Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

The Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (WGS) promotes interdisciplinary scholarship on women, gender, sexuality, and related issues. The program coordinates a wide array of course offerings for both undergraduate and graduate students. It incorporates non-Western intellectual traditions where gender and sexuality are discussed in relation to class, ethnicity, and race in everyday life, political organization, and situations of violent conflict. The program also provides opportunities for intellectual exchange across disciplines by sponsoring lectures, symposia, seminars, and workshops for faculty and students alike. Through both interdisciplinary and specialized courses, students are encouraged to develop critical and comparative approaches to the study of gender and associated topics; race, class, and violence being among them.

Courses in the program are taught by prominent faculty members from many disciplines and are cross-listed through a variety of departments. New courses are added each year. Recent offerings have included Feminist and Queer Theory, The Poetics and Politics of Sex, and seminars that incorporate non-Western perspectives on religion and sexuality. WGS also offers community-based learning, where students combine volunteer work in a local social service agency with a seminar that explores the connections between social justice and academic inquiry. Each of these courses is offered on a regular basis. Together, they form the basis of a flexible minor. More generally, the minor—which is open to students from any department—aims to help integrate work undertaken across a broad range of offerings in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

A sample of cross-listed courses follows. Not all courses are offered every semester. Complete information regarding the Program for the Study of Women, Gender.

Minor

The requirements for the minor consist of six one-semester courses chosen from the core offerings and the offerings cross-listed with the Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Two core courses are required. In the recent past, the core courses have been Introduction to the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Feminist and Queer Theory, Gender and Health, The Poetics and Politics of Sex, Religion and Gender or Sexuality, and the community-based learning course Working for Social Justice in Contemporary Urban Space. Students must check with the most recent course catalog for a description of the courses constituting the core. Two introductory 100- or 200-level courses may be counted toward the minor. With approval, students may elect to apply two semesters of independent study to fulfill the minor requirements. Courses counted toward the minor can also be used to meet university distribution requirements. Students electing to minor in the Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality may declare their intention to the program at any time, but they are encouraged to seek advice about course selection early in their academic careers.

For current course information and registration go to https://isis.jhu.edu/classes/