

# WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES (WMST)

## 100 Level Courses

**WMST 100:** *Representations of Women*. 3 credits.

Explores ways women are portrayed in advertising, television, film, photographs, cartoons, performance arts, literature, religious texts, and news media from various worldwide sources. Through interdisciplinary study students will evaluate the powerful effects these representations have on the political, economic, and social lives of women throughout the world. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Mason Core:** Global Understanding

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

## 200 Level Courses

**WMST 200:** *Introduction to Women and Gender Studies*. 3 credits.

Interdisciplinary introduction to women's studies, encompassing key concepts in the field, history of women's movements and women's studies in America, cross-cultural constructions of gender, and a thematic emphasis on the diversity of women's experience across class, race, and cultural lines. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Mason Core:** Social/Behavioral Sciences

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

## 300 Level Courses

**WMST 300:** *Current Issues in Women and Gender Studies*. 1-6 credits.

Study of selected topics central to contemporary women and gender studies. Topics vary but include subjects such as women and violence, women and international development, women's myth and ritual, LGBTQ topics, the history and politics of sexuality, psychoanalysis, and religion. Notes: May be repeated for credit when topic is different. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the term.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** WMST 200 or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 303:** *Psychology of Women*. 3 credits.

Behavior and attitudes of women, influence of sex chromosomes and sex hormones on behavior, influence of culture on sex role differentiation, and theories of sex role development. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit. Equivalent to PSYC 362.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** PSYC 100, BIOL 103, 104, or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 306:** *Topics in Communication and Gender*. 3 credits.

Exploration of selected topics involving gender and communication. Topics may include women in media, women as rhetors, male/female communication, and communication and sex roles. Specific interests are examined in a seminar setting. Notes: Course may be repeated with approval of department. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the degree for a maximum 6 credits.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 60 credits.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 307:** *Women and Work*. 3 credits.

Historical and contemporary accounts of women's participation in paid and unpaid labor. Analyzes the nature of women's work through the divisions in the labor market due to gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, and class. Provides a detailed look at occupational sex segregation, sexual harassment, the glass ceiling, and the role of religion, culture, and education in determining women's opportunities and their value as workers and as family providers. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 30 credits.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 308:** *Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, and Queer Studies*. 3 credits.

Explores major events in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, and queer culture and history in the United States and throughout the world to understand how identities, experiences, and movements have been socially constructed and have changed in different times and places, often as a result of race, class, and gender inequities. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 309:** *Black Social Movements: Gendering of Violence and Activism*. 3 credits.

Examines racialized gendered conceptions of popular culture, violence, and the legal system and their role in structuring systems of segregation, discrimination and exclusion. Looks at the gendered strategies and conflicts of organizations that arose to combat racial violence and overturn legal and social barriers to equal opportunity and citizenship rights. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 312:** *Gender, Trauma, and Recovery*. 3 credits.

Explores the experience of emotional trauma, the process of recovery and the etiology of healing in contemporary North American culture. Investigates memoir, poetry, film, and novel as case studies of trauma and examines the effect of gender on traumatic experiences. Applies psychological and feminist theoretical perspectives. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 313:** *Women Who Kill*. 3 credits.

Questions the assumptions that women are nonviolent by nature and commit acts of violence only in response to abuse. Explores the complexity of human interactions through popular culture, literature and film and through theoretical works that attempt to explain female violence (compared to male violence) and as it is seen by others. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 314:** *Stories of Gender and Human Rights*. 3 credits.

Examines global human rights issues through memoir, poetry and fiction. Explores the ways women use literary expression to voice their dissent

and to struggle against human rights violations. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 315:** *Women During the Enslavement Era*. 3 credits.

Examines the general experiences of enslaved women and nominally free women. Includes the lives of female reformers involved in the public arena as orators, writers, preachers, abolitionists and women's rights activists. Explores the effect of gender, class, and race on the development of ideologies concerning abolition, colonization, women's rights, and enslavement. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 316:** *Gendered Pan-Africanism*. 3 credits.

Gendered Pan-Africanism. Explores the writings and activism of African Americans who traveled to Africa in search of a shared cultural past and present or an opportunity to build pan-African allegiances. Examines these encounters within the context of the Cold War, US civil rights and African anti-colonial movements, and racial and gender ideologies of the time. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 330:** *Theoretical Perspectives in Women and Gender Studies*. 3 credits.

