

# GENDER STUDIES

Wabash College is committed to preparing its students for leadership and service in a diverse and changing society. As part of that commitment, the minor in Gender Studies equips students with vocabulary and theories to investigate the social, cultural, and biological factors that constitute gender and sexual identity. Through Gender Studies, students explore people's experiences, perspectives, and voices by analyzing variations in gender roles that occur across cultures and over time, examining relationships between biological differences and social power, and investigating the complex interaction of gender with race, class, and culture. Gender Studies also involves a critical investigation of strategies that aim to transform unjust or coercive social systems based on gender. As an interdisciplinary field, Gender Studies students undertake a systematic and critical analysis of gender issues across academic disciplines. The program is administered by the Gender Studies Minor Steering Committee.

Wabash College students who participate in the minor in Gender Studies will enhance their preparation for careers in a wide variety of areas. These include, but are not limited to, human services, law, government, teaching, the arts, clinical work, social work, public relations, advertising, and journalism. Some graduates with expertise in Gender Studies may also pursue further study of gender as graduate students in a wide range of academic fields.

## Program Learning Goals

- 1. Gender Studies Vocabulary and Theories:** Students will explain gender studies vocabulary and theories.
- 2. Gender Studies as Interdisciplinary:** Students will examine gender and sexuality through multiple factors and disciplinary lenses.
- 3. Critical Thinking:** Students will evaluate and/or build ideas about gender, sex, and/or sexuality.
- 4. Diversity, Power, and Responsibility:** Students will recognize how power functions in relation to diverse genders, sexes, and/or sexualities. This recognition will help students understand how to promote equality.

## Requirements for the Minor

Code	Title	Credits
GEN-101	Introduction to Gender Studies	1
Electives		3
Three credits from at least two different departments.		
GEN-102	Human Sexual Behavior	
GEN-103	Seminars in Theater	
GEN-104	Intro to Philosophy: Nature	
GEN-105	Fatherhood	
GEN-209	Special Topics: Behavioral Sciences	
GEN-212	World Cinema	
GEN-230	Topics in Modern Europe	
GEN-302	Adv Topics:World&Comp History	
GEN-303	Gender and Communication	
GEN-324	Advanced Topics: American History	
GEN-400	Seminar in English Lit	
Capstone <sup>1</sup>		1

GEN-490 Gender Studies Capstone

Total Credits

5

<sup>1</sup> This class will be offered every other year when there are at least three junior or senior students completing the minor. If there are fewer students, the capstone will be offered as an independent study project.

Each student's program will be approved and supervised by the Gender Studies Minor Steering Committee, and a member of this committee may serve as secondary field examiner on the senior oral examination.

Occasional courses (Special Topics or other courses of particular relevance to Gender Studies) may also count toward this requirement with the approval of the Gender Studies Minor Steering Committee. Interested students should consult with a member of the Gender Studies Minor Steering Committee for advice regarding relevant courses and the frequency of offerings. Students should also consult the Academic Bulletin and semester-by-semester information from the Registrar's office regarding when courses are offered.

Students are encouraged to take Gender Studies 101 in their freshmen or sophomore year, and to complete as much of the minor as possible before enrolling in the Capstone course in their junior or senior year. (The course is offered every other year.)

### GEN-101 Introduction to Gender Studies

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of gender studies by exploring questions about the meaning of gender in society. The course will familiarize students with the central issues, questions and debates in Gender Studies scholarship by analyzing themes of gendered performance and power in law, culture, education, work, health, social policy and the family. Key themes may include but are not limited to the relationship between sex and gender, the legal and social workings of the private / public distinction, the way that disciplinary practices code certain behaviors as masculine or feminine, the intersection of gender with race and ethnicity, the gendered structure of power, the tension between difference and equality, the production and circulation of gender expectations in the media, and the contested role of the law in achieving equality. By course end, students will understand central themes and debates in the field of gender studies, demonstrate a facility with basic terms and concepts of the field, apply methods of analyzing gender to society and to their own life experiences and communicate effectively about these issues in writing and speech

