

# Women's and Gender Studies (WGS)

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## Courses

### **WGS-101. Introduction To Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies. 3 Hours.**

This course introduces students to major issues and debates within the interdisciplinary field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies. (This is a General Education course in the area of Humanities.)

### **WGS-109A. First Year Experience: Sex Lives In Chicago. 3 Hours.**

FYE: Sex Lives in Chicago critically examines sexualities in the social and physical space of Chicago from a feminist, sex-positive standpoint. In this course, the five foundations of the First-Year Experience (Future Planning, Integral Preparation, Research, Self-discovery and Transitions) are interwoven into the concepts of sexualities, gender and power. This course explores the diversity of sexual identities, practices, and behaviors in historical and modern Chicago. Students will discover the diversity and complexity of sexualities in Chicago through readings, speakers, films, and field experiences while simultaneously building personal and academic skills that ensure success at NEIU.

### **WGS-150. Women's Self-Defense. 1 Hour.**

This course develops a framework for understanding violence and self-defense. Major focus is on learning and practicing awareness, prevention, assessment, verbal boundary setting and physical self-defense skills in simulated scenarios. (This course is not repeatable.)

### **WGS-201. Writing Intensive Program: Writing For Social Change. 3 Hours.**

Examines the importance of writing for resistance and advocacy in struggles for social change and justice. Students also learn and practice writing in the discipline of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies.

**Prerequisite:** (WSP-101 with a minimum grade of C or WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C) and ENGL-101 with a minimum grade of C.

### **WGS-202. Feminist Activism. 3 Hours.**

This course, subtitled Grassroots Resistance in the U.S., focuses on women as social actors challenging gender stereotypes; organizing to reduce poverty, racism, homophobia and violence; working to expand opportunities; and confronting barriers in education, the criminal justice system and politics. Popular analyses of women and social change often limit themselves to women's roles in families and paid workplaces. Focus is on ordinary women who are working collectively in diverse social settings to empower themselves and others, exploring barriers women face, goals and strategies for social change, and the rewards and challenges of feminist grassroots activism.

**Prerequisite:** WSP-101 with a minimum grade of C or WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

### **WGS-210. Introduction To Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Studies. 3 Hours.**

The Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (LGBTQ) Studies offers an introductory and interdisciplinary approach to studying the lives, histories and cultures of LGBTQ communities and allies. This course focuses on the multiplicity and diversity in gender and sexual expression including how race, class, ability and other identity markers shape LGBTQ lives. Examining introductory questions in gender and sexualities studies, the course addresses the intersection of identity, knowledge and action through critical thinking, analysis, active learning and social engagement.

### **WGS-302. Feminist Theory. 3 Hours.**

This course examines feminist theory and the complex issues that feminist activism raises including the multiple ways that feminist theory challenges students to imagine justice and liberation.

**Prerequisite:** WSP-101 with a minimum grade of C or WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

### **WGS-310. Lesbian & Queer Cultures: Identities, Histories & Resistance. 3 Hours.**

This interdisciplinary course introduces students to historical and theoretical research through a series of topics: Identity, Sex, Violence, Activism, and Beyond. This will form the contexts for exploring issues and questions surrounding lesbian and queer cultures. Books, articles, magazines, videos, films, music, art, and more will be used. What makes up, establishes, creates, develops, organizes lesbian and queer cultures? This will be examined, in the context of various struggles over meanings and identities, considering that those meanings change over time and context and differ across race, class and other identity markers.

**Prerequisite:** WSP-101 minimum grade of C or WGS-101 minimum grade of C.

### **WGS-311. Power, Knowledge & Communities: Feminists Engagements With Education. 3 Hours.**

This course focuses on the role of the educational system in the constructions and reproduction of gender and racial inequality. Using both academic and popular literature to gain perspectives, we will examine relationships between school and society. Topics to be addressed include the historical constructions, representation of schooling and the teaching profession, popular culture and education, and sexuality and schooling.

**Prerequisite:** WSP-101 minimum grade of C or WGS-101 minimum grade of C.

### **WGS-312. Women & Global Human Rights. 3 Hours.**

Women's issues have recently been viewed through the lens of human rights. Increasingly they are included in the goals, programs and policies of international human rights organizations, from the United Nations to Amnesty International. This course will examine this shift in perspective and the impact it is having on women's lives worldwide. We will explore international human rights as they apply to women. What do we mean by "human rights"? How have these rights been socially defined, struggled over, and, in some cases, won? To what extent have women and women's rights been included in these conversations and struggles?.

