

Women's and Gender Studies

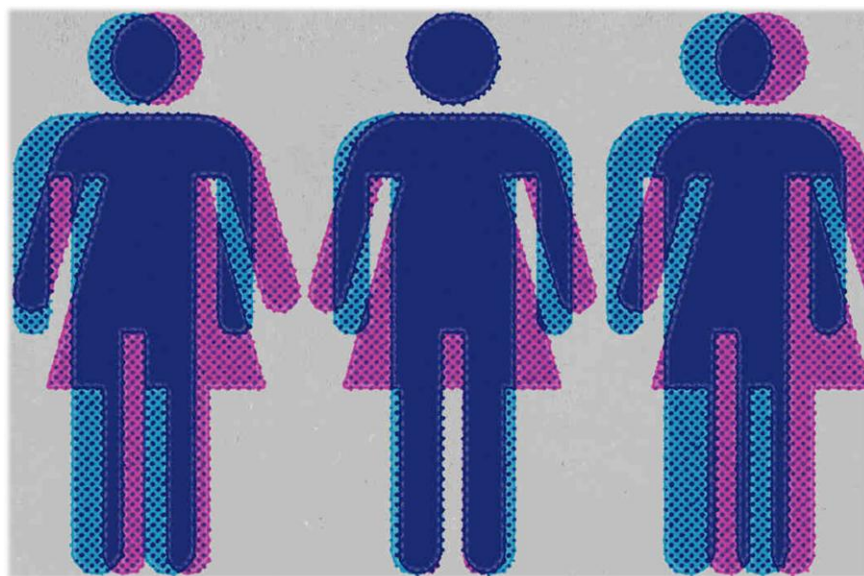
Handbook 2015-2016



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Mission and Learning Goals

Mission

The Women's and Gender Studies Program offers students an opportunity to engage in two important and interrelated areas of study. Students in the concentration will examine those aspects of experience—e.g., the lives and works of women, the experiences of gays and lesbians—that have traditionally been underrepresented (if not invisible) in academic studies.

Students will also examine gender as a cultural phenomenon: as a system of ideas defining "masculinity" and "femininity," delineating differences between "the sexes," as well as "normal" expressions of sexuality. In the process, students will encounter some fundamental methodologies of women's and gender studies, and work toward an increasingly rich understanding of gender as a social construction, one that intersects with class, race, age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, and sexual identity. In addition, students will explore the methods and concepts of women's and gender studies in a variety of academic disciplines, integrating, for instance, sociology, psychology, literature, the biological sciences, and art history.

From the debates between Wollstonecraft and Rousseau to the homosocial worlds of Walker's *Color Purple* and Melville's *Moby Dick*, from Barbara McClintock's work in genetics to the gendered symbolism of Mozart's "Magic Flute," students will come to understand how questions of gender are deeply embedded in the liberal arts tradition.

The Women's and Gender Studies Program encourages and enables students to take responsibility for their own learning. Toward this end, courses in the program will invite students to participate in a range of collaborative work. This culminates in the senior seminar, where students determine the content and intellectual direction of the course as a whole. Ultimately, students are encouraged to acquire a sophisticated insight into the consequences of the social construction of gender for both women and men, an insight that empowers them to engage and question the pervasive role of gender in their own lives and communities.

Learning Goals

1. Both in speech and writing, students should demonstrate an understanding of gender as a pervasive social construction and of how it intersects with other social and cultural identities, such as class, race, age, ethnicity, nationality, and sexuality.
2. Students should be able to apply this gender analysis to questions raised in disciplines across the liberal arts curriculum.
3. Students should be able to use a gender analysis to integrate seemingly disparate elements (disciplines) across the liberal arts curriculum.
4. Students should increasingly take more responsibility for their own learning.
5. Students should demonstrate an ability to collaborate with others in learning.
6. Students should be able to effect change both in their own lives and in their communities.

Information for First-Year Students

First-year students ordinarily begin with WGS 111: The Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies. This wide-ranging interdisciplinary course helps students develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender. Drawing on both scholarly and personal texts, visual as well as written artifacts, the course emphasizes diverse women's significant contributions to knowledge and culture; it explores topics in gender studies including men's studies, family studies, and the study of sexuality, as well as the intersections of various forms of oppression both within and outside of the U.S. Students will consider how racism, heterosexism, and homophobia intersect with the cultural constructions of masculinity and femininity, as well as ways to promote more egalitarian gender relations.

