

Women's Studies

IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

OFFICE: Arts and Letters 346

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Faculty

Doreen J. Mattingly, Ph.D., Professor of Women's Studies,
Chair of Department

Susan E. Cayleff, Ph.D., Professor of Women's Studies

[Senate Distinguished Professor]

Anne Donadey, Ph.D., Professor of French and Women's Studies

Huma Ahmed Ghosh, Ph.D., Professor of Women's Studies

Amira J. Jarmakani, Ph.D., Professor of Women's Studies

Esther D. Rothblum, Ph.D., Professor of Women's Studies

Anh N. Hua, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Women's Studies

Irene Lara, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Women's Studies

Kimala J. Price, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Women's Studies

(Graduate Adviser)

Associateships and Assistantships

Graduate teaching associateships and graduate assistantships in women's studies are available to a number of qualified students. Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the graduate adviser in the Department of Women's Studies or on-line.

General Information

The Department of Women's Studies offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts degree in women's studies.

The department, recognized as the nation's first (1970) and among the strongest, has a distinguished faculty in the humanities and social sciences. Discipline-specific expertise as well as feminist theoretical paradigms are available to satisfy students' multi-faceted interests.

The Master of Arts degree is designed to provide advanced training for (1) students who plan to terminate their graduate studies at the master's level, and (2) those who anticipate further study leading to a doctoral degree in women's studies or related fields. The degree will also provide a foundation for further graduate work in professional degree programs such as counseling, social work, law, and public health. It will also prepare students for teaching in a community college and other institutions of higher learning. The Master of Arts will enhance students' ability to participate professionally in a range of organizations and businesses in the public and private sector, particularly those addressing women's issues.

Admission to Graduate Study

The application deadline for fall admission of new students in the Department of Women's Studies is February 15 for the Cal State Apply application and all other materials. All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as described in Part Two of this bulletin. As an additional requirement, students must demonstrate sufficient preparation for the program. This preparation can include possession of a bachelor's degree in women's studies from an accredited institution or completion of sufficient units in women's studies and related fields. Evaluation of a student's transcript will be made on an individual basis by the admissions committee to determine whether evidence of sufficient preparation can be demonstrated. A student whose preparation is deemed insufficient by the Graduate Admissions Committee may be admitted as conditionally classified and will be required to complete specified courses in addition to the minimum of 30 units required for the degree.

The grade point average required for admission to the Master of Arts program in women's studies is 3.0 for the last 60 units of the student's undergraduate work, plus satisfactory scores on the verbal, quantitative, and analytic sections of the GRE.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.calstate.edu/apply> along with the \$55 application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the Department of Women's Studies.

Graduate Admissions

All applicants must submit admissions materials as specified below.

1. University application (Cal State Apply at <http://www.calstate.edu/apply>).

All applicants to the program must complete an online application on Cal State Apply and pay the required fee by February 15. A RedID will then be assigned which allows tracking of application status online.

2. Office of Graduate Admissions requirements.

Official test scores and transcripts must be received by March 1.

- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
- GRE (and if applicable, TOEFL) test scores sent directly from ETS. (SDSU Institution Code 4682)

Send to:

Graduate Admissions

Enrollment Services

San Diego State University

San Diego, CA 92182-7416

The following admissions materials must be submitted electronically by February 15:

1. Copies of transcripts from all colleges and universities attended (these do not need to be sent directly from the colleges - photocopies are acceptable);
2. Copies of GRE (and if applicable, TOEFL) test scores;
3. Two letters of recommendation – applicant must provide names and e-mail addresses for recommenders. Recommenders will be invited to complete the recommendation electronically;
4. A two-page, single-spaced statement of purpose, concerning the applicant's scholarly background, intentions, and goals. The statement should address the applicant's experience in women's studies and with women's issues, rationale for pursuing the M.A. degree, and relation of the M.A. degree in women's studies to prior academic work and career objectives. Explain how your understanding of feminism intersects with ability, class, race, sexual orientation, and other dimensions of difference;
5. Applicants must state whether they are applying for full-time or part-time status. (A small number of part-time students may be admitted each year. Applicants should read carefully the information provided under part-time program guidelines.)

For information regarding the admissions process, visit the department website at <http://womensstudies.sdsu.edu/>.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy, as stated in Part Four of this bulletin.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 49991) (SIMS Code: 119502)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree as described in Part Four of this bulletin, the student, in consultation with the graduate adviser, must fulfill a three-unit language requirement selected from a foreign language, statistics, or American Sign Language. In addition, the student must complete a graduate program of 30 units to include Women's Studies 601, 602; nine units selected from Women's Studies 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 696; Women's Studies 797 and

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799A (for Plan A Thesis); and a theme of study composed of nine units of graduate electives, selected with the approval of the graduate adviser.