**WGS-313. Radical Feminist Imagination. 3 Hours.**

Examination of literary works broadly representative of something called feminist imaginative response to U.S. patriarchy. The meaning of radical feminism will be explored as authors from a range of racial, class, and sexual identities are placed in dialogue with each other and with their respective socio-historical and cultural contexts. Focus will be on textual interpretation and exploring how each work attempts to develop its version of feminist consciousness. The course will investigate how these texts formulate a narrative of women's liberation against the dominant patriarchal narratives that inform cultural consciousness and social relations.

**WGS-316. Science And The Gendered Body. 3 Hours.**

This course traces the history of how gender and sex are identified and studied in scientific and medical fields and how cultural conception of gender and sex can influence the interpretation of scientific phenomena. Readings draw from the primary scientific literature, the history and philosophy of science, and cultural anthropological analyses of science and medicine.

**Prerequisite:** (or).

**WGS-321. Internship In Women's, Gender And Sexuality Studies. 1 Hour.**

Placement in a university or community agency that provides services to women. This will be an opportunity to test classroom concepts in a field setting.

**Prerequisite:** WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

**WGS-322. Internship In Women's, Gender And Sexuality Studies. 2 Hours.**

Placement in a university or community agency that provides services to women. This will be an opportunity to test classroom concepts in a field setting.

**Prerequisite:** WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

**WGS-323. Internship In Women's, Gender And Sexuality Studies. 3 Hours.**

Placement in a university or community agency that provides services to women. This will be an opportunity to test classroom concepts in a field setting.

**Prerequisite:** WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

**WGS-331. Independent Study In Women's, Gender And Sexuality Studies. 1 Hour.**

An intensive investigation of a special area of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

**Prerequisite:** WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

**WGS-332. Independent Study In Women's, Gender And Sexuality Studies. 2 Hours.**

An intensive investigation of a special area of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

**Prerequisite:** WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

**WGS-333. Independent Study In Women's, Gender And Sexuality Studies. 3 Hours.**

An intensive investigation of a special area of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

**Prerequisite:** WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

**WGS-349. Gloria Anzaldúa: A Deep Dive. 3 Hours.**

This course is a "deep dive" into the particular social, political and economic factors contributing to the work of a single author over the long arc of her career, along with her particular contributions to literary culture in her time. Extensive reading involving a representative array of the author's work and a wide variety of critical essays on that work will provide students excellent bases for their research, writing and class discussion, culminating in an essay or creative project suitable for public presentation or publication. This section of the course focuses on the work of Gloria Anzaldúa, as well as her collaborators and literary intellectual/artistic successors.

**WGS-350. Women's, Gender And Sexuality Studies Seminar. 3 Hours.**

This interdisciplinary capstone course builds on knowledge gained in other Women's and Gender Studies classes. Advanced instruction in appropriate areas such as: feminist theory and methodology, international women's movements, and other topics. Includes a component on research methods/writing. Consent of the instructor is necessary. This course is a requirement for students completing the Women's Studies Major and Minor.

**Prerequisite:** WGS-101 with a minimum grade of C.

**WGS-360. Queer Theory. 3 Hours.**

Queer theory developed in the early 1990s out of the conjunction of feminist theory, sexuality studies, and queer activism. This course introduces students to some of the key authors and texts in queer theory, shows students how queer theory may be applied in a variety of academic fields, and examines critiques of queer theory as androcentric, Eurocentric, overly intellectual, and impractical. This course aims to foster critical thinking, writing, and discussion. We will go beyond merely digesting theorists' work to actively engaging with the material and critiquing both commonly held assumptions and academic theories about gender and sexuality.

**Prerequisite:** WSP-210 minimum grade of D or WGS-210 minimum grade of D.

**WGS-361. Queer Latin American Narrative And Film. 3 Hours.**

This course explores the representation of sexual diversity and gender nonconformity in Latin American cultural production (narrative and film) from a perspective informed by feminist theory, LGBT studies and queer theory. Students critically engage these theoretical paradigms while developing research skills and proficiency in oral and written expression through class assignments, including a final research paper.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL-101 with a minimum grade of C.