Examination of feminist and queer critiques and transformations of the theories, methods, and methodologies of the sciences and humanities. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** WMST 200 or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 390:** *Study Abroad*. 1-3 credits.

Study abroad under supervision of George Mason University faculty. Course topics, content and locations vary. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

## 400 Level Courses

**WMST 400:** *Internship in Women and Gender Studies*. 1-3 credits.

Community- or campus-based service or experiential learning related to women's or gender issues. Independent course in which students develop, in consultation with a faculty member, individual contracts defining the learning and competencies they plan to gain from the experience. Includes a paper and/or portfolio component. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the degree for a maximum 6 credits.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Completion of 60 hours, WMST 200 or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Internship

**WMST 401:** *Experiential Learning in Women and Gender Studies*. 1-3 credits.

Community- or campus-based service or experiential learning as it relates to a specific WMST course, taken at the same time. Students develop, in consultation with faculty member, individual contracts defining learning and competencies they plan to gain from the experience. Notes: Only 3 credits of WMST 400 or 401 may be applied toward the women and

gender studies interdisciplinary minor. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the degree for a maximum 6 credits.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in women and gender studies course and approval of advisor and instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Internship

**WMST 402:** *Queer Theory*. 3 credits.

Challenges rigid categories and definitions in order to create a space for marginalized voices. Examines the inconsistencies and erasures that often characterize notions of sex, gender, sexuality, and sexual desire. Explores categories that intersect with sexualized identities such as race, ethnicity, class, nationality, location, and age. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 405:** *Social Dynamics of Family Violence*. 3 credits.

Through seminar readings, videos, assignments, and class discussions, course explores forms of family violence, including child abuse, elder abuse, and intimate partner, and same-gender couple violence. Includes discussions of intervention, prevention and solutions. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**WMST 406:** *Gender and Violence in Social Institutions*. 3 credits.

Examines gender-based violence in institutions such as the military, prisons, the Catholic Church, sports, and fraternities that share structural qualities including sex segregation, high rates of violence, and internal systems of justice. Concludes by examining strategies to reduce violence in each institution. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**WMST 410:** *Feminist Approaches to Social Research*. 3 credits.

Introduction to feminist approaches to social research for advanced undergraduate students. Students learn the techniques for collecting, analyzing, and writing-up research data as they examine many of the central methodological issues and questions raised by feminist scholars undertaking social research. Because an understanding of how to conduct social research is best gained through experience in the social world, this course emphasizes a learning-by-doing approach. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Specialized Designation:** Scholarly Inquiry

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 60 credits, including 9 credits of WMST courses, or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 411:** *RS: Feminist Research Practice*. 3 credits.

Undertake a semester-long research project investigating an issue of importance to feminist scholarship utilizing a variety of methods typically used by feminist scholars, including quantitative, qualitative, historical, or textual. Enhance understanding of techniques for collecting, analyzing, and writing up empirical material as well as critical engagement with ethical, interpretive, and representational considerations relating to feminist research. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Specialized Designation:** Research/Scholarship Intensive

**Recommended Prerequisite:** WMST 410 or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 427:** *Feminist Political Thought*. 3 credits.

Explores feminist political thought in historical context. Topics include feminist political movements, feminist critiques of political philosophy, and feminist contributions to political theory. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit. Equivalent to GOVT 427, PHIL 427.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** GOVT 101, WMST 200, 3 credits of PHIL, or permission of instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 450:** *Current Topics in Women and Gender Studies*. 1-3 credits.

Studies selected topics central to contemporary women and gender studies. Includes topics such as women and violence, women and international development, women's myth and ritual, LGBTQ topics, the history and politics of sexuality, disability, transnational issues and religion. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the term for a maximum 18 credits.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**WMST 490:** *Independent Study in Women and Gender Studies*. 1-3 credits.

Reading or research on a specific topic related to women and/or gender issues, under the direction of a faculty member. May involve a combination of reading assignments, tutorials, papers, presentations, or off-campus activities. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the degree for a maximum 6 credits.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** WMST 200 or Permission of Instructor.