To complete the Master of Arts degree in women's studies, students pursue a thesis or project (Plan A), or comprehensive examination (Plan B). When Plan B is selected, students will take three additional graduate units in women's studies in lieu of 799A. Other substitutes may be approved where the skills involved are directly related to the student's research interests. Course selection and programs must be approved by the graduate adviser.

Students may choose an international specialization consisting of nine units of graduate courses selected from Women's Studies 512, 530, 560, 570, 580, 581, 605, 607, 609, 611. Other graduate level courses may be included in the international specialization with the approval of the graduate adviser.

Advanced Certificate in Women's Studies

(SIMS Code: 119503)

The Department of Women's Studies offers an advanced certificate to provide an opportunity for students to increase their understanding of women in the humanities and social sciences. The certificate program addresses diverse ways for students to develop knowledge of how women lived, thought, resisted, created knowledge, and engaged in cultural activism.

The advanced certificate requires 12 units, to include Women's Studies 590.

Nine units can be selected within an area of specialization to include six units of 600- or 700-level courses. The electives for the three specializations – International, Health and Sexualities, Gender, Race, and Class are as follows:

International: Women's Studies 512, 530, 565, 580, 581, 601, 603, 607, 609.

Health and Sexualities: Women's Studies 515, 522, 535, 565, 572, 605, 606, 608.

Gender, Race, and Class: Women's Studies 512, 530, 535, 536, 580, 581, 601, 604, 606, 607, 608, 609.

For further information, contact the graduate adviser in the Department of Women's Studies at 619-594-6524 or visit <http://womensstudies.sdsu.edu/>.

Courses Acceptable for Master's Degree

Program in Women's Studies (WMNST)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs* sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

WMNST 512. Latinas in the Americas (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

How social and other factors impact the lives of Latin American women. Theoretical frameworks illuminate their situation. Socio-cultural perspectives are offered on Latin American women's life narratives.

WMNST 515. Women: Myth, Ritual, and the Sacred (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Meanings and functions of myths and rituals in their sacred and secular aspects, emphasizing their impact on women's lives and relationships in differing cultural contexts, past and present.

WMNST 520. Reproductive Rights and Justice (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

History, cultural attitudes, and politics of reproduction and sexual health to include abortion, contraception, sterilization, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV/AIDS, sex education, reproductive, and genetic technology.

WMNST 522. Women: Madness and Sanity (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Mental health and mental illness in literature, film, and psychological research. Clinical and feminist approaches to mental health issues in women's lives.

WMNST 530. Women's Movements and Activism (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Comparative study of women's movements worldwide, including organizations, issues and initiatives. Women's diverse social/political strategies within local, national, and global contexts. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

WMNST 535. Lesbian Lives and Cultures (3)

Historical, cultural, and social exploration of lesbianism. Topics include myths and stereotypes, history and literature, social and political movements, theoretical explanations, and current conditions.

WMNST 536. Gender, Race, and Class (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Intersecting theories of gender, race and class in both local and global contexts. Major themes in history, culture, and contemporary lives of women analyzed through feminist and critical race theories.

WMNST 545. Women and Sports (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Diverse women's creation of and involvement in recreational and competitive sports, mid-1800s to present to include impact of medical experts' views, homophobia, disability, individual elite athletes, team sports, economic viability, and changes since Title IX.

WMNST 560. Women in Muslim Societies (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Socio-political status of women in Muslim societies in Middle East, North Africa, and Asia; women in the Quran; Muslim women's movements.

WMNST 565. Women: Health, Healing, and Medicine (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Relationship of women to "modern" and "traditional" health care/healing systems in historical and cultural perspective. Representations and practices regarding the politics of women's health and illness.

WMNST 570. Gender, War, and Peace (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Interdisciplinary exploration of women's relation to war, peace, and militarism; women's peace activism and beliefs about motherhood; women's roles in armed conflicts; effects of war on women; military policy and beliefs about masculinity.

WMNST 572. Women and Violence (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Forms of violence against and by women. Processes which shape women's resistance to, and collusion in, social, economic, political, and sexual violence.

WMNST 580. Women, Development, and the Global Economy (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Women's roles as agents and recipients of global economic and political change focusing on women's empowerment, work, health, and the environment. Topics include women's movements worldwide and non-governmental organizations.

