

Spring 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: Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu), MW 2:00-3:15 pm (In-Person)
 GWS 2421-102, Instructor: Kelly Sharron (sharronk@appstate.edu), Asynchronous Online
 GWS 2421-103, Instructor: Kelly Sharron (sharronk@appstate.edu), Asynchronous Online
 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 requirement for the "Intersections: Race, Class and Gender" ILE and 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.

GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

GWS 2525-101/401, Instructor: Annu Daftuar (gws@appstate.edu), MWF 10:00-10:50 (In-Person)
 GWS 2525-102, Instructor: Annu Daftuar (gws@appstate.edu), MWF 11:00-11:50 (In-Person)

This course explores the diversity of women's experiences emerging from postcolonial or "third world" contexts, with particular attention to the challenges that considerations of differences as well as transnational connections pose for feminist thought and practice. Questions of representation, agency, and border crossings are grounded in local histories and the ambiguous implications of globalization and "development" in out-of-the-way places.

GWS 2525 fulfills a Gen Ed requirement for the "From Empire to Globalization" ILE and is a requirement for the GWS major. It is an option for the minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies.

GENDER, MEDIA, AND POPULAR CULTURE

GWS 3350-101, Instructor: Maria Pramaggiore (pramaggioremt@appstate.edu), TR 12:30-1:45 (In-Person)

This course uses a variety of critical and theoretical approaches in its examination of how popular culture representations of gender reveal and reflect current social conditions and shape society. Areas of study may include, but are not limited to, television, film, music, advertisements, magazines, fiction, cartoons, graphic novels, video games, newspapers, the Internet, and social media.

GWS 3350 is an option for the intermediate course requirement for the GWS major. It is an option for the minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies.

LGBT STUDIES SEMINAR: QUEERING PEDAGOGIES

GWS 3600-101, Instructor: Matthew Thomas-Reid (reidma@appstate.edu), TR 9:30-10:45 (Synchronous Online)

This course provides an intensive study of special problems, topics, or issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender studies. Barring duplication of content, a student may repeat the course for a total credit of six semester hours. In Spring 2025, the topic will be "Queering Pedagogies": Historically, primary and secondary educational spaces in the United States have taught both to and for straightness. Reorienting educational policy and praxis away from their sexist, homonormative, and cisnormative roots therefore requires an imaginative queering of current epistemological and metaphysical assumptions guiding the formation and implementation of these structures. In this course we will move past simply thinking about safe spaces and inclusion to reimagining pedagogies as spaces of disruption and critical discourse which seek to move normative centers and blur binary thinking. We will work together to keep "queering" the course in real time.

GWS 3600 is a requirement for the LGBT Studies minor. It is an option for the intermediate course requirement in the GWS major. It is also an option for the minors in GWS and Girls' Studies.

INTERPRETING BODIES

GWS 3700-101, Instructor: Kelly Sharron (sharronka@appstate.edu), Asynchronous Online

This course examines conceptions and representations of the body and embodiment and their interactions with understandings of gender, subjectivity, and normality, emphasizing how the body is theorized in GWS. The specific topic of the course will vary. Topics covered may include, but are not limited to, feminist disability studies, norms of health/wellness, sexualities, new materialism, affect theory, and the representation of bodies. Consideration is given to how social, political, and economic realities shape human bodies in local and global contexts. In Spring 2025, the course will focus on the ways that bodies have been read, interpreted, and categorized based on the intersecting identities of gender, race, sex, and sexuality. We will read such identities as institutional and structural, arguing that these identities have implications for the distribution of wealth, resources, and power. Topics will include HIV/AIDS, feminist interpretations of health, reproductive politics, and sexuality. We will move away from individualizing narratives in favor of structural analysis, seeing the interpretation of bodies as part of a larger nexus of power relations.

GWS 3700 is an option for the intermediate course requirement for the GWS major. It is an option for the minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies.

SEMINAR IN GWS/CAPSTONE SEMINAR IN GWS: DUDES: MANHOOD AND MASCULINITY IN AMERICAN CULTURE

GWS 4700-101/4701-101, Instructor: Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu), TR 2:15-3:30 (In-Person)

For students enrolled in GWS 4700, this course provides an opportunity for in-depth study of a contemporary issue, movement, or debate in gender, women's, and sexuality studies. For students enrolled in GWS 4710, this course is a senior capstone experience in an in-depth study of a contemporary issue, movement, or debate in gender, women's and sexuality studies. In Spring 2025, we will study "Dudes: Manhood and Masculinity in American Culture": From dueling among Southern "men of honor" to fistfights on the floor of Congress, from the "self-made men" of the frontier to the boxing ring of the "Fight of the Century," from the frontlines of warfare to icons like Ernest Hemingway and James Dean, and from fraternity rushes to the National Beard and Moustache Growing Championships, this course takes the question "What makes a man?" seriously by examining the contested sites of manly conduct throughout American history and among American cultures.

GWS 4700 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 4701 fulfills the capstone course requirement for the GWS major and Gen Ed.

FEMINIST THEORIES

GWS 5650-101, Instructor: Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu), M 5:00-7:30 (In-Person)

This course surveys a wide range of contemporary feminist theories explaining the origins, dynamics, and transformation of gender-based inequalities. It examines the intellectual roots of modern feminist theories as well as feminist attempts to overhaul its intellectual roots. Students will be introduced to the connections between feminist theories and other academic debates, and they will also study political movements that reach beyond the oppression of women per se. This course examines not only the feminist revisions of and impact on academic discourse but also related intellectual trends and political movements such as postmodernism, deconstruction, poststructuralist theory, postcolonial theory, and critiques of liberalism, humanism, and Marxism.

GWS 5650 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>Women and Gender in Anthropology ANT 3420</p> <p>Gender, Race, and Class ANT 2420</p> <p>Studies in Women and Literature ENG 3710</p> <p>Advanced Studies in Women and Literature ENG 4710</p> <p>Women Writers of French Expression FRE 2055</p> <p>Sexuality and Sexual Health Education HPE 4450</p> <p>Women in American History HIS 3423</p>	<p>Human Sexuality (Grad Class) MFT 6710</p> <p>Music and Gender MUS 2023</p> <p>Psychology of Gender PSY 2305</p> <p>Women's Health PH 3540</p> <p>Constructions of Gender SOC 2850</p> <p>Sexual Violence SOC 3370</p> <p>Constructing Bodies and Sexualities SOC 4350</p>
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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&poid=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).