

UMaine Women's Studies
Graduate Courses
Fall 2009

Interdisciplinary Core Graduate Courses in Women's Studies

WST 501 (990) The Ethic of Care (Tina Passman & Yvonne Thibodeau, Web-based, #13860)

What does a feminist perspective, especially in the area of ethics and the ethic of care, have to offer to us in the 21st century? How do the ideas of care, lovingkindness, restorative justice, and community building address the issues and challenges that face us locally, nationally and globally as we move into the post-materialist world? This question-based course looks at these issues from inter and cross disciplinary perspectives. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission. This is a core seminar for the MAL'S Program and counts toward the Graduate Concentration in Peace & Reconciliation Studies. 3 cr.

WST 520 Research Methodologies in Women's Studies (001)

(Renate Klein & Mazie Hough, Wednesday, 3:30-5:30, #11322)

An interdisciplinary course that focuses on the visions and methods that feminist scholars use to study women and gender. Introduces students to pioneering critiques of various methodologies as well as recent developments in the field.

WST 580 Feminist Pedagogy and Women's Studies Practicum (001) (Mazie Hough, TBA, #11324)

This course will provide a history of Women's Studies as an interdisciplinary, a survey of feminist teaching strategies, and an examination of the philosophies of education on which those strategies are based. A practicum applying the course material in a WST class, in a departmental course, or possibly in a K - 12 school or other workplace will be included. Permission required.

WST 698 Independent Projects in Women's Studies (001)

(Ann Schonberger, TBA, #11326) Permission required.

Graduate-Level Versions of Undergraduate Women's Studies Courses

WST 501 (991) Franco-American Women's Project: Borders and Beyond

(Rhea Côté Robbins, Web-based, #16484)

This course will examine the intersection of the past, present and future texts, in comparison/contrast with writings that cross borders and go beyond the borders. Through various mediums, the course will explore the expression of the self, the imagination, the geography, the crossing of oceans, the past events that continue into the future—time and space measured by texts and contexts of literature and story. A world within a world—visibility of presence outside of the mainstream focus: What constitutes story of a cultural group such as the Franco-American women? Métis women? Francophone women of color? What does the absence or presence of the French women mean in the area of Ethnic or Women's Studies? Borders, boundaries, time, space, texts, contexts, events, and the future of literatures will be examined through the lens of Franco-American, Métis, and Francophone women of color. Note: this is a new course on Franco-American women, different from WST 235.

Many graduate programs allow students to take a limited number of 400-level courses

WST 401 (990) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Women Activists: Warriors for Peace and Justice = PAX 401 (990) (Yvonne Thibodeau, Web-based, WST 401 #13792; PAX 401 #6472)

This course will examine the lives of a diverse group of women who were committed activists attempting to create change. We will examine the historical, social, and political circumstances that motivated these women to actively seek social transformation. Finally, we will look at what some of the current generation of feminists have to say about activism. The contributions of the following women (among others) will be discussed: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells, Tillie Olsen, Theresa Malkiel, Rachel Carson, Angela Davis, Wilma Mankiller, Rigoberta Menchu, and Meena.

WST 410 Feminist Theory (001) (Elizabeth Allan, MW, 11:00-12:15, #11316)

An advanced, interdisciplinary, multicultural introduction to the main traditions of feminist theory. Satisfies the General Education Ethics requirement. Prerequisite: 6 hours of Women's Studies, including WST 101, or permission.

WST 480 (001) Senior Seminar in Women's Studies: Women and Education

(Ann Schonberger, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, #11318) (If you need to take this course in the fall but have a conflict at this time, please contact the instructor.)

The topic will be broadly interpreted to include the diversity of experience of women and girls as teachers and students, now and in the past. Beyond the common core of the course, specific emphasis will depend on the interests of the students. Gen. Ed. = Soc. Cont. & Inst., Div. & Int'l., Writing Intensive and Capstone Experience Requirements. Prerequisite: WST 101, WST 410, and senior standing or permission.

Departmental Electives in Women's Studies

ENG 549 Studies in Gender and Literature: Mothers and Fathers of the Novel
Deborah Rogers, Section 001, Tuesday, 3:30-6:00, #11426

**If you have any questions about the WST courses,
check the Fall schedule of classes or call 581-1228.**

Interdisciplinary Graduate Concentrations in Women's Studies

Description

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Concentrations in Women's Studies are designed to enhance the masters and doctoral programs at the University which prepare students for careers in education at all levels, social service work, health services, business, public policy, government and nongovernmental organizations, and research. Students in the program will gain a more complete understanding of how the social construction of gender has influenced the roles, contributions, and experience of women in many different cultures, now and in the past. Such awareness can help them better understand our contemporary world with its changing roles for women and men alike. To the gender analysis of any situation, they will bring knowledge of the complex ways in which gender interacts with race, social class, sexual orientation, and other forms of diversity. They will understand the connection between Women's Studies scholarship and the scholarship of other disciplines. Students will develop an appreciation for the connections between Women's Studies scholarship, activism, and social change, historically and in the present.

Graduate work in Women's Studies is offered through the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program, which also administers an undergraduate major and minor. Students can use the interdisciplinary graduate concentrations to enhance masters and doctoral degrees offered by other units. They can also provide a focus for the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program or for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. A Women's Studies advisor who is a member of the graduate faculty will assist each student in designing a program of study appropriate to her or his goals and will be part of the evaluation process. Students and advisors will be matched according to the students' areas of interest.

Requirements

1. Candidates for any masters degree and the certificate of advanced study in Education are required to take at least 9 credits including WST 510 and another WST course. The additional course(s) can be chosen, with the approval of the student's Women's Studies advisor, from WST courses or departmental Women's Studies electives at the 400-level or above. At least 2 courses must be at the 500-level or above. If the student's degree program has no thesis or comprehensive exam, there will be some type of written evaluation of the work in Women's Studies.
2. Candidates for the Ph.D. or Ed.D. are required to take at least 12 credits, including WST 510 and WST 520. WST 580 and WST 610 are highly recommended. The additional course(s) can be chosen, with the approval of the student's Women's Studies advisor, from WST courses or Women's Studies departmental electives at the 400-level or above.

Students who are taking thesis credits in their departments and writing Women's Studies theses or dissertations can use up to 2 thesis credits toward their Women's Studies concentrations if they take WST 610 to make up 3 credits.

Students

Since the graduate concentrations were approved in 2000, 17 students have completed one of them. Four students have finished doctoral degrees, two in the IPhD program, one in History, and one in Higher Education Leadership. At the masters level students have completed degrees in English (5), Communication (3), Higher Education (2), and Liberal Studies. Currently graduate students in the concentrations are working in the areas of History, English, Social Work, Counselor Education, Communication, and Liberal or Interdisciplinary Studies. The last two are particularly appealing to students who want programs with a primary focus on Women's Studies.