

Women's Studies and Gender Studies

Major, Minor and Honours

The university offers an interdisciplinary Major, Minor and Honours program in the area of Women's Studies and Gender Studies. The Gender Studies Committee has identified faculty advisors (listed below) who are available to serve as Program Directors for students who wish to pursue such a course of studies. The Program Coordinator is Marilee Reimer, 452-0479.

Women's Studies and Gender Studies Faculty

Kristi Allain, PhD, Sociology
Alexandra Bain, PhD, Religious Studies
Linda Caissie, PhD, Gerontology
Gül Çalışkan, PhD, Sociology
Dawne Clarke, PhD, Sociology
Csilla Dallos, PhD, Anthropology
Dennis Desroches, PhD, English
Amanda DiPaolo, PhD, Human Rights
Stewart Donovan, PhD, English
Suzanne Dudziak, PhD, Social Work
Cécilia Francis, PhD, French
Erin Fredericks, PhD, Sociology
Jeannette Gaudet, PhD, French
Sylvia Hale, PhD, Sociology
Nancy Higgins, PhD, Psychology
Jane Jenkins, PhD, Science and Technology Studies
Colm Kelly, PhD, Sociology
Laurel Lewey, MSW, Social Work
Maira MacLaughlin, MA, Anthropology
Susan Machum, PhD, Sociology
Kathleen McConnell, PhD, English
Joan McFarland, PhD, Economics
Karla O'Regan, PhD, Criminology
Suzanne Prior, PhD, Psychology
Marilee Reimer, PhD, Sociology, Program Coordinator
Karen Robert, PhD, History
Josephine Savarese, PhD, Criminology
Derek Simon, PhD, Religious Studies
Hester Vair, PhD, Sociology
Peter Weeks, PhD, Sociology

Major in Women's Studies and Gender Studies

A Major in Women's Studies and Gender Studies consists of 36 credit hours of course work beyond the 1000 level. These consist mostly of the cross-listed courses below.

Honours in Women's Studies and Gender Studies

An Honours in Women's Studies and Gender Studies consists of 48 credit hours of courses beyond the 1000 level, of which 6 credit hours must be in theory or methods. In addition, an Honours thesis valued at 6 credit hours is required. These courses should include an Honours thesis seminar or workshop of 3 or 6 credit hours, depending on the discipline offering the course.

Minor in Women's Studies and Gender Studies

A Minor in Women's Studies and Gender Studies requires completion of 18 credit hours in cross-listed courses, in two different fields. Introduction to Women's Studies and Gender Studies (GEND 2016) is recommended. Although students must devise their own plans, the University has designated the following courses as appropriate for Women's Studies and Gender Studies. The notation (GEND) appears after the titles of these courses as they appear in the description of courses for respective departments. To confirm the Minor, students are to email the courses they are registered for to registrar@stu.ca.

GEND-2016. Introduction to Women's Studies and Gender Studies

This is the introductory course to the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies and Gender Studies. The basis of femininity, masculinity and women's inequality are examined in the context of wider social relations, including the historical subject, literary voice and the women's movement.

GEND-3013. Women's Studies and Gender Studies Methods

This is a foundational course in Gender Studies methodology. It examines the feminist critique of positivism, the development of feminist research methodologies and the use of these methods in a range of disciplines.

ANTH-2533. Women in Cross-cultural Perspective

This course examines male and female roles in a number of different cultural settings, especially non-Western societies. Particular attention is given to the cultural expectations of gender behaviour, the structure of economic opportunities for males and females, and how shifts in opportunity structures impact gender roles. Various examples illustrating the roles of males and females in the context of marriage, domestic group organization, economic decision making and political decision making, will be presented.

CRIM-4403. Feminist Legal Studies (HMRT) (WS/GS)

In this course, students will be exposed to a critical evaluation of women and criminology. Possible topics include social and legal responses to the victimization of women, social and legal intervention strategies, criminological discourses on women's criminalized behaviour, offence patterns, and women in criminology. Prerequisite: A minimum of 75 credit hours, which includes CRIM 1013 and 1023, or permission of the instructor.

ECON-2303. Gender in the Global South: A Political Economy Perspective (HMRT 2233) (SOCI 2623)

This course will critically examine the role of women in the global South. It will concentrate largely on the changes in these roles and their correspondence with the transition from traditional to new forms of economic organization, production, and power.

ECON-2223. The Political Economy of Women (SOCI 2643)

This is a seminar course examining, in depth, selected topics on the political economy of women. Potential topics include women as paid workers, domestic labour, and women and poverty.

ENGL-2583. Women Writers I

An investigation of women's writing in English before 1800, through poetry, (auto)biography, spiritual memoir, fiction, drama, and theory written by women. (Pre-1800)

ENGL-2593. Women Writers II

An investigation of women's writing in English after 1800, through poetry, (auto)biography, fiction, drama, film, and theory written by women. (Post-1800)

GERO-3083. Gender and Aging

This course examines issues involving how one's gender affects one's experience of aging. It looks at how the field of gerontology has traditionally dealt with the concept of gender as well as the feminization of old age, and how this has affected both women's and men's experiences of aging.

GERO-3093. Images of Aging in Film

This course explores popular views of the elderly using motion pictures. It looks at the impact of stereotypes on older people's expectations for later life. As a result of this course, students should be able to look at films more critically and identify images communicated through the media. Prerequisite: GERO-2013.