General Education & Diversification Requirements

Courses in the Women's and Gender Studies Program may count toward students' collegiate diversification requirements in either social sciences or humanities only as outlined below. WGS 221 paired with any other WGS course will satisfy the humanities diversification requirement.

Any two WGS courses, not including WGS 221, paired will satisfy social sciences diversification.

The Major and the Concentration

The Program offers both a major and a concentration. In each case students will take courses not only in the Women's and Gender Studies Program but also in other academic departments. The courses from these other departments that count toward the major or concentration vary from year to year.

Other Opportunities

Women's and Gender Studies majors and concentrators study abroad in a wide variety of programs, including Antioch College's Women's and Gender Studies program in Europe. The Women's and Gender Studies Program is governed by an advisory board that welcomes student participation in the administration of the program.

The program participates in activities sponsored with both the Crozier Center for Women and Unity House. Both offer opportunities for students to make connections between their academic program and the co-curriculum.



Major Requirements

Requirements for the Major

Credits: 5 units will be required for the major

1. Introductory requirement: .5 unit

WGS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

2. Mid-level requirements: 1 unit

WGS 330 Feminist Theory

WGS 331 Gender, Power and Knowledge: Research Practices

3. Diversity and globalization: 1 unit

Students must take two courses that focus on the social and cultural issues of U.S. and/or world peripheral communities. Consult the director for a list of courses that may be applied to this requirement.

4. Cluster: 2 units

Majors will be required to declare in writing a cluster of related courses that will form the foundation of their major. These clusters might be largely disciplinary (Spanish area studies, English literature, psychology), or they might be interdisciplinary (sexuality, international studies, American studies, biosocial sexual study of gender). Upon supplying a justification and obtaining permission of the program director, students may count .5 unit of non-WGS courses toward this cluster requirement. Some examples of clusters chosen by majors include Women, Law, and Politics; Queer Theory; Women and Islam; Gender and the Environment; and Gender, Class, and the State.

6. Senior Colloquium: .5 unit

WGS 481 (Senior Colloquium) examines a topic central to feminist thought. It includes current feminist texts and incorporates multidisciplinary analyses of race, class, and sexuality, in addition to gender. The course culminates in a public presentation by colloquium members. Senior majors and concentrators will meet in the fall to design the colloquium, which will be offered spring semester.

7. Senior Exercise



Concentration Requirements

Requirements for the Concentration

Credits: 3 units of courses in women's and gender studies

1. Either WGS 330 (Feminist Theory) or WGS 331 (Gender, Power and Knowledge: Research Practices)
2. WGS 481 (Senior Colloquium). See description, above.
3. Electives: Four approved courses which must be spread over at least two divisions of the College. No more than 1 unit in a single department may count toward this requirement.

Honors

The major who wishes to participate in the Honors Program must have an overall GPA of 3.33, and 3.5 in the major. The candidate in honors will complete all requirements for the major as well as the Senior Exercise. He or she will take two semesters of independent study and will design and complete a research project. This project should integrate both feminist theory and methodologies, as well as the student's chosen disciplinary or interdisciplinary cluster. Each honors student will prepare an annotated bibliography on her or his chosen project during the fall term. After approval, the senior honors project will be undertaken in consultation with a project advisor.

We encourage students to think boldly and innovatively about the kinds of projects they undertake and about how those projects interact with and benefit their communities. Senior honors projects might include gender-focused sociological or historical studies undertaken locally; exhibitions, productions, or installations of gender-exploratory art, music, or theater; or political, social, and/or environmental service-oriented or activist work. Students will be closely mentored throughout their projects and, in the spring, will be evaluated by an external evaluator and by faculty in the program and in relevant disciplines. The evaluators will assess the strength of the students' overall work, as well as the strength of their self-designed, project-appropriate public presentations of that work.

Senior Exercise

The Senior Exercise for the major in women's and gender studies consists of:

1. Designing and planning the Senior Colloquium (WGS 481) in the fall.
2. Creating an annotated bibliography reflecting the specialization and cluster chosen by each student, due at the end of the fall semester. The annotated bibliography should be interdisciplinary and consist of the most relevant and current research applicable to the student's chosen interdisciplinary cluster. Accompanying the bibliography will be a five-page essay introducing the bibliography and discussing the state of the field as well as areas that warrant further research.
3. Passing the Senior Colloquium (WGS 481) in the spring.

