

Women and Gender Studies (WGS)

Courses

WGS 201 Global Women's Studies (3 Hours)

The course is intended to increase student understanding of the history and experiences of women. It principally focuses on the ways in which gender interacts with race/ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, religion, age, nationality and other cultural identities to create differences and similarities in gendered lives. Students will critically examine and compare through a multidisciplinary approach the voices and experiences of women representing both domestic and global diversities. Selected topics may include gender socialization; the female body and the sociopolitical context of reproduction, body image, appearance and of sexuality; similarities and differences between the genders; marriage and the family; work roles, inequalities and the global economy; health issues; violence against and by women; women in religion and politics; and a historical and contemporary look at global feminism.

WGS 220 The Many Women of Islam (3 Hours)

This course introduces students to Islam and the many ways in which Islam views women. It explores the relationship of the ideal teachings of the Qur'an to the everyday realities of marriage, family, divorce, education, religious participation, health, reproduction, violence, body image, economics, the workplace, political participation, and other topics in the context of the many nations and cultures in which Muslim women reside. Underlying the unity of the Islamic world is a diversity of interpretations and practices that are mediated by those many nations and cultures which compose it. This diversity within unity is reflected in the lives of the many women of Islam.