS 4100/4101-101, Instructor: Emily Lutenski (lutenksies@appstate.edu), TTh 3:30-4:45 (In-Person)

This course provides an opportunity for in-depth study of the contributions of one or more major figures in gender, women's and sexuality studies. This semester we will focus on Audre Lorde, Meridel Le Sueur, and Adrienne Rich. Taking as our starting point a 1980 photograph of these three major figures together at a writers' workshop, we will examine the interlinked biographies and legacies of Lorde, Le Sueur, and Rich as activists, creative writers, and theorists. Along the way, students will learn about theories of biographical scholarship in GWS and research and craft their own biographical writing.

GWS 4100 is an option for the advanced course requirement in the GWS major. It is also an option for the GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies minors. GWS 4101 fulfills the capstone course requirement for the GWS major and Gen Ed.

SEMINAR IN GENDER, WOMEN'S AND SEXUALITY STUDIES: SEX WORK AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

GWS 5700-101, Instructor: Sunny Sinha (sinhas@appstate.edu), W 5:30-7:00 (Synchronous Online)

This course provides in-depth study of one or more major figures, contemporary issues, movements, or debates about gender, women, or sexuality. This semester, the course will focus on the interrelated phenomena of sex work and human trafficking. Helping professionals, like social workers and healthcare providers, often equate sex work with sex trafficking when their knowledge is based on social biases that assume individuals are either coerced or trafficked into sex work and lack agency to script their futures. We often know very little about diversity within sex work settings, about the heterogeneous lived experiences of individuals trafficked into or engaged in sex work, about the socio-demographic characteristics of sex workers, and about the limitations of the polarized "passive victims" versus "empowered/liberated women" narrative that drives the agenda of most sex worker organizations and anti-trafficking programs in the U.S. and globally. This course aims to provide students with a more nuanced understanding of these two complex phenomena and a basic overview of the theoretical, methodological, and legislative issues related to both sex work and human trafficking in the U.S. and globally.

GWS 5700 is a requirement for the GWS graduate minor and graduate certificate.



SEMINAR IN GENDER, WOMEN'S AND SEXUALITY STUDIES: FEMINIST AND INTERSECTIONAL RESEARCH METHODS

GWS 5700-102, Instructor: Alecia Jackson (jacksonay@appstate.edu), W 5:00-8:00 (Synchronous Online)

Students will learn feminist epistemologies, methodologies, and fieldwork methods. Students will study how feminist scholars challenge dominant theories of knowledge and use gender, power, and discourse as analytic categories for research. Students will explore the ethics of representation, the use of experience, and questions of accountability. In this process, student participation in shaping class discussion will be vital to the goal of understanding how feminist debates take shape within and across disciplines. Other related topics include Black and Chicana feminist thought, queer studies, subaltern studies, poststructural theory, and disability theory as related to feminist modes of inquiry.

GWS 5700 is a requirement for the GWS graduate minor and graduate certificate.



COURSES OFFERED IN OTHER PROGRAMS:

These courses may be electives for the GWS major and minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies, or may be substituted by permission.

<p>Gender, Race, and Class ANT 2420</p>	<p>Music and Gender MUS 2023</p>
<p>Sexual Abuse Counseling (Grad Class) CED 6730</p>	<p>Gender and the Law PS 3535</p>
<p>Studies in Women and Literature ENG 3710</p>	<p>Psychology of Gender PSY 2305</p>
<p>Sexuality and Sexual Health Education HPE 4450</p>	<p>Constructions of Gender SOC 2850</p>
<p>Sex, Gender and Desire in French Popular Culture LLC 2025</p>	<p>Sexual Violence SOC 3370</p>
<p>Women, Empire, and Climate Change in Africa LLC 2025</p>	<p>Women, Crime, and the Justice System SOC 4650</p>

Degrees in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWS)

For undergraduates, GWS offers a BA major as well as minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies. The interdisciplinary flexibility of GWS means it is an accessible, engaging minor or double major for students with a passion for meaningful social change and that many of our courses fulfill Gen Ed requirements. For graduate students, GWS offers a graduate minor and graduate certificate to enhance interdisciplinary academic training and professional specialization in gender and sexuality.