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credit:** 1

**Distribution:** Literature/Fine Arts, History/Philosophy/Religion, Global Citizenship, Justice, and Diversity

### GEN-102 Human Sexual Behavior

An overview of human sexual anatomy, development, function, and diversity. Emphasis is on the psychological aspects of sexuality including the study of attitudes towards sexuality, sexual preference, love and marriage, contraception, and commercial sex. Particular attention is paid to the development and enactment of sex roles, the construction of gender, and sex differences.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-103 Seminars in Theater**

These seminars focus on specific topics in theater and film. They are designed to introduce students to the liberal arts expressed by noteworthy pioneers and practitioners in theater and film.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-104 Intro to Philosophy: Nature**

This course will serve as an introduction to philosophy by examining the ways philosophers have used nature historically to justify the social order: by identifying essences that prescribe roles, legitimating social hierarchy by dividing the world between what is closer to nature and what overcomes or surpasses nature, distinguishing between good and natural actions and bad and unnatural ones, and distinguishing between culture and the material of culture. This course will examine the philosophical positions behind these claims and critiques of these positions. The course will take up the example of gender at various places across the semester to think about the implications of various conceptions of nature in the history of philosophy. Students are discouraged from taking more than one course numbered 109 or below.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credit:** 1

**Distribution:** History/Philosophy/Religion, Global Citizenship, Justice, and Diversity

**Equated Courses:** PHI-104

**GEN-105 Fatherhood**

An introduction to the psychological research into issues surrounding fatherhood. Topics to be covered include the role of fathers in children's development, the effect of being a father on adult development, men's views on fatherhood, the effect of fatherhood on romantic relationships, and balancing work and home life.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credit:** 1

**Distribution:** Behavioral Science

**Equated Courses:** PSY-105

**GEN-171 Special Topics**

It may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval. Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credit:** 1

**GEN-200 Special Topics**

Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-209 Special Topics: Behavioral Sciences**

Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credit:** 1

**GEN-210 Topics in American History**

Since the content of this course varies from semester to semester, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-212 World Cinema**

The course will survey non-Hollywood international movements in the history of cinema. It will explore issues of nation, history, culture, identity and their relation to questions of film production and consumption in contemporary film culture. Emphasis will be placed on major directors, films, and movements that contributed to the development of narrative cinema internationally. The course will investigate a variety of genres and individual films, paying close attention to their aesthetic, historical, technological and ideological significance. For example, African cinema introduces themes of colonialism, resistance and post-colonial culture, while the New Iranian Cinema articulates problems of politics and censorship within a new national film culture.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credit:** 1

**GEN-230 Topics in Modern Europe**

Various topics on gender, sex and/or sexuality in modern Europe. Since the content of this course varies from semester to semester, it may be repeated upon the instructor's approval. Refer to the Course Descriptions document on the Registrar's webpage for topics and descriptions of current offerings.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-231 Intermediate Topics in Political Theory**

Intermediate course on a topic in political theory focusing on gender, sex and/or sexuality. Topics vary from semester to semester. Refer to the Course Descriptions document on the Registrar's web page for topics and descriptions of current offerings.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-270 Special Topics: Lit/Fine Arts**

It may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval. Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**Distribution:** Literature/Fine Arts

**GEN-277 Special Topics**

It may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval. Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-300 Studies in Multicult/Nat'l Lit**

Toni Morrison and the African American Novel. This course is about one thing, reading Toni Morrison's novels and her literary essays. In the process, we will explore the features of what Morrison calls the African American novel. We will also come to see and understand Morrison's mastery of craft and subject in the production of amazing stories that speak the "truth in timbre. The goals are to read, learn and grow in your understanding of the possibilities and limitations of rendering a people's lived experience in language. Jewish American Literature. The contributions of Jewish American writers and filmmakers have been pervasive and significant. We will read selected fiction, poetry and plays, and see films that focus on the Jewish American experience. Authors and filmmakers may include Philip Roth, Bernard Malamud, Cynthia Ozick, David Mamet, Allen Ginsberg, and Woody Allen. African American Literature: Introduction. This course explores various genres of African American Literature. Emphasis is placed on works that reflect the socio-historical development of African American life. Poetry, Slave narratives, autobiographies, novels, plays, musical lyrics, and spoken word form the subject of study in the course. Special attention is given to works of fiction that become motion pictures and the emerging area of audio books. The aim of the course is to provide students with a sense of the historical and contemporary developments within African American literature. Students are introduced to African American critical theory as well as African American history. Pen and Protest: Literature and Civil Rights. This course takes a literary approach to the study of the civil rights movement. Students will examine the autobiographies, plays, novels, and other various artistic expressions of the mid-1950s through 1980. The aim of the course is to explore the use of literature and art as means of political, cultural, and religious expression. Students are introduced to critical theory as well as black studies.

