Gender Studies

Director: Deborah Heath
Administrative Coordinator: Nancy Hugg

Lewis & Clark’s Gender Studies Program has received national recognition. Begun in 1985, the program was the first of its kind in the country. It offers an interdisciplinary minor, identifies resources, gathers information, sponsors an annual symposium, and serves as catalyst for change that should be of equal concern to men and women.

In keeping with Lewis & Clark’s commitment to gender issues and gender balance, gender studies is integrated into the curriculum. Program faculty are housed in departments across the campus, and students combine the minor with widely varying majors.

The Minor Program

The interdisciplinary minor in gender studies examines the relationship between biological differences and social inequality, explores the construction of sexual identity, and analyzes the variations in gender systems that have occurred across cultures and over time. It illuminates the images of femininity and masculinity that shape cultural representations and explores similarities and differences in men’s and women’s artistic expression. Courses take gender as a subject of focus and investigate how gender interacts with race, class, and culture. Lewis & Clark’s internationalized curriculum and overseas study programs make it possible for students to examine the intersections of gender, race, and class in a variety of cultures. Finally, the minor engages students in the political and philosophical exploration of strategies for transforming coercive and unequal gender systems and enhancing individual choice and our common humanity.

Minor Requirements

A minimum of 24 semester credits, distributed as follows:

- GEND 200 Genders and Sexualities in U.S. Society
- GEND 300 Gender and Aesthetic Expression
- GEND 440 Feminist Theory
- GEND 231 Genders and Sexualities in Global Perspective or an approved alternative
- Eight additional semester credits selected from the following list of approved electives.

English

ENG 333  Major Figures (when the topic is Joyce/Wolff)
ENG 450  Senior Seminar (when the topic is Emily Dickinson)

French

FREN 350  Topics in French and Francophone Literature (when the topic is gender and identity in 19th-century France)

German

GERM 230  German Literature in Translation

History

HIST 231A  U.S. Women’s History, 1600 to 1980
HIST 240  Race and Ethnicity in the United States

Political Science

POLS 275  Gender and Politics

Psychology

PSY 230  Infant and Child Development
PSY 360  Psychology of Gender

Rhetoric and Media Studies

RHMS 332  Rhetoric of Gender in Relationships
RHMS 352  Gender in Public Rhetoric and Mass Media

Sociology and Anthropology

SOAN 225  Race and Ethnicity in Global Perspective
SOAN 255  Medicine, Healing, and Culture
SOAN 266  Social Change in Latin America
SOAN 273  Japanese Culture: Gender and Identity
SOAN 285  Culture and Power in the Middle East
SOAN 390  Cyborg Anthropology
SOAN 395  Anthropology of the Body

At least 16 semester credits must be discrete to the minor (may not be used in any other set of major or minor requirements). In addition, at least four of the courses for the minor must be taken at Lewis & Clark. No more than 4 semester credits of internship may be applied to the minor.

Faculty


Mary Clare. Graduate professor of counseling psychology.


Dinah Dodds. Professor emerita of German, chair of the Department of Music. Ph.D. University of Colorado.


Andrea Hibbard. Adjunct professor of humanities. Victorian literature and culture, law and literature, women’s studies.


Kristi Williams. Adjunct professor of humanities.


Courses

GEND 200 Genders and Sexualities in U.S. Society
Faculty: Brodkin, Hunter, Gender Studies Faculty.
Content: Interdisciplinary exploration of gender and sexuality in connection with race, class, and ethnicity in the United States. Investigation of social and cultural ideas about difference and equality in the past and present. Materials include literature, film, memoir, poetry, feminist philosophy, political tracts, and queer theory, as well as classic and recent scholarly work in history, sociology, economics, communication, psychology, and other fields. Topics may include mass media and consumer culture, work, law and social policy, family, political activism and social movements, sexuality and the body, public health, medical research, violence, and theories of privilege and oppression.
Prerequisites: None.
Restrictions: Sophomore standing required, unless section number is preceded by an "F."
Usually offered: Annually, fall and spring semester.
Semester credits: 4.

