

The University of Houston's **WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM**

is an academic program that draws upon the **dynamic energy** of the global city of Houston, Texas, and the great diversity of the UH campus.



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, dis/ability, 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 Stuart Women's Archive and Research Collection, and the Women and Gender Resource Center, but students and faculty also engage across diverse communities through activism and volunteer opportunities. Students, faculty, and community members convene regularly for a variety of academic and non-academic events such as conferences, lectures, and workshops. Bridging research and activism, WGSS uses global feminism to encourage a diverse body of UH students to become informed and engaged citizens of a transnational world.

"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

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

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



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UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

COLLEGE of LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

WOMEN'S, GENDER & 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.
8. Impress others by introducing words like intersectionality, patriarchy, and heteronormativity into your conversation — and actually know what they mean.
9. Apply an interdisciplinary approach to a variety of subjects.
10. Annoy your friends by applying the Bechdel Test to movies you see as well as examining popular culture and other media through the critical lenses of race, gender, class, and sexuality.
11. Understand your role as a global citizen by developing a multi-layered analysis of world events.
12. Because life is a gender-studies course!

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, Dis/Ability, 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

...and more

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

...and more



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 Aivazian, Health major