
Women's Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Emeritus: Espin, Huckle, Jones, Kohen, Watson
Chair: Cayleff

Professors: Cayleff, Scott, Zimmerman

Associate Professors: Donadey, Mattingly

Assistant Professors: Ghosh, Lara, Roy

Offered by the Department

Master of Arts degree in women's studies.

Major in women's studies.

Minor in women's studies.

The Major

Women's studies explores who women were, who women are, who they might be, and how their lives and human interactions are affected by society's values, traditions, and institutions. SDSU has offered courses in women's studies since 1969 and has one of the strongest academic programs in the nation. Its origins are in the women's movement, and its vision includes a world free of sexual, racial, age, and class distinctions and other inequalities.

Courses are designed to provide students with a coherent, integrated, and academically rigorous education. Content areas include concepts of self and family, theories of sex differences, history, cultural contributions, and the study of society's institutions. The emphasis is on increasing the awareness of objective conditions in women's lives throughout the world, and on developing critical analytical skills.

A degree in women's studies may be used as preparation for a wide range of careers. Professional opportunities exist in political and social agencies working with women and developing public policy on women's issues such as health care, employment, family violence, and education. Women's studies students prepare for careers in such fields as law, journalism, public administration, social services, personnel, and psychology. The skills that women's studies majors develop in critical thinking and analysis are highly valued in many additional occupations and professions today. A women's studies major may also go on to advanced academic work preparing for a career as a women's studies scholar.

Many women's studies majors plan double majors to enhance their career opportunities.

Women's Studies Major

With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences
(Major Code: 49991)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in women's studies courses can apply to the degree.

Students majoring in women's studies must complete a minor in another field to be approved by the chair or major adviser of the department.

Preparation for the Major. Women's Studies 101 and 102. (6 units)

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Graduation Writing Assessment or completing Women's Studies 400W with a grade of C (2.0) or better. One of the other approved writing courses may be substituted with the consent of the undergraduate adviser.

Major. A minimum of 27 upper division units to include nine units from Group I; 12 units from Group II; and Women's Studies 536 and 590.

Group I: Women's Studies 310, 320, 325, 331, 340, 341A-341B, 352, 360, 370, 375, 385; Africana Studies 332*, American Indian Studies 303*, Chicana and Chicano Studies 340*, Political Science 336*, Religious Studies 370*.

Group II: Women's Studies 512, 515, 521, 522, 530, 535, 553, 565, 572, 580, 581, 582, 595, 596, 598.

*No more than three units may be applied to the major in women's studies.

Women's Studies Minor

The minor in women's studies consists of a minimum of 18 units in women's studies, of which 12 units must be upper division to include:

Women's Studies 101, 102, and six units selected from Women's Studies 310, 320, 325, 331, 340, 341A-341B, 352, 360, 370, 375, 385; Africana Studies 332*, American Indian Studies 303*, Chicana and Chicano Studies 340*, Political Science 336*, Religious Studies 370*.

Six units selected from Women's Studies 512, 515, 521, 522, 530, 535, 536, 553, 565, 572, 580, 581, 582, 590, 595, 596, 598.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

*No more than three units may be applied to the minor in women's studies.

Women's Studies Dual Degree

The MEXUS/Women's Studies program is a partnership between San Diego State University (SDSU) and the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC) located at Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. Students may enter the program at either of the two universities, and must spend a minimum of two years in both the United States and Mexico.

Participants in the MEXUS/Women's Studies program are enrolled in the Women's Studies major at San Diego State University.

In addition to completing 49 units of General Education requirements at SDSU, students in the MEXUS/Women's Studies program must complete 33 units of women's studies courses, and either 68 units of economics, or 60 units of psychology, or 68 units of sociology. Approximately one-half of all of these requirements are completed in Spanish while attending school in Mexico. Students are also required to participate in an internship program, which provides MEXUS/Women's Studies students with the opportunity to work for an international institution and to develop a network of contacts in the private or public community, a vital step towards employment after graduation.

Successful participants in the MEXUS/Women's Studies program will earn both the Bachelor of Arts degree in women's studies from San Diego State University and either the Licenciatura in sociología or economía from UABC.

Courses (WMNST)

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

WMNST 101. Women: Self, Identity and Society (3) I, II

Interdisciplinary introduction to women's studies thought and scholarship in the social sciences, to include such areas as gender-based language, personality development and self-concept, social evolution, family structures, and economic life.

WMNST 102. Women: Images and Ideas (3) I, II

Major cultural representations of women in ancient through contemporary societies from perspectives in the humanities, including philosophy, religion, art, literature, and history.

WMNST 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Intended for Undergraduates)**

WMNST 310. Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for non-majors.

Comparative study of social, economic, political, and ideological aspects of women's position in a global context. Women's status in contemporary, transitional, and pre-industrial societies.

WMNST 320. Socialization of Women (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for non-majors.

Impact of formal and informal institutions on female development and gender roles across the life span.

WMNST 325. Psychology of Women (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for non-majors.

Theories of the psychological development of women; investigation of biological and cultural factors influencing personality and behavior.

WMNST 331. Women in Asian Societies (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for non-majors.

Socio-economic status of women in Asia. Feminism and the status of women in China, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, and other countries. Feminist movements in Asia and women's status as affected by changing social, economic, and political orders in Asia.

WMNST 340. Women in Modern European History (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Social, cultural, economic, political and ideological aspects of women's history in the modern period. Impact of modernization on roles of women in family and society from the eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries in Europe.