WGS Courses

WGS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Credit: 0.5

This course will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in recent scholarship are arising. It will provide students with critical frameworks for thinking about the social construction of gender at the personal and institutional levels. Emphasis will be placed on diverse women's significant contributions to knowledge and culture; to other areas of gender studies, including men's studies, family studies, and the study of sexuality; and to the intersections of various forms of oppression both within and outside of the U.S. The course will include both scholarly as well as personal texts, visual as well as written text. Offered every semester.

WGS 121 Human Sexualities

Credit: 0.5

This course is designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking and writing about issues related to sexual orientation. The course will take a broad view, examining sexuality from legal, psychological, biological, cultural, ethical, philosophical, and phenomenological frameworks. We will look at the emerging fields of the history of sexuality and queer theory, out of which some of the most innovative and challenging developments in modern cultural studies are arising. No prerequisite. Offered every other year.

WGS 150 Gender and Popular Culture

Credit: 0.5 QR

In this class we will examine how popular culture (e.g., media) represents gender through making observations, reading background theory, examining content analysis research, and conducting some of our own research. We will examine the extent to which popular culture depicts gender-stereotyped behavior, the content of the gender stereotypes, the possible reasons why stereotypes are portrayed, and the likely effects of these stereotypes on the behavior of individuals and the structure of society. To the extent that it is possible, we will examine the intersection of stereotypes about gender with those associated with race/ethnicity, social class, age, and sexuality. This course satisfies the quantitative reasoning requirement because students will learn about descriptive statistics and put them to use by conducting their own content analysis (in a small group) and presenting and writing about the results of their research. There is also a service learning component to the course in that students will develop a media literacy lesson for high school students based on what they learn about their topic. The lesson could potentially be used by the DELTA Project of Mount Vernon in their efforts to prevent intimate partner violence and sexual violence (if applicable). This course satisfies a requirement in the Women's and Gender Studies major and concentration. This course is designed for first-year students. No prerequisite.

WGS 221 Gender and Film

Credit: 0.5

This course explores the representation and construction of gender in and through film. Adopting both an historical and theoretical approach, we will focus on how masculinity and femininity, in their various forms and combinations, are signified, how the gender of both the character and the spectator is implicated in the cinematic gaze, and how gender characterizations inform and

reflect the larger culture/society surrounding the film. A wide variety of cinematic traditions will be discussed, and, although Hollywood films will form the base of the course, other national and regional cinemas will be explored, through both the screening of full-length films and numerous excerpts of others. No prerequisite. Note: This course requires attendance at weekly film showings in addition to regular class meetings; students will register for two class periods, one of which will be used for screening films. Offered every other year.

WGS 232 Topics in Masculinity

Credit: 0.5

Through focus on a specific topic, this course will explore how men's lives are shaped by and shape the gendered social order. Macro and micro perspectives will guide discussions focusing on how men behave in particular contexts and how they perceive themselves, other men, and women in diverse situations. Specific topics investigating the production of masculinities will take into account the interplay among the cultural, interpersonal, and individual layers of social life while considering how men's efforts are enabled or constrained by key socially relevant characteristics (primarily age, race/ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation) through investigations, for instance, of particular sites (e.g., playgrounds, work space, home, schools, athletic venues, prisons). The topic for 2014-15 will be fraternities.

WGS 242 Transnational Feminisms

Credit: 0.5

This course examines the impact of globalization on feminist discourses that describe the cross-cultural experiences of women. Transnational feminist theories and methodologies destabilize Western feminisms, challenging notions of subjectivity and place and their connections to experiences of race, class, and gender. The course builds on four key concepts: development, democratization, cultural change, and colonialism. Because transnational feminisms are represented by the development of women's global movements, the course will consider examples of women's global networks and the ways in which they destabilized concepts like citizenship and rights. We will also examine how transnational feminisms have influenced women's productions in the fields of literature and art. Key questions include: How does the history of global feminisms affect local women's movements? What specific issues have galvanized women's movements across national and regional borders? How do feminism and critiques of colonialism and imperialism intersect? What role might feminist agendas play in addressing current global concerns? How do transnational feminisms build and sustain communities and connections to further their agendas? Prerequisite: WGS 111 or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