The GWS major (36 hrs) includes:

Required Introductory Courses (9 hrs)

GWS 2421: Sex, Gender, and Power, GWS 2525: Global Women's Issues, and GWS 2600: Intro to LGBT Studies

Required Intermediate Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 3000: Feminist Theories and one of the following: GWS 3050: Classics in Feminist Thought and Action, GWS 3100: Girls Coming of Age, GWS 3350: Gender, Media, and Popular Culture, GWS 3600: Women, Food, and Nature, GWS 3600: LGBT Studies Seminar, GWS 3700: Interpreting Bodies, or GWS 3530-3549: Selected Topics

Required Advanced Courses (3 hrs)

GWS 4100: Major Figures, GWS 4300: Transnational Topics in GWS, GWS 4600: Queer Theory, or GWS 4700: Seminar in GWS

GWS Capstone Course (3 hrs)

GWS 4101: Capstone in Major Figures, GWS 4301: Capstone in Transnational Topics in GWS, GWS 4601: Capstone in Queer Theory, GWS 4701: Capstone Seminar in GWS, or GWS 4901: Capstone Internship in GWS

GWS Electives (6 hrs)

Any 3000- or 4000-level GWS courses that were not used to fulfill the requirements above.

Major Electives (9 hrs)

Any of the courses listed as "Major Electives" on the following website, with 6 hrs at the 3000-level or higher, that were not used to fulfill the requirements above, plus other relevant courses by substitution:

https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&poid=13488&returnto=1865

The GWS minor (15 hrs) includes:

Required Introductory Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 2421: Sex, Gender, and Power and GWS 3000: Feminist Theories

Minor Electives (9 hrs)

Any of the courses listed as "Electives" on the following website, with 3 hrs in GWS and 6 hrs at the 3000-level or above, plus other relevant courses by substitution: https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&poid=13404&returnto=1865

The LGBT Studies minor (15 hrs) includes:

Required Courses (9 hrs)

GWS 2600: Intro to LGBT Studies, GWS 3600: LGBT Studies Seminar, and GWS 4600: Queer Theory

Minor Electives (6 hrs)

Any of the courses listed as "Electives" on the following website, with 3 hrs at the 2000-level and 3 hrs at the 3000-level, plus other relevant courses by substitution:

https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&poid=13402&returnto=1865

The Girls' Studies minor (15 hrs) includes:

Required Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 2421: Sex, Gender, and Power and GWS 3100: Girls Coming of Age

GWS Electives (6 hrs)

Two of the following: GWS 2525: Global Women's Issues, GWS 2600: Intro to LGBT Studies, GWS 3000: Feminist Theories, GWS 3050: Classics in Feminist Thought and Action, GWS 3350: Gender, Media, and Popular Culture, GWS 3600: Women, Food, and Nature, GWS 3600: LGBT Studies Seminar, GWS 3700: Interpreting Bodies, or GWS 3530-3549: Selected Topics, GWS 4100: Major Figures, GWS 4300: Transnational Topics in GWS, GWS 4600: Queer Theory, GWS 4700: Seminar in GWS, or GWS 4900: Internship in GWS

Minor Electives (3 hrs)

Any of the above courses that were not used to fulfill the requirements above, or any of the courses listed as "Electives" on the following website, plus other relevant courses by substitution:

https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&pooid=13396&returnto=1865

The GWS graduate minor (9 hrs) includes:

Required Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 5650: Feminist Theories and GWS 5700: Seminar in GWS

Electives (3 hrs)

Chosen from courses focused on gender, women, or sexuality or taught by a GWS faculty member; approved by the GWS Director.

The GWS graduate certificate (12 hrs) includes:

Required Courses (6 hrs)

GWS 5650: Feminist Theories and GWS 5700: Seminar in GWS

Electives (6 hrs)

Chosen from courses focused on gender, women, or sexuality or taught by a GWS faculty member; approved by the GWS Director.

For questions about GWS, including about course substitutions, please contact the GWS Director, Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu).