

# Women's and Gender Studies

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<https://ww1.odu.edu/womens-gender-studies> (<https://ww1.odu.edu/womens-gender-studies/>).

Women's and Gender Studies is a multi- and interdisciplinary field of study that examines gender in historical and contemporary contexts with an emphasis on women's lives and perspectives. The department values the complex intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality, ability, nation, and other identities.

Both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees are offered through this department. Students in any discipline can also earn a graduate certificate in Women's Studies. These degrees enhance career opportunities in governmental and non-governmental agencies, law, criminal justice, public relations, journalism, counseling, the health professions, business, social welfare, education, and many other fields. They also provide a strong foundation for students interested in pursuing graduate work.

## Advising

To declare a Women's Studies major or minor, students must see an advisor in the Women's and Gender Studies Department. All Women's Studies majors are required to have a conference with their advisor before each semester (preferably during preregistration).

## Programs

### Bachelor of Arts Program

- Women's Studies (BA) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/womens-studies/womens-studies-ba/>)

### Bachelor of Science Program

- Women's Studies (BS) (<http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/womens-studies/womens-studies-bs/>)

## Minor Programs

- Queer Studies Minor (<http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/womens-studies/queer-studies-minor/>)
- Women's Studies Minor (<http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/womens-studies/womens-studies-minor/>)

## BA or BS to MBA (Master of Business Administration) Linked Program

The linked BA/MBA or BS/MBA program is an early entry to the MBA program of study. The early-entry program is designed for well qualified non-business undergraduate ODU students to start their MBA program prior to completing their undergraduate degree. Well qualified non-business undergraduate students may take MBA-level courses as early as three semesters prior to graduation and count up to 12 graduate credits toward their undergraduate degree. Students participating in the early-entry program must earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 discrete credit hours for the undergraduate degree and 30 discrete credit hours for the graduate degree). Early-entry program students should carefully consider their undergraduate degree program requirements when planning their course of study. Students in the early-entry program work in close consultation with the MBA Program Office and should refer to information in the Strome College of Business section in the graduate catalog (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/stromecollegeofbusiness/>) to develop an individualized plan of study based on the required coursework.

## BA or BS to MPA (Master of Public Administration) Linked Program

The linked BA/MPA or BS/MPA program provides qualified Old Dominion University undergraduate students with the opportunity to earn a master's degree in public administration while taking credits in the MPA program as an undergraduate student. The program is designed for highly motivated students with the desire to immediately continue their education after the bachelor's degree. The program is especially relevant to individuals seeking to work (or currently working) in the public or non-profit sectors, but is suitable for students from any undergraduate major. Graduate courses may be taken during the fall and spring semester of the student's senior undergraduate year. Up to 12 graduate credits can count toward both the undergraduate and graduate degree and can meet upper-level General Education requirements. After receiving the undergraduate degree, a student will continue with the MPA program, taking MPA courses until completing the required 39 credit hours. Students in the linked program must earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 discrete credit hours for the undergraduate degree and 30 discrete credit hours for the graduate degree).

Requirements for admission to the graduate program can be found in the School of Public Service section of the Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/business/public-service/>). For additional information, please contact the School of Public Service in the Strome College of Business.

## Linked BA/BS in Women's Studies and MA in Humanities

The linked program in Women's and Gender Studies and Humanities makes it possible for exceptional Women's Studies majors to count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both an undergraduate and graduate degree.

Students must earn a minimum of 150 credit hours (120 discrete credit hours for the undergraduate degree and 30 discrete credit hours for the graduate degree). For more information consult the Humanities section of this Catalog.

## Courses

### Queer Studies (QUST)

#### QUST 302W Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among Women (3 Credit Hours)

This course explores the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality within society; it examines how identity has been a key site for generating knowledge and political action. Students will learn the histories and nuances of topics such as intersectionality, privilege, allyship, and cultural appropriation. Finally, the course will examine how concepts such as 'diversity' are mobilized in relation to different institutions, such as the law and education. This is a writing intensive course.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S, a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, and 6 semester hours in literature, history, social sciences, and/or performing arts courses

#### QUST 303 Queer Studies (3 Credit Hours)

This course is an interdisciplinary study of LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) experiences. It introduces students to personal, cultural, and political aspects of queer life while examining social forces such as heteronormativity, the social construction of gender, and homophobia and their impact on queer lives.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S or instructor approval

**QUST 305 Queer Literature (3 Credit Hours)**

This course provides a historical sampling of queer literary voices in the U.S. Students explore fiction, poetry, drama, and visual literary forms through the lens of queer theory. Students investigate the ways in which queer authors and subjects have been excluded from the traditional canon and how readers, academics, critics, and authors of anthologies have ignored or obscured queer possibilities and homoeroticism in literary works. Students also explore the benefits of thinking of queer literary works as queer literatures (in the plural sense rather than the singular Queer Literature) and attempt to answer the question, is there such a thing as Queer Literature?

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 112L, ENGL 114L, or WCS 100L

**QUST 395 Topics in Queer Studies (1-3 Credit Hours)**

A study of selected topics in Queer Studies. These courses are usually interdisciplinary and align with faculty teaching and research strengths.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S or instructor approval

**QUST 402 Feminisms and Sexualities (3 Credit Hours)**

This course will examine feminist approaches to the subject of sexuality in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course examines theorizations of sexuality, such a radical, critical race, and transnational feminisms, queer theory, and trans studies. Key questions will be: how have feminists theorized sexualities? What does sexuality have to do with feminist studies or practices? How do other identities, such as race and class, inform sexuality?

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S, WGS 390T or instructor approval

**QUST 460W Feminist and Queer Theory (3 Credit Hours)**

This course will examine feminist and queer theories, specifically intersectional, transnational, and radical perspectives. It explores how feminist and queer scholars approach research, writing, and knowledge production, and applies these insights to students' own interests. The course analyzes how feminist and queer scholars have written about storytelling, the body, and desire, and links these discussions to how to produce positive social change in our world. This course is fundamentally interdisciplinary; students are encouraged to make connections between the course materials, their research interests, and other fields of study. This is a writing intensive course.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S, QUST 302W or WGS 302W, and a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C

**QUST 495 Topics in Queer Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matters is usually interdisciplinary and aligns with faculty teaching and research strengths.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S or instructor approval

**QUST 497 Independent Study (1-6 Credit Hours)**

Independent study of an interdisciplinary topic in Queer Studies, or a reading plus internship project to be selected under the direction of a faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

**Prerequisites:** QUST 303 or WGS 303 and approval of instructor and chair of department

**QUST 498 Independent Study (1-6 Credit Hours)**

Independent study of an interdisciplinary topic in Queer Studies, or a reading plus internship project to be selected under the direction of a faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

**Prerequisites:** QUST 303 or WGS 303 and approval of instructor and chair of department

**Women's and Gender Studies (WGS)****WGS 201S Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

An introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, drawing on materials from the humanities and social sciences. Topics include the social construction of gender, cross-cultural variations in women's lives, media representations, work, health, women's roles in politics and sexuality.

**Prerequisites:** Must qualify to enroll in ENGL 110C

**WGS 226S Honors: Gender and Sexuality in a Changing World (3 Credit Hours)**

A special honors version of WGS 201S open only to students in the Honors College.

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 110C

**WGS 301 Feminist Foundations (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is designed to develop students' skills in writing, critical reading, research, and argument while examining topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The course also covers the history of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies as a discipline and current opportunities for majors and minors.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S

**WGS 302W Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among Women (3 Credit Hours)**

This course explores the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality within society; it examines how identity has been a key site for generating knowledge and political action. Students will learn the histories and nuances of topics such as intersectionality, privilege, allyship, and cultural appropriation. Finally, the course will examine how concepts such as 'diversity' are mobilized in relation to different institutions, such as the law and education. This is a writing intensive course.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S, a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 231C, and 6 semester hours in literature, history, social sciences, or performing arts courses

**WGS 303 Queer Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

This course is an interdisciplinary study of LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) experiences. It introduces students to personal, cultural, and political aspects of queer life while examining social forces such as heteronormativity, the social construction of gender, and homophobia and their impact on queer lives.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S or instructor approval

**WGS 304 Gender and Sexuality in Film (3 Credit Hours)**

This course introduces students to feminist methods of analyzing media, with a focus on gender and sexuality in film. Key questions include: How do films influence and reflect our social locations? What are the points that they raise about the intersections of gender, race, and sexuality? Students will interrogate if, and in what ways, film can be a tool to effect social change.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S or instructor approval

**WGS 305 Queer Literature (3 Credit Hours)**

This course provides a historical sampling of queer literary voices in the U.S. Students explore fiction, poetry, drama, and visual literary forms through the lens of queer theory. Students investigate the ways in which queer authors and subjects have been excluded from the traditional canon and how readers, academics, critics, and authors of anthologies have ignored or obscured queer possibilities and homoeroticism in literary works. Students also explore the benefits of thinking of queer literary works as queer literatures (in the plural sense rather than the singular Queer Literature) and attempt to answer the question, is there such a thing as Queer Literature?

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 112L, ENGL 114L, or WCS 100L

**WGS 306 Women, the Environment, and Climate Change (3 Credit Hours)**

This course will examine ways that women have been actively involved in environmental issues from earliest history through today. Students will assess their own connection to place and examine and access ecofeminist theory and national and global environmental justice movements, along with briefly reviewing gender and farming practices. Finally, the course will examine how climate change issues are affecting lives around the globe, including ours, and question how gender-, race-, and class-sensitive responses to the environmental challenges facing our planet can be created.

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 110C

**WGS 368 Internship (3-6 Credit Hours)**

This course provides an opportunity to gain experience working in organizations and government agencies. Students' work should engage with women's issues at the local, regional, national, and/or global levels. Students must work for at least 50 hours per course credit.

**Prerequisites:** A minimum of one WGS course, junior standing and instructor approval

**WGS 390T Women, Gender, and Technology Worldwide (3 Credit Hours)**

An exploration of women as designers and users of technology and of the impact of technology on women's lives across the world. Variations in women's experiences by race, class, culture, and sexuality will be stressed, along with particular focus on global developments that shape the context of people's lives.

**Prerequisites:** Three semester hours in human behavior or history

**WGS 395 Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (1-3 Credit Hours)**

A study of selected topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These courses are usually interdisciplinary and align with faculty teaching and research strengths.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S or instructor approval

**WGS 396 Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (1-3 Credit Hours)**

A study of selected topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These courses are usually interdisciplinary and align with faculty teaching and research strengths.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S and sophomore standing or permission of the instructor

**WGS 400/500 History of U.S. Women's Activism (3 Credit Hours)**

This course historicizes U.S. women's social, political, and rhetorical activism over the last 200 years, tracing their entry into and shaping force upon public life. The course examines the development of women's activism in the nineteenth century, the twentieth century women's (or feminist) movement, and its current status, particularly in relation to postfeminism and a 'third' wave.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S

**WGS 401W/501 Women: A Global Perspective (3 Credit Hours)**

An analysis of the global forces that impact women's lives throughout the world. Particular emphasis is placed on the status of women in the developing world, international institutions that protect women's rights, and efforts to promote gender equality worldwide. This is a writing intensive course.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S and a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 231C

**WGS 402/502 Feminisms and Sexualities (3 Credit Hours)**

This course will examine feminist approaches to the subject of sexuality in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course examines theorizations of sexuality, such as radical, critical race, and transnational feminisms, queer theory, and trans studies. Key questions will be: how have feminists theorized sexualities? What does sexuality have to do with feminist studies or practices? How do other identities, such as race and class, inform sexuality?

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S, WGS 390T, or instructor approval

**WGS 405/505 Gender and Media (3 Credit Hours)**

This course examines media-based sites of knowledge production using a feminist approach, in order to imagine new and more complex ways to think about media rhetorics; celebrity culture; digital media; and the politics of representation. Key questions will be: What roles do media play in shaping social movements? What are the promises and pitfalls of activist interventions in the realm of commercial culture? In what ways might we complicate narratives of co-optation or selling out? The class explores these questions using an intersectional lens attentive to the complex interconnections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Case studies will include national, international, and transnational media events.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S, WGS 390T, or instructor approval

**WGS 406/506 Gender, Fashion & the Body (3 Credit Hours)**

This interdisciplinary class explores the body as a canvas for both history and the future of our concept of individualism. Students will have the opportunity to reflect not only on their own understanding of the body but also that of the body across a variety of experiences. Students will complete auto-ethnographic essays and a course paper on the body relating to her/his/their academic research interests.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S

**WGS 410/510 Sexing the Body (3 Credit Hours)**

This course will explore the spectrum of what it means when we consider humans to exist in a gendered and sexed world. Students will critique their own preconceived notions of sex, probe issues of equality and social justice, and discuss what these questions mean both in the United States and globally. The course will culminate with a restructuring of how we understand the ways in which we define sex, sexuality, and sexual practice, taking into consideration how our own identities are impacted by culture and society.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S

**WGS 415/515 Migration and Refugee Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

This course explores the international context of refugees and migrants from a humanitarian perspective. Global conditions that lead to forced migration are analyzed to inform a larger understanding of human displacement. The course works directly with refugee resettlement organizations at the national and local levels.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S

**WGS 460W/560 Feminist and Queer Theory (3 Credit Hours)**

This course will examine feminist and queer theories, specifically intersectional, transnational, and radical perspectives. It explores how feminist and queer scholars approach research, writing, and knowledge production, and applies these insights to students' own interests. The course analyzes how feminist and queer scholars have written about storytelling, the body, and desire, and links these discussions to how to produce positive social change in our world. This course is fundamentally interdisciplinary; students are encouraged to make connections between the course materials, their research interests, and other fields of study. This is a writing intensive course.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S, WGS 302W or QUST 302W, and a grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 231C

**WGS 470/570 Feminist Research Methods (3 Credit Hours)**

The course explores the ethics, practice, and multiple forms of conducting feminist research. Narrative research methods are practiced through hands-on oral history assignments. Throughout the course, the process of knowledge construction is interrogated from a feminist perspective.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 460W

**WGS 495/595 Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matter is usually interdisciplinary and aligns with faculty teaching and research strengths.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S or instructor approval

**WGS 496/596 Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (3 Credit Hours)**

Advanced seminars on selected topics. The subject matter is usually interdisciplinary and aligns with faculty teaching and research strengths.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S or instructor approval

**WGS 497/597 Independent Study (1-6 Credit Hours)**

Independent study of an interdisciplinary topic in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, or a reading plus internship project to be selected under the direction of a faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S and approval of instructor and chair of department

**WGS 498/598 Independent Study (1-6 Credit Hours)**

Independent study of an interdisciplinary topic in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, or a reading plus internship project to be selected under the direction of a faculty member. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

**Prerequisites:** WGS 201S and approval of instructor and chair of department