

Criteria for Women's and Gender Studies Courses

Accepted in Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Meeting, Spring 1998; Revised, Spring 2002 ; Revised, Fall 2003; Revised, Spring 2010; Revised, Summer 2013; Revised, Sept. 2015

1. Women's and Gender Studies courses will focus on gender as a category of analysis. They should complement the department's central focus on women, feminism, and social justice. Cross-listed classes should examine the roles, experiences, contributions, or representations of women and other marginalized groups, and/or investigate the social and cultural construction of gender and interlocking categories of social difference, including, but not limited to, age, disability, race and ethnicity, religion, sexuality, and class. Courses should seek to make visible and interrogate power relations that result in the marginalization of women, people of color, and others affected by structural injustices.
2. Courses will endeavor to equip students to identify and analyze stereotyped assumptions and forms of discrimination related to women and gender, and they should inquire into the diversity of experiences among women and within the spectrum of gender.
3. The instructor's approach to course content should seek to reflect relevant Women's and Gender Studies scholarship.
4. Whenever and however appropriate, the instructor should thoughtfully make use of key facets of feminist pedagogy, namely teaching techniques that encourage student participation, active learning, and egalitarian exchange among students and the instructor. Faculty are also strongly encouraged to integrate Women's and Gender Studies events into the syllabus as required or recommended components.
5. Courses should take into account the emphasis on social justice that anchors the field of Women's and Gender Studies. Accordingly, they should strive to interrogate critically the ethical values that shape current research and cultural practices. Students should be encouraged to reflect on the ethical commitments that inform their understanding of themselves and the social institutions in which they participate.

Contract option: If a course meets most of the criteria above and the student has the option of completing an in-depth class project related to Women's and Gender Studies, the student may petition to count that course towards the Women's and Gender Studies major or minor.

Syllabi approved for cross-listing should include a statement indicating how the course connects with the subject of Women's and Gender Studies and should list the WGST department course number. Faculty for cross-listed courses should provide a copy of the syllabus to the Women's and Gender Studies Department office during the first few weeks of classes. These syllabi will be kept on file.