**Prerequisites:**

ENG-105,106,107,109,160,214,215,216,217,218,219,220,260, or 297

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-302 Adv Topics:World&Comp History**

It may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval. Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

**Prerequisites:** 0.5 credit from HIS

**Credit:** 1

**Distribution:** History/Philosophy/Religion

**GEN-303 Gender and Communication**

As a culture, we often we take gender for granted. Yet, we live in a culture where men and women are molded and shaped by communicative practices and mass-mediated representations that generate our ideals of masculinity and femininity. This class examines this process-providing a platform for students to reflect upon gender formation and develop a theoretical vocabulary for describing this process. By the end of the semester, class participants will develop a more sophisticated understanding of the manner in which gendered messages and practices have shaped perceptions of their symbolic universe.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credit:** 1

**Equated Courses:** RHE-360

**GEN-304 Studies in Special Topics**

Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

**Prerequisites:** One Wabash Literature course

**Credit:** 1

**GEN-324 Advanced Topics: American History**

This course provides opportunities for small group and independent work in intensive study of selected topics in American history. Since the content of this course varies from semester to semester, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval. Refer to the Course Descriptions document on the Registrar's webpage for topics and descriptions of current offerings.

**Prerequisites:** HIS-240, HIS-241, HIS-242, HIS-244, or HIS-245

**Credit:** 1

**Distribution:** History/Philosophy/Religion

**GEN-400 Seminar in English Lit**

Refer to Student Planning and the Registrar's webpage for topics and descriptions of current offerings.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credit:** 1

**GEN-487 Independent Study**

Individual research projects. The manner of study will be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor. Students must receive written approval of their project proposal from a department Chair before registering for the course.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-488 Independent Study**

Individual research projects. The manner of study will be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor. Students must receive written approval of their project proposal from a department Chair before registering for the course.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Credits:** 0.5-1

**GEN-490 Gender Studies Capstone**

Seminar in Gender Studies

**Prerequisites:** GEN-101

**Credit:** 1

**Distribution:** Global Citizenship, Justice, and Diversity

## Gender Studies Minor Steering Committee

Jennifer Abbott, Rhetoric, chair

Mollie Ables, Music

Crystal Benedicks, English

Eric Freeze, English, *fall*

Cara Healey, Modern Languages, *spring*

Lorraine McCrary, Political Science

Eric Olofson, Psychology

Noe Pliengo Campos, History

Michelle Rhoades, History

Agata Szczeszak-Brewer, English, *spring*

Adriel Trott, Philosophy

Heidi Winters Vogel, Theater

Julian Whitney, English

The Gender Studies Minor Steering Committee is typically composed of faculty who teach regularly for the minor. In order to develop a stable sense of identity for this interdisciplinary program, the general expectation is that to teach for the minor, faculty will serve on the committee. We recognize that this creates an additional obligation for those faculty, but the expectations for steering committee members are light. Faculty serving on the committee, and thus teaching for the minor, are expected to

- teach a course once every three years
- attend a meeting once a semester to discuss administrative matters regarding the minor
- publicize the minor with students

In the event that a faculty member who is unable to meet these obligations wishes to offer or cross-list a gender studies course, they are welcome to submit their courses to the steering committee for consideration. While we make exceptions for extenuating circumstances, we encourage faculty who plan to teach courses that they want cross-listed on a regular basis to join the committee. The minor values regularity and predictability of courses and commitment of faculty above a wide range of offerings.