What is Women’s & Gender Studies

Women’s and Gender studies is a 15-hour interdisciplinary minor field of study which takes gender as its central category of analysis.

Core classes within the program focus on the social construction of gender identity, gender relations, and gender systems, and explore the intersections of gender with other categories of identity. The 32 electives that count toward the Women’s and Gender Studies minor enable students to tailor their program of study to best fit their post-graduation goals and career aspirations.

Current Women’s and Gender Studies minors include women and men, majoring in disciplines as diverse as Art and Nursing; Biology and History; Sports Communications and Sociology; Political Science and Business Management; Psychology and Engineering.

What can you do with a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies?

Our graduates work in various fields, including human services, social work, non-profit organizations, business, law, media, health professions, and education. Those who pursue graduate degrees study in many disciplines, including English, Political Science, Social Work, Sociology, and Psychology.

How can Women’s and Gender Studies Majors get involved on campus?

• Attend sponsors lectures, workshops, and performances on diverse topics such as gender equality in the military, human trafficking, gender and the arts, political engagement, and global activism on issues of gender equality.
• Sign up for a Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshops to learn about strategies for bridging the pay gap in the workplace.
• Join a student organizations such as Feminists at Bradley, BU Ladies of Color, the Vagina Monologues, CHICAS.
• Participate in the Tunnel of Oppression and the Diversity Leadership Conference.

nuanced understandings of diversity
interdisciplinary and comparative methodologies
critical thinking
research and writing skills
analytical writing
pre-professional opportunities, such as participation in national conferences
networking and skill-building through Internships on campus and in the community

It was never a dress.
What are the specific requirements for the Women's and Gender Studies Minor?

Required Courses (6 hours)
WGS 200 Intro to Women’s and Gender Studies - 3 hrs.
WGS 400 Directed Research in Women’s & Gender Studies - 3 hrs.

Electives (9 hours)
ART 490 Art Seminar (Gender in Art) – 3 hrs.
ART 490 Art Seminar (Women in Art) – 3 hrs.
BLW 446 Employment Law – 3 hrs.
COM 386 Media, Race, and Gender – 3 hrs.
ENC 381-08: Advocacy – 1 hr.
ENC 381-09: Servant Leadership – 1 hr.
ENC 381-10: Gender and Leadership – 1 hr.
ENG 129 African American Literature - 3 hrs.
ENG 190 Women in Literature - 3 hrs.
ENG 331 Studies in Women Writers - 3 hrs.
ENG 347 Shakespeare – 3 hrs.
PSY 300 Psychology of Women - 3 hrs.
PSY 309 Human Sexuality – 3 hrs.
HIS 304 Women in American History - 3 hrs.
HIS 315 Social Movements in U.S. History – 3 hrs.
HIS 317 American Masculinities – 3 hrs.
HIS 334 Women in Developing Nations - 3 hrs.
HIS 339 Women in Global Perspective - 3 hrs.
HIS 382 European Women and Gender Since the Renaissance - 3 hrs.
NUR 217 Men’s Health Issues – 2 hrs.
NUR 219 Women and Health – 3hrs.
NUR 263 Intro to Personal and Community Health – 3 hrs.
NUR 376 Advanced Concepts in Health – 3hrs.
SOC 210 Sociology of Families - 3 hrs.
SOC 300 Cross-cultural Perspectives on Gender - 3 hrs.
SOC 311 Comparative Family Systems - 3 hrs.
SOC 313 Race, Ethnicity, and Power - 3 hrs.
SOC 315 Gender and Society - 3 hrs.
WGS 300 Internship Women’s & Gender Studies – 0-3 hrs
WLS 345 Women’s Voices of Latin America – 3hrs.
WLS 346 Women Voices of Spain – 3 hrs.

WGS 200 - Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies (3 hours)
Gen. Ed. SF
This course provides students with an overview of the perspectives, debates, and scholarship within the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. We will study the social construction of gender and feminist critiques of essentialism, the women's movement since the nineteenth century, women and labor, manhood, body image and the media, women and sports, reproductive justice, violence against women, global activism for gender equality. This class will: (1) Emphasize that gendered experiences are diverse due to differences in race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, nationality, age, physical abilities, etc. (2) Help students develop the ability to analyze gendered systems and read gender in texts and visual media. Approved for General Education.

WGS 300 – Internship in Women’s and Gender Studies (0-3 hours)
WGS 300 will provide students with an opportunity to gain supervised work experience in campus, local, state, national, or international businesses, agencies, institutions, or organizations focusing on gender, sexuality, or women's issues. Students will complete 45 hours of site work at the partner agency/organization per unit of credit (approximately 3 hours/week for 1 credit hour; 7 hours/week for 2 credit hours; 10 hours/week for 3 credit hours). Students must file pre- and post-evaluation surveys and a goals statement with the Smith Career Center; keep an internship log; attend regular meetings with internship mentors; engage in mid-semester and end of semester reviews with the Director of Bradley Women's and Gender Studies; and write a critical reflection on the internship and its relationship to WGS coursework. Prerequisite: WGS 200, sophomore standing, and 2.5 GPA in WGS.

WGS 400 - Directed Research in Women's and Gender Studies (3 hours)
Directed readings or research for a paper which analyzes, synthesizes, and interprets an area of women's and gender studies. Prerequisite: WGS 200; 9 hrs. of Women's and Gender Studies elective courses; or consent of instructor.

Visit our website: http://www.bradley.edu/las/wms/