

# Women's and Gender Studies Handbook



*Peace, Pink, Power*, by Cheryl Braganza (2014)

# Table of Contents

<b>Mission and Learning Goals</b>	3
<b>Information for First-Year Students</b>	4
Diversification Requirements	
The Major and the Concentration	
Opportunities for Involvement	
<b>Special Opportunities for Students</b>	5
The Molly R. Hatcher Prize	
Off-Campus Study	
<b>Major Requirements</b>	6
<b>Concentration Requirements</b>	7
<b>Honors</b>	7
<b>WGS Courses</b>	8
Additional Courses in Other Departments	11
<b>Graduation Inventory for Majors</b>	13
<b>Graduation Inventory for Concentrators</b>	14

# 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.

Our other introductory offerings are WGS 121: Human Sexualities and WGS 150: Gender and Popular Culture:

## **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. A list of commonly offered courses can be found on page 11 of this handbook.

## **Opportunities for Involvement**

The Women's and Gender Studies Program is governed by an advisory board that welcomes student participation in the administration of the program. Student representatives to the board play a vital and active role in shaping WGS at Kenyon.

Our Program also participates in activities sponsored with organizations such as the Crozier Center for Women and Unity House, offering opportunities for students to make connections between their academic program and the co-curriculum, along with collaborating with other departments and programs to invite speakers.

We also aim to support our local community through efforts that include our annual Periods and Pampers drive, where we collect period supplies and diapers for New Directions, Knox County's only domestic violence shelter and rape crisis center.

# 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 study abroad with a wide variety of programs—check with the Center for Global Engagement for the current Kenyon-approved list.

Some of the locations where our students have gone include:

- Trinity College: Dublin, Ireland
- Nepal
- Mali
- Uppsala, Sweden
- Buenos Aires, Argentina
- The Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Poland (all in one semester, through the Women's and Gender Studies in Europe Program)



Painting found by Prof. Irene López in Brazil

# Major Requirements

## **Requirements for the Major**

Minimum of 5.25 units required for the major

### **1. Introductory requirement: 0.5 unit**

Any 100-level WGS course (WGS 111: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, WGS 121: Human Sexualities, WGS 150: Gender and Popular Culture)

### **2. Mid-level requirements: 1 unit**

WGS 330: Feminist Theory (0.5)

WGS 331: Gender, Power and Knowledge: Research Practices (0.5)

### **3. Diversity and globalization: 1 unit**

Students must take two courses (1 unit) that focus on the social and cultural issues of U.S. and/or world peripheral communities. Consult the program website and/or the director for a list of courses that may be applied to this requirement.

### **4. Electives: 2 units**

Majors must have two units (usually four courses) of elective courses drawn from at least two departments, one of which can be WGS. Students should consult the listing of all approved courses. For approval of transfer credit and study abroad courses, students should consult the program director.

### **5. Senior Colloquium: 0.75 unit**

WGS 480: Senior Colloquium Planning, a 0.25 unit class during the fall semester that meets once a week to design the colloquium by selecting a topic and curating a syllabus (credit/no credit).

WGS 481: Senior Colloquium, a 0.5 unit class examining 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.

### **6. Senior Capstone**

Majors will give a public presentation on a topic related to the senior colloquium for their senior capstone.

# Concentration Requirements

## Requirements for the Concentration

Minimum of 3.25 units required for the major

- Either WGS 330: Feminist Theory **OR** WGS 331: Gender, Power, and Knowledge: Research Practices (0.5)
- WGS 480: Senior Colloquium Planning (0.25) and WGS 481: Senior Colloquium (0.5). See description in the major requirements.
- Electives: 2 units (four courses), with no more than 1 unit in a single department.



## 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.

# 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 human sexuality. The course will take a broad view, examining sexualities from legal, psychological, biological, cultural, ethical, philosophical and phenomenological frameworks. We will look at the 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. We will examine the way in which sexual practices (and/or the abstinence from such practices) shape and are in turn shaped by identity, as the meaning ascribed by others to individuals and groups actual or presumed involvement in sexual behaviors. This counts towards the introductory and the diversity and globalization requirement for the major. No prerequisite. Course offering is dependent on staffing.

## **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 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. In a service-learning component to the course students will develop a media literacy lesson for high school students based on what they learn about their topic. This course is designed for first-year students. This counts toward the introductory requirement for the major. No prerequisite. Course offering is dependent on staffing.

## **WGS 221 Gender and Film**

*Credit: 0.5*

This course explores the representation and construction of gender in and through film. Adopting both a 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 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. Note: This course requires attendance at weekly film showings in addition to regular class meetings. This course is cross-listed in the Department of Film for diversification purposes. No prerequisite.