GEND 231 Genders and Sexualities in Global Perspective
Faculty: Heath, Mechlinski, Warren.
Content: Gender as it has been socially, culturally, and historically constituted in different times and places. Theoretical developments in the anthropology of gender. Cross-cultural exploration using examples from a wide range of societies, past and present. The relationship between cultural definitions of gender and the social experience of women, men, and alternative gender roles, such as the Native American two-spirits, the hijra of India, and global perspectives on contemporary transgender experiences.
Prerequisites: SOAN 100, SOAN 110, or sophomore standing.
Restrictions: Sophomore standing required, unless section number is preceded by an "F."
Usually offered: Annually, fall and spring semester.
Semester credits: 4.

GEND 299 Independent Study
Faculty: Gender Studies Faculty.
Content: Independent study topic to be arranged with instructor.
Prerequisites: None.
Restrictions: Sophomore standing and consent required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall and spring semester.
Semester credits: 1-4.

GEND 300 Gender and Aesthetic Expression
Faculty: DeMarte, Hibbard, Zimring.
Content: An exploration of ways gender informs the theory, history, and creation of literature and art. The role gender norms and constructs play in establishing, reproducing, or contesting aesthetic values, traditions, and hierarchies; feminist perspectives on subjects such as the gaze, the self-portrait, autobiography, and costume; gender and its relationship to theories of beauty, taste, and the body. Materials may be drawn from literature, art, film, cultural studies, art history, theatre, dance, and queer studies. Emphasis on an interdisciplinary topic to be chosen by the professor. Recent topics have included 20th-century experimentation in novels, films, and photography; the Victorian crisis in gender roles from the sensation heroine and Pre-Raphaelitism to the dandy; gender and self as artistic and theoretical constructs from the Enlightenment to the present.
Prerequisites: One course in humanities or arts.
Restrictions: Junior standing required.
Usually offered: Annually, spring semester.
Semester credits: 4.
GEND 440 Feminist Theory
Faculty: Brodkin, Heath.
Content: Philosophical and political analysis of issues in feminist theory. Discussion of recent theoretical work (e.g., Butler, Mitchell) in relation to past feminist thinking (e.g., Wollstonecraft, Gilman, deBeauvoir). A problem-oriented approach that explores feminist theorizing about such topics as sex, gender, race, power, oppression, identity, class, difference.
Prerequisites: One course in gender studies.
Restrictions: Junior standing required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall semester.
Semester credits: 4.

GEND 444 Practicum
Faculty: Gender Studies Faculty.
Content: Development and execution of extensive projects relating to gender issues in organizational settings. Placement in community-based social and educational agencies concerned with gender-related problems, such as employment discrimination, rape, sexual harassment and abuse, reproductive rights, freedom of sexual identity, the law and public policy, political organization. Credit-no credit. May be repeated, but no more that 4 credits of GEND 444 or GEND 445 may be applied to the minor.
Prerequisites: One Gender Studies course.
Restrictions: Declared Gender Studies minor.
Sophomore standing and consent of program director and faculty sponsor required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall and spring semester.
Semester credits: 1-4.

GEND 445 Gender in the City Internship
Faculty: Heath, Goldsmith, Gender Studies Faculty.
Content: Community-based participant observation, exploring gender issues in human services or advocacy organizations through a supervised internship. Theoretical and methodological frameworks for participatory action research are explored through readings, class discussion, and writing assignments. May be repeated, but no more than 4 credits of GEND 444 or GEND 445 may be applied to the minor.
Prerequisites: Two Gender Studies courses or consent.
Restrictions: Junior standing required.
Usually offered: Every third year.
Semester credits: 4.

GEND 499 Independent Study
Faculty: Gender Studies Faculty.
Content: Independent, student-designed research project supervised by a faculty member with expertise in the topic or methodology of the project. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisites: None.
Restrictions: Declared Gender Studies minor, Junior standing and consent of program director and faculty sponsor required.
Usually offered: Annually, fall and spring semester.
Semester credits: 1-4.