

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

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Degrees/Certificates

Women's Studies

AA Degree

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary major based on the premise that gender is a historical variable that affects the social, economic and political structure of our society as well as the everyday lives of women and

men. Employing a wide range of perspectives from disciplines such as history, literature, philosophy, sociology, psychology, art, anthropology and biology, students will explore and examine how these disciplines pertain to women and how women have contributed to the cultural and sociological landscape.

The AA degree provides students with core courses in Women's Studies. Students may utilize the Women's Studies curriculum to fulfill transferable general education requirements for CSU and UC systems as well as lower division Women's Studies courses for transfer to four-year institutions with women's studies majors. In all cases, students should consult with a counselor for more information on university admission and transfer requirements. Students must fulfill the following major requirements with grades of "C" or better, complete a minimum of 60 degree-applicable semester units (12 of which must be completed at Sierra College) with a grade point average of at least 2.0 and complete one of the following three general education patterns:

- Sierra College Associate Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/associate-degree-requirements/>);
- (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/associate-degree-requirements/>)California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/general-education/california-general-education-transfer-curriculum-cal-getc/>)

Required Courses

Code	Title	Units
WMST 0001	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
Select 15 units from the following:		15
ANTH 0027	Anthropology of Sex, Gender and Sexuality	
ARHI 0132	History of Women in Art	
ENGL 0027	Literature by Women	
HIST 0027	Women in American History	
PHIL 0027	Introduction to Philosophy of Women in Western Cultures	
POLS 0027	Women and Politics in a Global Society	
PSYC 0127	Psychology of Women	
PSYC 0130	Human Sexuality	
SOC 0005	Sociology of Women's Health	
SOC 0027	Sociology of Gender	
WMST 0002	Introduction to LGBT Studies/Queer Theory (also LGBT 0001)	
WMST 0003	Introduction to Women, Gender and Religion (also HUM 0009)	
WMST 0004	Feminism and Social Action (also SOC 0010)	
WMST 0006	Introduction to Disability Studies	3
WMST 0300	Selected Topics in Women and Gender Studies	1-3
Total Units		22-24

Courses

Understanding course descriptions (<https://catalog.sierracollege.edu/archive/2025-2026/student-resources/course-information/understanding-course-descriptions/>)

WMST 0001. Introduction to Women's Studies

Units: 3

Prerequisite: Eligibility for ENGL N

Hours: 54 lecture

Introduction to the origins, purpose and methods of Women's Studies. The subject matter will explore a wide range of social issues affecting women of diverse backgrounds and identities. Gender will be studied as it intersects with race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, dis/ability, age, religion, nationality and other systems of difference. (C-ID SJS 120) (CSU, UC)

WMST 0002. Introduction to LGBT Studies/Queer Theory

Units: 3

Also known as LGBT 1

Hours: 54 lecture

A broad and general exploration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Studies and its relationship to Feminism. Emphasis on Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity and Expression and their intersections with Race/Ethnicity, Class, the LGBT Rights movement in the United States and globally. (C-ID SJS 130) (CSU, UC)

WMST 0003. Introduction to Women, Gender and Religion

Units: 3

Also known as HUM 9

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL C1000

Hours: 54 lecture

Religion from a feminist perspective through a cross-cultural examination of major religious traditions of the East and West, as well as tribal faith practices. Emphasis on the historical role of women and gender in rituals, sacred texts, institutional structures, doctrine and religious iconography with respect to the impact on contemporary women regarding faith, politics and identity. (CSU, UC)

WMST 0004. Feminism and Social Action

Units: 3

Also known as SOC 10

Advisory: Completion of ENGL N with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 54 lecture

Examines sociological underpinnings of social action and explores unique contributions of feminism in challenging traditional gender scripts and roles. Provides an overview of the ways in which people engage in deliberative social action to change the conditions of their lives and of their communities. Emphasizes sociological theory as applied to issues related to the institutions of family, health, religion, employment, sexual harassment, housing, and interpersonal violence. Students in this course will actively engage in the exploration, analysis, and solutions of feminist issues. (CSU, UC)

WMST 0005. Sociology of Women's Health

Units: 3

Also known as SOC 5

Advisory: Completion of ENGL A with grade of "C" or better

Hours: 54 lecture

Provides a sociological analysis of health issues that concern women throughout their life course. The impact of physiology, psychology, culture, society, and politics upon women's well-being are addressed using the feminist perspective. (CSU, UC)

WMST 0006. Introduction to Disability Studies

Units: 3

Hours: 54 lecture

Overview of the social and personal meaning of disability and chronic illness. Students will explore definitions and conceptual models for the study of disability, the history of disabled people, bio-ethical perspectives, the depiction of disability in literature and the arts, public attitudes, and legal/social policies. The course will investigate the intersections of disability with social factors such as gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, and class. Community engagement is a key component throughout the course. (CSU, UC)

WMST 0095. Internship in Women and Gender Studies

Units: 0.5-4

Designed for advanced students to work in an area related to their educational or occupational goal. Provides new on-the-job technical training under the direction of a worksite supervisor, allowing students to expand knowledge and skills in the chosen field. Mandatory orientation session and faculty approval to determine eligibility. One unit of credit is equal to 54 hours of work. Students may earn up to a total of 16 units in internship courses (any course numbered 95 and PDEV 94). (CSU-with unit limitation)

WMST 0300. Selected Topics in Women and Gender Studies

Units: 1-3

Hours: 18 lecture per unit

Examines various topics within the field of women's and gender studies. Different issues will be covered based on the interests and expertise of the faculty teaching the course. Approaches topics from broadly intersectional perspectives using feminist concepts and methods. Potential topics include: Disability, Death and Caregiving; Gender and Creativity; Masculinity; Gender and Wellness; Feminism War; Gender and Social Movements; Gender Human Rights; Reproductive Justice; New Feminisms. (CSU)

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

- Differentiate between sex and gender in the context of shifting definitions of woman.
- Define and deconstruct explicit and implicit privilege including, but not limited to, white privilege, male privilege and heterosexual privilege.
- Evaluate the social construction of gender and explore how it pertains to the particular inquiry of study undertaken (e.g., sexuality; queer theory; anthropology; art history).
- Apply cross-cultural, transnational or global awareness to "significant questions" concerning women and gender.
- Appraise gendered construction of knowledge and social institutions and how they directly apply to the subject under scrutiny.