WMNST 581. Women's Experiences of Migration (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Gender analysis of impact of international migration on women's lives. Identity formation, trauma, language, gender roles, and sexuality in life narratives of immigrant and refugee women. Economic and legal issues affecting immigrant and refugee women.

WMNST 582. Feminist Science and Activism (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Feminist science studies to examine role of public in creating and challenging scientific knowledge. Case studies of activism and science. May include HIV/AIDS, the environment, sex differences, women's health, and technology.

WMNST 585. Local Feminist Activism and Organizations (3)

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in women's studies.

Links scholarly knowledge about feminist activism and non-profit organizations serving women to specific information about San Diego area. Entering workforce preparation and activism to include economic justice, LGBTQ issues, reproductive rights and justice, sexual violence.

WMNST 590. Feminist Thought (3)

Prerequisites: Six upper division units in women's studies.

Readings of feminist theory in historical perspective, with attention to contemporary debates in feminist scholarship.

WMNST 596. Topics in Women's Studies (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Advanced topics in women's studies. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

WMNST 597. Research Project (3)

Prerequisites: Six upper division units in women's studies and consent of adviser.

Individual research project.

WMNST 598. Women's Studies Internship (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Three upper division units in women's studies and consent of instructor.

Application of women's studies theories and scholarship to community service and activism. Internship includes 120 hours of work in local public and private agencies serving women and girls. Maximum credit six units.

GRADUATE COURSES**WMNST 601. Foundations of Feminist Scholarship (3)**

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Theories, issues, and major paradigms underlying feminist scholarship. Development of women's studies as a discipline. Emphasis on multicultural approaches and perspectives.

WMNST 602. Seminar: Methods of Inquiry in Women's Studies (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Examination and critique of traditional research methods; methods of critical feminist investigation; designs of research proposals.

WMNST 603. Seminar: Advanced Feminist Theory (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Analysis of categories of contemporary feminist theory including concepts of identity and difference; theories of subjectivity; feminist discourses, strategies, and practices.

WMNST 604. Seminar: Gender, Culture, and Representation (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Representations of women, gender, and femininity in literature, art, music, and other cultural productions. Interconnection between representations of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexualities. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

WMNST 605. Seminar: Women and Social Policy (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Laws and social policies impacting women and their families in historical and political context. Theoretical and practical implications to include workplace issues, economic justice, health, reproductive justice, violence, and regulation of sexuality and relationships.

WMNST 606. Seminar: Narrating Women's Lives (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Exploration of women's biographies and autobiographies. Theories of narration, identity construction, and oral and written life histories. Interconnection between self-presentation and social, historical, and multicultural institutions and discourses.

WMNST 607. Seminar: Privilege and Oppression (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

How gender, culture, ethnicity, class, religion, sexualities, and physical challenges define interplay of privilege and oppression. Theoretical and practical implications discussed.

WMNST 608. Seminar: Body Politics (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Historical exploration illuminates contemporary and past constructions of female, male, and transgendered sexualities. Facilitates ability to critique "innate" vs. culturally constructed behaviors and identities. Key institutions that control and define the body explored: labor, race, economics, law, and medicine.

WMNST 609. Seminar: Transnational Issues and Gender (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Globalization of economy, culture, and politics with a focus on women's lives. Case studies of effect of transnational processes on women and role of gender in shaping these processes.

WMNST 610. Seminar in Sexuality (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Sexuality and gender identity in diverse individual, social, political, and cultural contexts.

WMNST 611. Seminar: Gender and Diaspora (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Historical and interdisciplinary perspectives on gendered impact of forcible migration (African, Asian, Jewish). Scholarly debates concerning influence of men's and women's experiences of diaspora on modern political identities, social movements, and cultural production. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

WMNST 612. Seminar: Feminist Pedagogies (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Feminist and interrelated critical pedagogies and their application in the classroom. Teaching from social justice, intersectional, and transnational approaches. Role of identity, difference, power, and embodiment in teaching and learning. Practical teaching skills and wholistic classroom strategies.

WMNST 692. Writing Workshop (1)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Argument, norms, and styles in academic writing. Maximum credit three units.

WMNST 696. Selected Topics in Women's Studies (3-6)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Intensive study in specific areas of women's studies, with emphasis on theoretical and methodological issues. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

WMNST 797. Research (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy and written approval of department graduate adviser.

Independent research in a specialized subject in women's studies.

WMNST 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Consent of staff; to be arranged with department chair and instructor.

Independent study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

WMNST 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

WMNST 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

WMNST 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.

Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master's degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.