### **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). No prerequisite. Course offering is dependent on staffing.

### **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 such as citizenship and rights. We also will 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? This counts toward the diversity and globalization requirement for the major. Prerequisite: Any WGS course 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, cultural, psychoanalytic, socialist 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. This counts towards the concentration and the mid-level requirement for the major. Prerequisite: any WGS course, any approved departmental course or permission of instructor. Offered every other 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 community-based research project. This project will involve working with community partners in Knox County and may require student participation outside of the scheduled class time. In addition, we will discuss various ethical issues that feminist researchers often encounter and what responsibilities feminist researchers have to the broader political community. This course has a community-engaged learning component. Students may be required to travel off-campus for site visits. This counts towards the concentration and the mid-level requirement for the major. Prerequisite: any WGS course, any approved departmental course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

### **WGS 480 Senior Colloquium Planning**

*Credit: 0.25*

This course will provide the opportunity for those students taking WGS 481 in the spring to plan the course. Students will select a topic, order books, plan the syllabus and design a project. In addition, they will read about course design and pedagogy so that they are prepared to take responsibility for collaboratively teaching the course in the spring. This course is offered only on a credit/no credit basis.

### **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: WGS 480 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.

## **Additional Courses That Count Towards The Major Or Concentration**

The classes below are offered regularly and have been approved to meet the elective requirement for both the major and the concentration. (Some of these may also meet the Diversity and Globalization requirement for majors; check our website and/or with the program director.)

AFDS 388: Black British Cultural Studies  
AFDS 410: Between Womanist and Feminist Theories  
ANTH 350: Human Sexuality and Culture  
ARHS 375: Topics in Renaissance and Baroque Art  
ARTS 203: Sculpture and Contemporary Ritual  
DRAM 256: Contemporary Drama  
ECON 378: Economics of Women and Work  
ENGL 210: Proper Ladies and Women Writers  
ENGL 214: Gender Benders  
ENGL 223: Writing Medieval Women  
ENGL 227: Love, Sex and Desire in Medieval Romance  
ENGL 254: Literary Women: 19th-century British Literature  
ENGL 266: Violence and the Body: Narrative Insurgency  
ENGL 286: Transgressive Friendships in American Literature  
ENGL 371: Whitman and Dickinson  
ENGL 381: Another America: Narratives of the Hemisphere  
ENGL 384: Imagining America in the Novel  
ENGL 386: Toni Morrison  
ENGL 388: Studies in 20th-century African American Literature  
ENGL 453: Jane Austen  
FREN 340: Identity in the Francophone Novel

GERM 361: Images of the German Family  
HIST 208: U.S. Women's History  
HIST 236: Modern Germany: Gender, Race, and Class  
HIST 341: African Women in Film and Fiction  
HIST 352: Family and State in East Asia  
HIST 370: Women and Gender in the Modern Middle East  
HIST 373: Women of the Atlantic World  
PSCI 315: Gender and Politics in the U.S.  
PSYC 321: Abnormal Psychology  
PSYC 328: Latino Psychology  
PSYC 346: Psychology of Women  
RLST 328: Women in Christianity  
RLST 329: Christian Mysticism  
SOCY 225: Notions of Family  
SOCY 231: Issues of Gender and Power  
SOCY 232: Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions  
SOCY 241: Sociology of Gender  
SOCY 250: Systems of Stratification  
SOCY 255: Women, Crime and the Law  
SOCY 421: Gender Stratification  
SOCY 422: Topics in Social Stratification  
SOCY 425: Gender and the Welfare State  
SOCY 463: Intersectional Theory  
SPAN 353: The Literature of National Experience in Argentina  
SPAN 355: The Literature of National Experience in Mexico  
SPAN 380: Cultural Productions of the Borderlands

Consult our website for any additions, particularly new courses and Special Topics classes.



# Graduation Inventory for Majors

Use this form to keep track of your coursework for the WGS major

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Required Courses (2.25 units)

Any 100-level WGS course (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

WGS 330: Feminist Theory (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

WGS 331: Gender, Power, and Knowledge (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

WGS 480: Senior Colloquium Planning (0.25) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

WGS 481: Senior Colloquium (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

## Diversity and Globalization (1 unit)

D&G Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

D&G Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

## Electives (2 units)

Elective 1: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Elective 2: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Elective 3: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Elective 4: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5) Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

## Totals

Kenyon units in WGS major: \_\_\_\_\_

OCS/transfer units for WGS major: \_\_\_\_\_

Total units in WGS major: \_\_\_\_\_

*Must add up to at least 5.25*

Briefly describe the topic you have chosen for your senior capstone presentation:

---

---

# Graduation Inventory for Concentrators

Use this form to keep track of your coursework for the WGS concentration.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Required Courses (1.25 units)

WGS 330: Feminist Theory (0.5)

Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

WGS 331: Gender, Power, and Knowledge (0.5)

Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

**AND**

WGS 480: Senior Colloquium Planning (0.25)

Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

WGS 481: Senior Colloquium (0.5)

Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

## Electives (2 units)

Elective 1: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5)

Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Elective 2: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5)

Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Elective 3: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5)

Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Elective 4: \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5)

Semester taken: \_\_\_\_\_

## Totals

Kenyon units in WGS concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

OCS/transfer units for WGS concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

Total units in WGS concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

*Must add up to at least 3.25*