

Spring 2026

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), TTh 3:30-4:45 (In-Person)

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

GWS 2421-103, Instructor: Kelly Sharron, Asynchronous Online

GWS 2421-105, 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.

GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

GWS 2525-101/410, Instructor: Annu Daftuar, MWF 10:00-10:50 (In-Person)

GWS 2525-102, Instructor: Annu Daftuar, 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 consideration 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 (2.0) requirement for the "Empire to Globalization" ILE 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.

GIRLS COMING OF AGE

GWS 3100-101, Instructor: Emily Lutenski (lutenskies@appstate.edu), MW 3:30-4:45 (In-Person)

This course highlights the gendered character of childhood and adolescence by investigating cultural representations of girlhood—in graphic narratives, film, novels, music, and visual culture—and the way experiences of girlhood are shaped by race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality.

GWS 3100 is a requirement for the Girls' 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 LGBT Studies.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SOCIETY

GWS 3530-101, Instructor: Elizabeth Trudeau (trudeaueh@appstate.edu), TTh 12:30-1:45 (In-Person)
(Crosslisted in Sociology)

This course will cover how human trafficking is defined, measured, and studied, as well as the cultural and political factors that affect how it occurs and how we try to respond to it. Topics will include labor, sex, and organ trafficking; globalization, migration, and inequality; and the criminalization or decriminalization of sex-based labor. The course will cover both U.S. and international contexts.

GWS 3530 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.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

GWS 3532-101, Instructor: Amy Dellinger Page (pagead@appstate.edu), MW 2:00-3:15 (In-Person)
(Crosslisted in Sociology)

This course offers a sociological examination of sexual violence. Etiology, prevention, cultural beliefs, law, policy, and areas of social change will be discussed. Topics may include sexual assault, rape, child molestation, sexual exploitation, and consensual sexual behavior.

GWS 3532 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.

QUEER THEORY / CAPSTONE IN QUEER THEORY

GWS 4600-101/4601-101, Instructor: Matthew Thomas-Reid (reidma@appstate.edu), TTh 9:30-10:45 (Synchronous Online)

This is an advanced study of the ideas and figures central to queer theory and explores the norms and assumptions that structure our understanding of identity and its complex relationship to sex, sexuality, and gender, including concepts of hetero- and homonormativity.

GWS 4600 fulfills an advanced course requirement for the GWS major. It is a requirement for the LGBT Studies minor and an elective for the GWS and Girls' Studies minors. GWS 4601 fulfills the capstone course requirement for the GWS major.

FEMINIST THEORIES

GWS 5650-101, Instructor: Jessie Blackburn (blackburnjb@appstate.edu), M 5:30-8:30 (Web-Based Hybrid)

This course orients students to feminist theories—theories of the causes, dynamics, and differences that shape the production of gender and gender-based oppression, and which serve as a common language and intellectual origin point for gender studies. It examines the relation of feminist theories to lived experience and intellectual traditions and introduces their application in research, analysis, and practice.

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; the minors in GWS, LGBT Studies, and Girls' Studies; or the GWS graduate programs; or they may be substituted by permission.

Gender, Race, and Class ANT 2420 Talking Gender, Talking Back ANT 3543 Studies in Women and Literature ENG 3710 Advanced Studies in Women and Literature ENG 4710 History of Women and the Law HIS 3424 Sexuality and Sexual Health Education HPE 4450 Women and Climate Action in Africa LLC 2025 Human Sexuality (GRAD CLASS) MFT 6710	Music and Gender MUS 2023 American Politics and Gender P_S 3560 Psychology of Gender PSY 2035 Gender and Health P_H 4500 Constructions of Gender SOC 2850 Constructing Bodies and Sexualities SOC 4350 Gender, Inequality, and Sustainable Development S_D 3475
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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 double major or minor for students with a passion for social change. Many of our courses fulfill Gen Ed requirements. For graduate students, GWS offers a graduate minor and graduate certificate that enhance interdisciplinary academic training and professional specialization in the study of 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 that were not used to fulfill the requirements above, plus other relevant courses by substitution: https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=39&poid=17319&returnto=2435

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 at the 3000-level or above, plus other relevant courses by substitution: https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=39&poid=17235&returnto=2433

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, plus other relevant courses by substitution: https://bulletin.appstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=39&poid=17235&returnto=2433

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

Electives (3 hrs)

Any of the 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=39&poid=17227&returnto=2433

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).