WGS 330 Feminist Theory

Credit: 0.5

In this course, we will read both historical and contemporary feminist theory with the goal of understanding the multiplicity of feminist approaches to women's experiences, the representation of women, and women's relative positions in societies. Theoretical positions that will be represented include liberal feminism, cultural feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, socialist feminism, and poststructuralist feminism. In addition, we will explore the relationship of these theories to issues of race, class, sexual preference, and ethnicity through an examination of the theoretical writings of women of color and non-Western women. Prerequisite: Any WGS course, any approved departmental course, or permission of instructor. Offered every year.

WGS 331 Gender, Power, And Knowledge: Research Practices

Credit: 0.5

This class will examine feminist critiques of dominant methodologies and theories of knowledge creation in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. It will focus on the following questions: How do we know something? Who gets to decide what counts as knowledge? Who is the knower? In answering these questions this class will explore how power is exercised in the production of knowledge, how the norms of objectivity and universalism perpetuate dominance and exclusion, why women and other minority groups are often seen as lacking epistemic authority, and what it means to have knowledge produced from a feminist standpoint. Participants in the class will learn a variety of methods and use these methods in a group research project. In addition, we will discuss various ethical issues that feminist researchers often encounter and what responsibilities feminist researchers have to the broader political community. Prerequisite: Any WGS course, any approved departmental course, or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

WGS 481 Senior Colloquium

Credit: 0.5

The senior colloquium is organized around a theme determined by senior majors and concentrators in consultation with the instructor during the semester prior to the beginning of the course. Previous topics include "Women and Madness," "The Politics of the Bathroom," and "Gender and Tourism." Prerequisite: WMNS/WGS 330 or 331 or permission of instructor. Offered every spring.

WGS 493 Individual Study

Credit: 0.25-0.5

Individual study enables students to examine an area not typically covered by courses regularly offered in the program. Typically, such students are juniors or seniors who have sufficient research and writing skills to work very independently. The course can be arranged with a faculty member in any department but must conform to the usual requirements for credit in the program: gender is a central focus, and the course draws on feminist theory and/or feminist methodologies. The amount of work should be similar to that in any other 400-level course. To enroll, a student should first contact a faculty member and, in consultation with that professor, develop a proposal. The proposal, which must be approved by the program director, should provide: a brief description of the course/project (including any previous classes that qualify the student), a preliminary bibliography or reading list, an assessment component (what will be graded and when), and major topical areas to be covered during the semester. The student and faculty member should plan to meet approximately one hour per week or the equivalent, at the discretion of the instructor. Proposals should be planned well in advance, preferably the semester before the proposed project.

WGS 497 Senior Honors

Credit: 0.5

The major who wishes to participate in the honors program must have an overall GPA of 3.33 and a GPA of 3.5 in the major. The candidate in honors will complete all requirements for the major, the Senior Exercise, and two semesters of independent study, and will design and complete a research project. This project should integrate both feminist theory and methodologies as well as the student's chosen disciplinary or interdisciplinary cluster.

Each honors student will prepare an annotated bibliography on her or his chosen project midway through the fall semester. After approval, the senior honors project will be undertaken in consultation with a project advisor. Students are encouraged to think boldly and innovatively about the kinds of projects they undertake and about how those projects interact with and benefit their communities. Senior honors projects might include gender-focused sociological or historical studies undertaken locally; exhibitions, productions, or installations of gender-exploratory art, music, or theater; or political, social, and/or environmental service-oriented or activist work. Students will be closely mentored throughout their projects and, in the spring, will be evaluated by an external evaluator and by faculty in the program and in relevant disciplines. The evaluators will assess the strength of the students' overall work, as well as the strength of their self-designed, project-appropriate public presentations of that work.



Four Year Course Listing

2012-2016

Below are listed the departmental courses that count toward the WGS major and concentration between 2012 and 2016. * indicates the courses that count toward the diversity requirements for the major.

