

# Department of Women Studies



Women Studies provides a framework for the study of women's and men's lives, both throughout history and in contemporary times. Women Studies encourages students to intellectually understand the importance of class, race, sexuality, physical ability, nationality, and gender, and to learn actively through community internships and by contributing to ongoing movements for social change around the world.

"All of my understanding about human rights, equality and the suffering of people around the world, I learned in Women Studies."

— Teresa Kessenich, 2003  
Women Studies graduate

#### STUDENTS (AUTUMN 2008)

80 Undergraduate majors  
22 Graduate students

#### DEGREES AWARDED (JULY 2007–JUNE 2008)

31 Bachelor of Arts degrees  
1 Master of Arts degrees  
3 PhD degrees

#### MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (SINCE 2002)

3 Graduate Medalist Awards  
2 Bonderman Travel Fellowships  
2 Fritz Endowment Travel Fellowships  
4 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships  
1 Graduate School Dissertation Award  
3 Huckabay Teaching Fellowships  
2 Undergraduate Department Awards  
1 UW Excellence in Teaching Award  
10 Doman Awards for Excellence in Teaching  
2 Interdisciplinary Pre-Doctoral Fellowships  
1 Woman of Color Dissertation Scholarship  
1 American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship

## Highlights

- ▶ The Women Studies graduate program is the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and one of only ten doctoral programs in women studies in the U.S.
- ▶ Three Women Studies students have received the Graduate Medal, which recognizes PhD candidates whose academic expertise and social awareness demonstrate an exemplary commitment to the University and larger community.
- ▶ Women Studies graduated its first two PhD students in 2006.
- ▶ All majors are required to complete a senior thesis or senior capstone and participate in an internship—distinctive marks of our commitment to excellence in writing and critical thinking, and to practicing social justice in communities.

## Education

The Department offers BA, MA, and PhD degrees, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Women Studies for graduate students in other UW departments.

Our **undergraduate major** provides a highly flexible and individualized approach while creating a learning community. We emphasize integrative courses that explore relationships among phenomena such as gender, race/ethnicity, and social class. Required courses focus on feminist theorizing of race/ethnicity and psychobiology of women, and synthesize these areas of academic inquiry through internships and a capstone class. The capstone culminates in a portfolio tracing the student's path toward achieving the department's learning goals. With over 2,000 students enrolled each year, women studies reaches far beyond our department into the entire university.

The **graduate program** is research intensive with a critical, theoretical orientation; its social science emphasis is distinct among women studies programs in the U.S.

Women Studies alumnae have translated their studies into successful careers in politics, law, medicine, public health, museology, research, and social policy. In keeping with our commitment to social justice, our graduates include both volunteers and paid workers at social service organizations such as women's health clinics, a drop-in center for lesbian and gay youth, homeless shelters, and organizations that serve those affected by domestic violence.

## Faculty

Department of Women Studies faculty honors include:

5 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards

1 Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence to a Center directed by a WS faculty member

1 GPSS Gold Star Award to Women Studies Graduate Program

1 Innovation in Service Learning Award, Carlson Leadership and Public Service Center

I Editor of *positions: journal of east asia cultures critique*

## Research and Scholarship

Consistent with the interdisciplinary character of women studies, our faculty conduct widely varied social scientific scholarship. Illustrative projects include histories of Chinese feminism and Chinese intellectual trajectories, sociohistorical studies of relationships among immigrants and other social groups in early 20th century New York City; studies of reproductive technologies; studies of the early entrance experiences of students in the UW Academy for Young Scholars; feminist analyses of global commodity chains; investigations of the politics of gender and visual representation in transnational circulation; analyses of gender non-conformity in contemporary south Africa; documentary film and ethnographic studies of Native women and the criminal justice systems; scholarship on the promotion of education in science and engineering for ethnic minorities and girls; and investigation of methodological and ethical challenges of research on minority populations.

Our faculty collaborate actively with colleagues across the UW, including interdisciplinary centers and programs such as the Center for South Asian Studies, the Institute for Transnational Studies, Disability Studies, the Diversity Minor, Global Health, Correctional Mental Health, and the Native Voices Project. We participate in a Puget Sound Women's Studies Consortium including more than 16 local colleges and universities as well as a Northwest consortium and national collaborations with women studies doctoral programs.

## Outreach

Feminists from community organizations as well as academia form our Visiting Committee. Our departmental perspective on development combines fundraising and community-building into one comprehensive plan. Through our development activities we seek a robust academic and activist network, relying on both our alumnae base and on the strong feminist groups in this region. Each year dozens of students devote thousands of hours to over 100 community agencies.

Please stop by to meet us and consider joining a nationally recognized community of faculty, staff and students devoted to social change around the world.

## Fiscal Information (fiscal year ending June 30, 2008)

State support: \$839,671

Gift revenue: \$9,643

### FACULTY (AUTUMN 2008)

2	Professors
5	Associate Professors
2	Assistant Professors
1	Professor Emerita
91	Adjunct and Affiliate Faculty

### AREAS OF RESEARCH

Bioethics of Reproductive and Contraceptive Technology
Critical Asian Studies
Critical Race Studies
Documentary film and Native Voices
Feminist Science Studies
Feminist Theory and Methods
Gender and Historical Studies
Globalization, Migration and Transnational Feminist Studies
Histories of Racial and Ethnic Formation
"Modern Girl" Studies
Nationhood, Sovereignty, and Indigenous Women Studies
Native American Women
Politics of Talent Development
Postcolonial Studies
Psychological and Biological Studies of Women Across the Lifespan
Sexuality/LGBTQ Studies
Transnational Feminist Economics
Violence Studies
Visual Culture and Gender
Whiteness and Anti-racism Studies
Women of Color and Criminal Justice
Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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