**Schedule Type:** Independent Study

## 500 Level Courses

**WMST 505:** *Social Dynamics of Family Violence*. 3 credits.

Through seminar readings, videos, assignments, and class discussions, course explores forms of family violence, including child abuse, elder abuse, and intimate partner, and same-gender couple violence. Includes discussions of intervention, prevention and solutions. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**WMST 506:** *Gender and Violence in Social Institutions*. 3 credits.

Examines gender-based violence in institutions such as the military, prisons, the Catholic Church, sports, and fraternities that share structural qualities including sex segregation, high rates of violence, and internal systems of justice. Concludes by examining strategies to reduce violence in each institution. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**WMST 550:** *Current Topics in Women and Gender Studies*. 1-3 credits.

Studies selected topics central to contemporary women and gender studies. Includes topics such as women and violence, women and international development, women's myth and ritual, LGBTQ topics, the history and politics of sexuality, disability, transnational issues and religion. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the term for a maximum 18 credits.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

## 600 Level Courses

**WMST 600:** *Special Topics*. 3 credits.

Study of selected topics central to contemporary women and gender studies. Topics vary but include representation and images, violence, public policy, international development, transmigration of labor, myth and ritual, history and politics of sexuality, psychoanalysis, and religion. Notes: May be repeated for credit when topic is different. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the term.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**WMST 610:** *Feminist Approaches to Social Research*. 3 credits.

Provides an introduction to feminist approaches to social research. Students collect, analyze, and write-up research data as they examine many of the central methodological issues and questions raised by feminist scholars. These include feminist critiques of positivism, feminist standpoint theory, social action research models, and feminist engagements with ethical concerns in doing research with human subjects. Emphasizes a learning-by-doing approach to prepare students to conduct research. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** 3 credits of 600-level WMST courses, or permission of instructor.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 611:** *Feminist Research Practice*. 3 credits.

Undertake a semester-long research project investigating an issue of importance to feminist scholarship utilizing a variety of methods typically used by feminist scholars, including quantitative, qualitative, historical, or textual. Enhance understanding of techniques for collecting, analyzing, and writing up empirical material as well as critical engagement with ethical, interpretive, and representational considerations relating to feminist research. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** WMST 610 or permission of instructor.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**WMST 630:** *Feminist Theories across the Disciplines*. 3 credits.

Multidisciplinary course examines the central issues of feminist theory and explores the various strategies of feminist theorists. Analyzes the ways in which feminist theories have challenged established disciplinary boundaries and contested the traditional assumptions of the humanities, the social sciences, and the sciences. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**WMST 640:** *Women and Global Issues*. 3 credits.

Multidisciplinary course explores the complex issues women face in different regions of the world. Addresses women's diverse and shared global concerns and provides students with the tools to analyze and understand women in a global context. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**WMST 690:** *Directed Readings and Research in Women and Gender Studies*. 1-3 credits.

Advanced individualized study of gender through readings, discussion, research, and/or projects under the direction and supervision of a member of the women's studies faculty. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May be repeated within the term for a maximum 9 credits.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Admission to graduate program in woman's studies and permission of director.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Research

**WMST 695:** *Internship*. 3 credits.

Community or campus-based service or experiential learning related to women's or gender issues. Students develop, in consultation with a faculty member, individual contracts defining the learning and competencies they plan to gain from the experience. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Completion of 15 graduate credits in Interdisciplinary Studies, including 9 credits in Women and Gender Studies or permission of instructor.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Internship

**WMST 699:** *Capstone Portfolio*. 0 credits.

Prior to graduation and in consultation with their advisor, students will reflect on and synthesize their work in the women and gender studies certificate program by selecting three items taken from their work in the program and discussing these items in a 7-10 page essay. Work selected may include course papers, videos of their performances, exhibit photos, music recordings, and other items as agreed upon by student and advisor. Offered by Women & Gender Studies. May not be repeated for credit.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Students must have completed their course work for women and gender studies certificate or be in the last semester of their course work.

**Registration Restrictions:**

Enrollment limited to students with a class of Advanced to Candidacy, Graduate, Non Degree or Senior Plus.

Enrollment is limited to Graduate, Non-Degree or Undergraduate level students.

Students in a Non-Degree Undergraduate degree may **not** enroll.

**Schedule Type:** Independent Study