WMNST 341A-341B. Women in American History (3-3) I, II

History of American social, cultural, economic, political, and intellectual institutions, focusing on the role and perspective of women. Semester I: From colonization to 1860; Semester II: From 1860 to the present. Satisfies the graduation requirement in American Institutions.

WMNST 352. Women in Literature (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Literature by and about women; appraisals of women's place in various literary genres; historical and contemporary themes; evolution of forms and techniques; relation to other art forms.

WMNST 360. Women's Sexuality and the Body (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Social, cultural, and political aspects of women's sexualities and bodies; relationships among beliefs and practices, and among sexual behaviors and identities in historical context; role of popular culture, scientific, medical, and religious ideas.

WMNST 370. Women, Law, and Policy (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for non-majors.

Legal factors affecting women in employment, education, health and welfare, property ownership and criminal justice, including investigation of public policy issues which affect women's lives.

WMNST 375. Sex, Power, and Politics (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for non-majors.

Social, economic and political factors which explain women's political status and participation. Topics include institutional structures, leadership and ideology, power and authority, and the women's movement as a political movement.

WMNST 385. Women's Work (3)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for non-majors.

Conditions and factors affecting women's paid and unpaid work. Marriage, divorce, fertility, and childcare; women's occupations, earnings and education; economics of sex discrimination; government economic policies and women's welfare.

WMNST 400W. Interdisciplinary Writing Practices: Feminist Perspectives (3)

Prerequisite: Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement for students who have completed 60 units, passed Transfer Writing Assessment or Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 8 or better or earned a C or higher in RWS 95 or 96 or 280 or 281, and completed the General Education requirement in Composition and Critical Thinking.

Workshop in interdisciplinary writing of academic essays, creative nonfiction, and other genres. Includes study of research methods and feminist critical and theoretical literatures.

WMNST 496. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

WMNST 499. Special Study (1-3)

Prerequisites: Three upper division units and consent of the department chair and instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)**

WMNST 512. Latinas in the Americas (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

How social and other factors impact the lives of Latin American women. Theoretical frameworks illuminate their situation. Sociocultural perspectives are offered on Latin American women's life narratives.

WMNST 515. Women: Myth, Ritual, and the Sacred (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Meanings and functions of myths and rituals in their sacred and secular aspects, emphasizing their impact on women's lives and relationships in differing cultural contexts, past and present.

WMNST 521. Life Cycles of Women (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Women's developmental processes across the life cycle; their impact on women, men, and the family, including life passages related to adolescence, marriage, motherhood, divorce, widowhood, "second careers," and aging in varying socioeconomic and cultural contexts.

WMNST 522. Women: Madness and Sanity (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Concepts of mental health and mental illness in narratives as well as clinical approaches to women's lives. Includes Freudian, post-Freudian, and feminist approaches to mental health.

WMNST 530. Women's Movements and Activism (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Comparative study of women's movements worldwide, including organizations, issues and initiatives. Women's diverse social/political strategies within local, national, and global contexts. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

WMNST 535. Lesbian Lives and Cultures (3)

Historical, cultural, and social exploration of lesbianism. Topics include myths and stereotypes, history and literature, social and political movements, theoretical explanations, and current conditions.

WMNST 536. Gender, Race, and Class (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Major issues and themes in the history, culture, and contemporary lives of women of color in the U.S. Analysis of theories explaining similarities and differences in opportunities and life choices. Roles within social and political movements.

WMNST 553. Women and the Creative Arts (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Representations of women in literary, visual, and/or performing arts as well as crafts; artistic contributions of women across cultures; theories of creativity and gender. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

WMNST 565. Women: Health, Healing, and Medicine (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Relationship of women to "modern" and "traditional" health care/healing systems in historical and cultural perspective. Representations and practices regarding the politics of women's health and illness.

WMNST 572. Women and Violence (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Forms of violence against and by women. Processes which shape women's resistance to, and collusion in, social, economic, political, and sexual violence.

WMNST 580. Women, Development and the Global Economy (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Women's roles as agents and recipients of global economic and political change focusing on women's empowerment, work, health, and the environment. Topics include women's movements worldwide and non-government organizations.

WMNST 581. Women's Experiences of Migration (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Gender analysis of impact of international migration on women's lives. Identity formation, trauma, language, gender roles, and sexuality in life narratives of immigrant and refugee women. Economic and legal issues affecting immigrant and refugee women.

WMNST 582. Science and Technology in Women's Lives (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Role of science and technology in women's lives to include historical participation, contemporary opportunities and barriers; public policies; feminist critiques and alternative strategies for thinking about and doing science.

WMNST 590. Feminist Thought (3) I

Prerequisite: Six upper division units in women's studies.

Readings of feminist theory in historical perspective, with attention to contemporary debates in feminist scholarship.

WMNST 595. Seminar in Women's Studies (3) II

Prerequisites: Six upper division units in women's studies and consent of instructor.

Directed research in women's studies. Field of investigation will vary with instructor. Methods of investigation, development of bibliography, presentation of paper based on original research. See Class Schedule for specific content.

WMNST 596. Topics in Women's Studies (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Advanced topics in women's studies. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

WMNST 597. Research Project (3) I, II

Prerequisites: Six upper division units in women's studies and consent of adviser.

Individual research project. May be taken in place of Women's Studies 595, Seminar in Women's Studies.

WMNST 598. Women's Studies Internship (3) II Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies and consent of instructor.

Application of women's studies theories and scholarship to community service and activism through combination of classroom discussion and field internship. Internship includes 80 hours of work in local public and private agencies dealing primarily with women and girls. Maximum credit six units. (Formerly numbered Women's Studies 498.)

GRADUATE COURSES

Refer to Bulletin of the Graduate Division.