FALL 2012

*ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture *Suggs*
BIOL 103 Biology in Science Fiction *Slonczewski*
CLAS 471 Senior Seminar: Women in Antiquity *Hahnemann*
ENGL 103.09 Seductions *Lobanov-Rostovsky*
ENGL 103.13 What's Love Got to Do With It? *O'Neill*
ENGL 291 Gender Benders *Murthy*
ENGL 491 Body Politics: Transgender and Disability Narrative *O'Neill*
HIST 208 Women in American History *Coulibaly*
*PSYC 327 Cross Cultural Psychology—Rome *Lopez*
SOCY 491 Special Topic: Gender, Family, and State *K. Mason*

SPRING 2013

ENGL 254 Literary Women: 19th C. British Literature *Mankoff*
ENGL 453 Jane Austen *Carson*
PSCI 380 Gender and Politics *Erler*
PSYC 346 Psychology of Women *Murnen*
RLST 329 Christian Mysticism *Suydam*
*RUSS 340 Russian Culture Through Cinema *Olshanskaya*
*SPAN 383 Travel Narratives and Cultural Encounters in L.A. *Sierra*
*SPAN 380 Introduction to Chicano/a Cultural Studies *Roman-Odio*

FALL 2013

*ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture *Suggs*
ECON 378 Economics of Women and Work *Krynski*
ENGL 103.13 What's Love Got to Do with It *O'Neill*
*ENGL 103.15 Queer Identities *Rogers*
*ENGL 386 Toni Morrison *Schoenfeld*
ENGL 391 US Fiction in 19th Century *T. Mason*
ENGL 469 Atwood and Ondaatje *Laycock*
*HIST 373 Women of the Atlantic World *Coulibaly*
PSYC 321 Abnormal Psychology *Lopez*
PSYC 342 Clinical Psychology *Lopez*

SPRING 2014

ENGL 103.13 What's Love Got to Do with It *O'Neill*

*ENGL 284 Demons, Great Whites and Aliens: Representing American Fear *I. Garcia*

ENGL 291 Love, Sex, and Desire in Medieval Romance *O'Neill*

ENGL 384 Imagining America in the Novel, 1900-1952 *Mason*

*PSYC 328 Latino Psychology *Lopez*

RLST 491 Blood, Power, and Gender in Christianity *Suydam*

SPAN 353 The Literature of National Experience: Argentina *Sierra*

SPAN 371 Gender Identity and Power in Women's Literature *Roman-Odio*

FALL 2014

*ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture *Suggs*

BIOL 103QR Biology in Science Fiction *Slonczewski*

BIOL 104 Biology of Female Sexuality *Edwards*

*CHNS 326 Women of the Inner Chambers *Chengjuan Sun*

*ENGL 214 Gender Benders *Murthy*

*ENGL 286 Transgressive Friendships in American Literature *Schoenfeld*

ENGL 375 From Cooper to Crane *Mason*

ENGL 391.02 The Fourth Genre: Explorations in Literary Journalism *I. Garcia*

*HIST 341 African Women in Film and Fiction *Volz*

JAPN 391 Exploring Cultures in Japan through Gender and Sexuality *Yamasaki*

GERM 366 Cinema & Sexuality in German Film after 1990 *Gebhardt*

*SPAN 360 The Power of Words: Testimonial Literature In L.A. *Sierra*

*SOCY 422 Topics in Social Stratification *Kohlman*

SPRING 2015

ANTH 291 Gender Archaeology *Schwartz*

*BIOL 102 HIV/AIDS in a Global Context *Edwards*

*ENGL 104 Queer Tales, Queer Texts: Reading GLBT Literature *McAdams*

ENGL 210 Proper Ladies and Women Writers *Heidt*

*ENGL 381 Narratives of the Hemisphere *I. Garcia*

ENGL 384 Imagining America in the Novel, 1900-1952 *Mason*

*ENGL 388 Black Women Writers *Schoenfeld*

ENGL 453 Jane Austen *Carson*

*HIST 236 Modern Germany: Gender, Race, and Class *Ablovatski*

JAPN 391 Women, Natives, and Others: Japanese Literature as World Literature *Yamasaki*

