

UMaine Women's Studies
Graduate Courses
Spring 2010

Interdisciplinary Core Graduate Courses in Women's Studies

WST 510 (001) Advanced Studies in Feminist Theory (Elizabeth Neiman) (Monday, 3:10-5:30, #4277)

An advanced introduction to major issues in contemporary feminist theory. The first few weeks will be an overview of major schools of feminist theory, with a particular emphasis on more recent work influenced by poststructuralist theory. After this, students will pursue their own disciplinary interests and research projects as part of an in-depth study of a common issue chosen by the class as a whole. Some readings will be common to all, some tied to each disciplinary project.

WST 580 (001) Feminist Pedagogy and Women's Studies Practicum (Mazie Hough) (TBA, #4279)

This course will provide a history of Women's Studies as an interdiscipline, 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 (001) Independent Projects in Women's Studies (TBA, #27380)

Graduate standing and permission from the director required. Call 581-1228 for more info.

Graduate-Level Versions of Undergraduate Women's Studies Courses

WST 501 (001) Women and Globalization (Mazie Hough, TuTh, 3:30-4:45, #4217)

Constraints of geography on social and cultural arrangements are receding, a process with implications for the world's women. Topics investigated will include women's work in factories such as the maquiladores, immigration, domestic work, and sex tourism to name a few.

WST 501 (860) Women and Religion (Nancy Lewis, Monday, 4:00-6:40, #27373)

This overview of women's roles in some of the major world religions will examine the influence religion has on women's lives. We will look at Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Indigenous religious traditions, Christianity, Islam, and New Age Traditions. Differences in women's experience of religion based on class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation will also be noted. Cr. 3.

WST 501 (990) Women, Health, and the Environment (Sandra Haggard, Web-based, #7071)

This course will examine the roles of women in shaping current practices and policies of the Western healthcare system and related environmental issues. It will draw on the work of environmentalists such as Rachel Carson and modern women healers of the body and the ecosystem. Students will be encouraged to be involved in transformational work at the local, personal, or more global level.

WST 501 (991) Franco-American Women's Experience (Rhea Côté Robbins, Web-based, #29963)

This course will examine the immigration experience and subsequent lifestyles of the present-day Franco-American woman and her cultural ancestors. Studying their immigration from France to New France in Canada, and across the border into the U. S., class participants will learn about the historical and cultural implications of immigration for these women and the definition they imparted to the culture. These women braved the new worlds of the wilderness, farmlands, and industrial settings to help establish the French culture, as we know it today in North America. In addition to the readings and discussion, this course will use films, slide presentations, guest lecturers, and music to examine the artifacts, crafts, rituals, folklore, and more of the daily lives of the women.

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

WST 401 (860) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Women's Sexuality

(Sandra Caron, Thursday, 4:00-6:30, #4197) This course explores the nature of women's sexuality from a developmental perspective, with the intent of enhancing students' understanding of how women's sexuality is shaped, changed, and expressed throughout life. Moving beyond the traditional focus on sexual functioning, this course emphasizes the complex interaction of psychological, social, cultural, and biological influences on the creation of sexual meanings for women.

WST 401 (861) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Interpersonal Violence

= CHF 404 (861) (Carey Nason) (Tuesday, 4:00-7:00, WST 401 #5693; CHF 404 #3133)

This course is designed to describe interpersonal violence (specifically sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and harassment), discuss its causes, and examine various strategies to promote awareness and intervention of interpersonal violence through peer to peer education. Ultimately, this is a practice-based course that strives to give you tools to eliminate interpersonal violence in your community. The discussion situates violence within a socio-political perspective, examines psychological issues, and explores the wide range of socially institutionalized and individually perpetuated political, social, economic, and physical events and circumstances. Through the use of experiential components, this course raises students' awareness and develops students' skills as agents of social change.

WST 401 (990) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Maine Women

(Carol Toner, Jennifer Pickard) (Web-based, #7085)

This course will explore women's experiences in Maine, both historical and current, through a multidisciplinary approach including history, literature, political science, and economics. Through readings and discussions, we will analyze Maine women individually and collectively in such roles as industrial workers, reformers, writers, politicians and mothers. As we study Maine women, we will keep in mind several major questions. How have Maine's particular environment, culture, economy, and history shaped women's experiences in the state? How have national movements (for example abolitionism, temperance, suffrage, the ERA, welfare reform) shaped women's lives in Maine? How have women responded to these issues and events? And how have issues of class, gender, and race/ethnicity played out in Maine?

WST 480 (001/002) Senior Seminar in Women's Studies: Women and Education

(Ann Schonberger, Section 001, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, #4203; Section 002, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, #4205)

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.

Departmental Electives in Women's Studies**CMJ 405 Women and Communication**

Kristin Langellier, TuTh, 2:00-3:15, Section 001, #28338

ENG 481 Studies in Women's Literature: Rebecca West

Laura Cowan, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, Section 001, #27187

ENG 580 Topics in Poetry and Poetics: A Pre-Stonewall Poetics

Jennifer Moxley, Wednesday, 6:10-8:40, Section 001, #27192

PSY 677 Topics in Clinical Psychology: Women's Health Psychology

Sandra Sigmon, Thursday, 9:00-12:00, Section 001, #28421

If you have any questions about the WST courses, check Maine Street 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

Since the graduate concentrations were approved in 2000, 20 students have completed one of them. Students have earned master's and doctoral degrees with concentrations in a wide variety of fields: English, History, Communication, Social Work, Counselor Education, Higher Education Leadership, and Liberal or Interdisciplinary Studies.