

The Women's Studies Program

Women's Studies is an innovative interdisciplinary academic program devoted to the critical analysis of gender and the pursuit of knowledge about women. Combining methods and insights of traditional academic disciplines with the special insights of feminist scholarship, our courses yield fresh perspectives that illuminate the origins of, and changes in, diverse cultural and social arrangements.

During the past quarter century, scholarship on women, gender, and feminism has been increasingly influential in reshaping the academic world. Women's Studies scholars have opened up the canon in almost every field to new works, subjects, and approaches that have stretched the boundaries of academic inquiry. At the same time, Women's Studies has punctured the pretensions of objectivity by demonstrating the role of gender--as well as class and race--in shaping ideas and social practices. Women's Studies has brought fresh insights with new empirical data and theoretical perspectives to virtually every discipline.

Gender is a common thread in all our course offerings, but it always interweaves race, class, and other factors that contribute to the diversity of women's lives. The Program prepares students to utilize critical learning in their private lives as well in their public roles as citizens thus opening the way to a wide variety of professional careers.

Because an increasing number of academic positions seek applicants with expertise in the study of women and gender, the addition of Women's Studies courses can be a powerful addition to your graduate education.



Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Program

In virtually every field of university study, scholarship on women and gender has become increasingly influential because of its path-breaking theoretical perspectives and empirical findings. The programs of virtually every professional association testify to the vitality and presence of feminist research.

The Women's Studies Graduate Certificate can be earned by students enrolled in a Graduate Degree Program, or as a stand-alone certificate for those who have completed their undergraduate degree.

Although feminist scholarship may be available in other disciplines, Women's Studies offers a concentrated perspective and in-depth analysis. The graduate certificate enables students to pursue interdisciplinary study in this flourishing field while enhancing their educational background by encouraging the integration of personal, academic and political experiences and ideals.

Because the program is interdisciplinary and students will approach the certificate from a range of home fields and with widely varying preparation, all certificate plans of study will be individualized. Each certificate candidate combines the study of Women's Studies theory and methodology, either through current study or prior preparation. The core faculty of the Women's Studies Program will act as advisors to certificate students; careful advising will ensure that each student's program has the appropriate interdisciplinary breadth and fits appropriately with her/his other course work and professional needs.

All WS certificate plans of study must include work in more than one department and must be approved by the Program Director or her designee, who will coordinate the certificate program.



Course Offerings

The following courses may be applied towards the WSGC. A maximum of one 200 level course may be applied to the Certificate. Courses may be counted simultaneously toward a UCONN degree program and the WSGC. Course offerings continue to expand. Special-topic courses are offered through departments each semester. Below is a list of some recent course offerings.

WOMEN'S STUDIES

- 301 Women & American Education
- 315 Gender & Culture
(Also ANTH 315)
- 333 Topics in the History of American Women
(Also HIST 333)
- 341 Analysis of Rituals
(Also ANTH 341)
- 344 Psychology of Women & Gender
(Also PSYC 344)
- 365 WS Research Methodology *
- 371 Genders, Sexualities & Theory
- 390 Independent Study for Graduate Students
- 395 Special Topics Seminar in WS

ANTHROPOLOGY

- 315 Gender & Culture
- 341 Analysis of Rituals

ENGLISH

- 375 Women & Literature***
- 496 Seminar in Major Authors***
- 497 Special Topics Language and Literature***

FRENCH

- 280 Women's Studies in French

HISTORY

- 333 Topics in the History of American Women
- 302 Special Topics in American History***

PHILOSOPHY

- 352 Seminar in Feminist Theory **

POLITICAL SCIENCE

- 397 Special Topics in Political Science***

PSYCHOLOGY

- 344 Psychology of Women

SOCIOLOGY

- 312 Feminist Theory & Social Science**
- 356 Gender & Society

***mandatory** if no other research method class taken

one feminist theory course is **mandatory

*****with consent** of WSGC Advisor or WS Director

Women's Studies Certificate for MA/Ph.D. Candidates

Requirements:

- Current enrollment in an MA/Ph. D. course of study
- Separate acceptance by Graduate School for pursuit of WS Graduate Certificate**
- 12 hours of course work, of which 9 hours must be at the 300 level or above
- No more than one Women's Studies 390 course may be applied to the certificate

Application Procedure:

- Written acceptance from Graduate School for pursuit of WS Graduate Certificate
- Written approval from your major advisor
- Essay on the relationship of the WSGC to your degree program
- Official UCONN Transcript
- Meeting with the Director of Women's Studies or the Faculty Advisor of the WSGCP

Submit all Women's Studies materials to the **Women's Studies Program office, Beach Hall Room 422**. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. There is no application deadline.

For further information, contact:

The Women's Studies Program, 354 Mansfield Road, Unit 2181, Storrs, CT 06269-2181; Phone: (860) 486-3970; Fax: (860) 486-4789; email: wsinfo@uconn.edu

For both Degree and Non-Degree students, this Certificate will:

- Increase ability to think critically
- Systematically add interdisciplinary breadth to the student's program and knowledge base
- Develop expertise in feminist theory and methodology
- Offer focused study of the scholarship on women & gender
- Foster new strengths in both teaching and research
- Provide a solid credential for future employment and academic opportunities

Women's Studies Certificate for Non-Degree Students

Requirements:

- Acceptance by Graduate School for pursuit of WS Graduate Certificate**
- A Bachelor's Degree
- 12 hours of course work in Women's Studies, of which 9 hours must be at the 300 level or above
- No more than one Women's Studies 390 course may be applied to the certificate

Application Procedure:

- Written acceptance from Graduate School for pursuit of WS Graduate Certificate
- Essay on the relationship of the WSGC to the applicant's career/academic goals (max. 2 single spaced pages)
- Official Transcripts (undergraduate, and graduate, if applicable)
- Three letters of recommendation, at least one of which should address the applicant's academic preparation, skills and potential
- Meeting with the Director of Women's Studies or the Faculty Advisor of the WSGCP. Call (860) 486-3970 to schedule an appointment.

** All students applying to the WS Graduate Certificate Program must first apply to and be accepted by the UConn Graduate School as a student pursuing the WS Graduate Certificate. All University applications should be sent to: **Graduate Admissions, 438 Whitney Road Extension, Unit 1006, Storrs, CT 06269-1006; Phone: (860) 486-3617; Fax: (860) 486-6739**. More information and application forms can be found at the Grad School website, <http://www.grad.uconn.edu>.

After students are accepted to the Graduate School, the appropriate Women's Studies Program application materials as listed above (top and left) should be submitted to the WS Office in Beach Hall.



(last updated: 8/8/06 – kah)



The Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Program

The Women's Studies Program
University of Connecticut
Beach Hall 4th Floor
354 Mansfield Road, Unit 2181
Storrs, CT 06269-2181

Phone: (860) 486-3970
Fax: (860) 486-4789

Visit our website at:

www.womens.studies.uconn.edu