Since its founding as Women’s Studies in 1991, the program has evolved to promote an intersectional, multidisciplinary and transnational approach that critically assesses existing social systems, inequalities, and forms of privilege.

We celebrate Houston women’s many accomplishments while challenging students to understand how categories of gender, sexuality, race, class, disability, and citizenship shape not only their own lives but also the lives of people in their communities and around the world. The program’s strength comes from the diversity of the perspectives it draws from, including faculty affiliates from 14 different disciplines as well as a deep engagement with communities and organizations in Houston. The WGSS Program offers an interdisciplinary undergraduate major in WGSS, a minor in Women’s Studies and a minor in GLBT Studies. It also offers a graduate certificate in Women’s Studies.

Not only does WGSS work closely with the Friends of Women’s Studies, the Carey Shuart Women’s Archive and Research Collection, and the Women and Gender Resource Center, but students and faculty also engage across diverse communities and organizations in Houston. The WGSS Program offers an interdisciplinary undergraduate major in WGSS, a minor in Women’s Studies and a minor in GLBT Studies. It also offers a graduate certificate in Women’s Studies.

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I think the terms (i.e. privilege, appropriation, etc.) we learned in the course are applicable to so many different areas of life, and learning how to use them correctly is necessary to be a knowledgeable young adult in today’s society.”

— Alicia Lee, Sociology major

Learn to Navigate our Changing World & Build a Fair Future

OFFERING:

MAJOR or Double-Major in WGSS
MINOR in Women’s Studies
MINOR in GLBT Studies
Graduate CERTIFICATE in Women’s Studies
Life-Changing Electives for all UH students

CONTACT:

Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies
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University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204-3005

713-743-3214
wgss@uh.edu
friendsofwomen.org

DID YOU KNOW?
The Friends of Women’s Studies offer:
Undergraduate Scholarships
Graduate Fellowships & Travel Grants
Faculty Summer Research Fellowships
Essay Prizes
Check our site for details on how to apply!
WGSS is most grateful to the Friends of Women’s Studies for their ongoing support

Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies
College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
MISSION

The Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program (WGSS) is an interdisciplinary field of study devoted to women’s studies, gender identity and gender representation, and the study of sexuality through the fields of anthropology, communications, economics, English, health, history, language, literature, political science, philosophy, psychology, biology and sociology.

WHY PURSUE A WGSS MAJOR OR MINOR?

1. Learn to think critically about the socially constructed roles we play in the world.
2. Become a knowledgeable advocate for equality — for yourself and others.
3. Take positive control of your self-image.
4. Develop WGSS knowledge sets, essential for work in business, law, social work, medicine, social services, politics, human resources, etc.
5. Learn the art of constructing and critiquing arguments.
6. Join a group of individuals who understand and promote equality in every sense of the word.
7. Understand why so much of the news concerns struggles over gender, race and sexuality.

IN HER WORDS...

This is a major for people who want to make the world a safer place. I don’t think I have met anyone who teaches the subject or takes the course that isn’t passionate outside of the classroom as well. My classmates are all active in political campaigns spanning from local legislation to large-scale nation-wide activism. I think the courses give us the tools to understand inequality and from there we can move forward to do something about it.

—Cecilia Turchetti, WGSS BA

SELECTED COURSE OFFERINGS

INTERDISCIPLINARY WGSS COURSES
- Gender, Society & Feminist Theory
- Sexuality and Queer Theory
- Gender in Transnational Perspective
- Intersectionalities of Race, Class, Age, Disability, Sexuality and Gender
- Issues in Feminist Research
- Capstone Internship Course

SOCIAL SCIENCES
- Anthropology of Women
- Sex and Culture
- Health Aspects of Human Sexuality
- Women in Politics
- Race, Gender and Ethnic Politics
- Psychology of Gender
- Sociology of the Body
- Sociology of Gender
- African-American Family

HUMANITIES
- Women Artists
- Gender and the Media
- Women in the Ancient World
- Women Writers
- U.S. Women’s History since 1840
- African-American Women in Slavery & Freedom
- State & Society in the Middle East
- Women in Latin America
- East Asian Women
- Feminist Philosophy
- Gender and Sexuality in World Film
- Women in Hispanic Literature

SELECTED COURSE OFFERINGS

WGSS Major: 30 Hours
- Women’s Studies Minor: 18 hours
- GLBT Minor: 18 hours
- Graduate Certificate: 9 hours

MAJOR IN WGSS

A major in Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies consists of 30 hours of approved courses (WGSS 2350 or 2360 + 27 additional advanced hours). The advanced courses include 4 prescribed WGSS courses (including capstone) & 5 approved elective courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

WOMEN’S STUDIES MINOR

- 18 hours of approved courses
  - WGSS 2350
  - 15 advanced hours in Humanities and Social Sciences

GLBT MINOR

- 18 hours of approved courses
  - WGSS 2360
  - 12 advanced hours in GLBT and WGSS courses in Humanities and Social Sciences
  - 3 hours of approved capstone

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE INFO

- 9 hours of approved courses
  - WGSS 6301
  - 2 approved graduate courses, at least one of which must be outside the home department

"Thank you for having such a wonderful, informative, and inspiring class. I never thought this class would impact me as much as it would and I truly will spread the knowledge I’ve learned in this class for many years to come!"

—Neena Alivazian, Health major