PSYC 346 Psychology of Women *Murnen*

SOCY 225 Notions of the Family *Kohlman*

FALL 2015

ANTH 391 Engendering the Past *Schwartz*

BIOL 104 Biology of Female Sexuality *Edwards*

*ENGL 103 Queer Texts, Queer Texts *McAdams*

ENGL 211 Autobiographical Theory and Practice *Hedit*

*ENGL 266 Decolonization and Violence *Fernando*

ENGL 369 Canadian Literature *Laycock*
 ENGL 371 Whitman and Dickinson *Clarvoe*
 *FILM 291 Women in Asia in Film *Vangal*
 HIST 232 Modern European Women's History *Ablovatski*
 PSYC 344 Human Sexual Behavior *Murnen*
 SOCY 241 Sociology of Gender *Kohlman*
 SOCY 291 Women, Crime, and the Law *Sheffield*
 *SPAN 380 Introduction to Chicano/a Cultural Studies *Roman-Odio*
 WGS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender St. *Finke*
 *WGS 121 Human Sexualities *Finke*
 WGS 150 QR Gender and Popular Culture *Murnen*
 *WGS 291 ST: Gender and Domesticity in the U. S. *Walker*

SPRING 2016

*ANTH350 Human Sexuality and Culture *Suggs*
 ARHS 375 Women in Renaissance and Baroque Art *Van Ausdall*
 ENGL 104 What's Love Got to Do With It? *O'Neill*
 ENGL 223 Writing Medieval Women *O'Neill*
 ENGL 240 Early Eighteenth Century Literature *Laycock*
 *ENGL 391 Reading South Asia *Fernando*
 ENGL 491 The Gothic *Laycock*
 HIST 232 Modern European Women's History *Ablovatski*
 ENGL 284 American Fear *Garcia*
 *FREN 340 Identity in the Francophone Novel *Dairon*
 *HIST 370 Women and Gender in the Middle East *Kilik-Schubel*
 PHIL 292 ST: Feminist Philosophy *Lloyd Waller*
 PSYC 346 Psychology of Women *Murnen*
 *SOCY 421 Topics in Social Stratification *Kohlman*
 WGS 111 Introduction to Women's and Gender St. *Finke*
 WGS 221 Gender and Film *Finke*
 WGS 331 Gender, Knowledge, and Power *Erler*
 WGS 481 Senior Colloquium *Staff*



Graduation Inventory for Majors

Use this form to keep track of your course work for your WGS major

Name: _____

Required Courses

WGS 111 – Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies

Semester taken: _____

WGS 330 – Feminist Theory

Semester taken: _____

WGS 331 – Gender, Power, Knowledge: Research Practices

Semester taken: _____

WGS 481 – Senior Colloquium

Semester taken: _____

Diversity Requirement (1 unit)

First Diversity Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Second Diversity Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Cluster Requirement (2 units)

First Cluster Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Second Cluster Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Third Cluster Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Fourth Cluster Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Totals

Total Kenyon unites in WGS major: _____

Total OCS/transfer unit for WGS major: _____

Total Units in WGS: _____

Must add up to at least 5

Please briefly describe the topic of your cluster: _____

Please briefly describe the topic you have chosen for your senior exercise: _____

Graduation Inventory for Concentrators

Use this form to keep track of your course work for your WGS concentration

Name: _____

Required Courses

WGS 330 – Feminist Theory

or

Semester taken: _____

WGS 331 – Gender, Power, and Knowledge: Research Practices

and

WGS 481 – Senior Colloquium

Semester taken: _____

Electives (1 unit)

First Elective Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Second Elective Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Third Elective Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Fourth Elective Course: _____

Semester taken: _____

Special Opportunities for Students

The Molly R. Hatcher Prize

This prize, established in 1989, and renamed in 2000 to honor the memory of Molly Hatcher, is awarded annually for the best work done during the previous calendar year by a current Kenyon student in which gender is a central theme. The work may take any form including, but not limited to, essay, composition, artwork, performance, or scientific study.

Submissions, which need not have been created for a Women's and Gender Studies class, should be accomplished by a letter explaining the work's origins and intent. In the case of the creative and performing arts, an interrelated body of work may count as a single submission. Electronic submissions are preferred. The prize carries a cash prize of \$100 and the winner's name is engraved on a plaque that hangs in O'Connor House.

Off-Campus Study

Women's and Gender Studies majors and concentrators have participated in several overseas programs. Below are some of the locations where our students have studied abroad:

- Trinity College: Dublin, Ireland
- Nepal
- Mali
- Uppsala, Sweden
- Buenos Aires, Argentina