GERO-3223. Family Ties and Aging

This course examines a variety of issues regarding aging and the family. It considers historical and demographic trends as well as theoretical frameworks in family gerontology. The course covers a number of relationships including those of couples, siblings, and grandparents and grandchildren. It also looks at late-life transitions such as retirement, widowhood, and divorce, that affect family structures and relationships.

HIST-3883. Women in Canadian History

This course looks at the history of Canada from pre-colonial times to the present day from the perspectives of women of the time. Discussion and independent study on topics of interest to the students will be encouraged. Previous courses in Canadian history will be useful but are not essential.

HIST-3613. Gender and Power in Latin American History

Why did the Cuban revolution set out to create a 'new man'? How did Eva Perón become the world's most powerful first lady? Why have women led most human rights movements in Latin America? These are some of the questions to be explored in this course which examines historical relationships between men and women and ideas about masculinity and femininity in Latin America.

HMRT-3633. Gender Expression, Sexual Orientation, and Human Rights

This course explores the socially constructed customs and structures of society that enables the legal regulation of gender identity and human sexuality by exploring the history, policies and norms that shapes government action. Basic theories of gender and sexuality studies will be explored before critically examining the same theories in practice through case studies. This course will also explore a variety of other identity issues such as race, age, disability, and class intertwine with gender and sexuality identities. We will also examine how experiences and identities shape the ways in which people resist inequality and lobby for change. This course will enable students to critically evaluate legislative and judicial responses to human sexuality and gender expression.

PSYC-3183. Sexuality and Diversity

This course will encourage students to critically examine the diverse factors that contribute to how sexuality is conceptualised and represented. Multiple perspectives, including cultural, psychosocial, and biological, will be considered. Possible topics include sexual orientation, varieties in sexual development and expression, attraction, and psychological perspectives on sex as a commodity. Prerequisites: PSYC 2183

PSYC-3523. Psychology of Gender and Gender Relations

An introduction to contemporary issues related to differences in the experience and behaviour of females and males. Prerequisite: PSYC 2023 or permission of the instructor.

PSYC-4433. Seminar in Women and Mental Health

This course will review and critically examine the theory and research in the area of women's mental health. Developed from a feminist perspective, this course will explore women's and girls' experiences of mental health and distress, and the ways in which these experiences have been conceptualized in clinical psychology. Topics include gender and the social determinants of health, problems prevalent among women (e.g., depression, eating disorders, personality disorders), and feminist approaches to intervention. Prerequisites: PSYC 2643 or permission of the instructor.

PSYC-4483. Seminar in the Psychology of Women

This course is designed to examine women's experiences and the treatment of women in psychological research, theory, and applied practice from a feminist perspective. This will involve analyzing psychological concepts of women and gender, examining the impact of our culture on our understanding of womanhood and femininity, reflecting on our own experiences, developing critical thinking skills, and understanding the diversity of women. Topics may include feminist approaches to research, stereotypes, sexuality, childhood, violence against women, and women and health. Prerequisite: PSYC 2013 and 2023, or permission of the instructor.

RELG-2233. Women and Religion

This course aims to study how i) women in history and in modern times respond to socio-cultural restrictions, and their attempts to create spiritual and social alternatives; ii) how notions of ascetism and sexuality are utilized as liberating and prescriptive modes. It will examine feminist critiques to classical, medieval, and current texts and thinkers. We will closely look at the assumptions that guide both classical texts and modern critiques.

RELG-3653. Women and Christianity

Women's rights, gender sensitivities, and feminist movements both inside and outside the

churches have inspired lively and complex debates within contemporary Christian theologies. By deconstructing, revising and rebuilding basic issues in theology on the basis of women's experiences and gender analysis, a substantial range of feminist theologies has emerged. This course will explore theological themes and interests central to the diversity of feminist theologies.

SCWK-3213. Women and Social Work*

This course is designed to enable students to examine critically first, the oppression of women in our society, in particular as consumers of social services; second, the developing literature, theory, and practice of "feminist counselling" as a significant new approach to working with women; and third, the position and status of women within the social work profession. *Please check with professor for prerequisites.

SCWK-3713. Fields of Practice

This course involves an in-depth examination of a particular field of practice, (e.g., mental health, corrections, child welfare) based on student and instructor interest. The focus of the course will be examination and analysis of unmet needs in the field, and professional response to them.

SCWK-4713. Feminist Counselling

This course will provide an in-depth critique of traditional approaches to helping women; will explore the theory, ethics, and practice of feminist counselling, and will provide students with the opportunity to learn the skills and techniques of feminist counselling. Prerequisites: Scwk 3213 and Scwk 3123.

SOCI-2013. Research Design & Method (NATI)

An introduction to the main research techniques used in sociology. The course will include practical experience in research design, methods of data collection, sampling procedures, and analysis of data.

SOCI-2313. Deviance

Review of theory and research, with a focus on the social basis of deviance, deviance construction, and the consequences of social reactions to selected forms of deviance.

SOCI-2333. The Sociology of Chinese Women in Literature and Film.

This course explores the sociology of women and China in recent literature and film, particularly in recent work by women in China and of Chinese origins in Western countries. The novels focus on three generations of families and illustrate the traditional expectations for women within China and in North America. The films include recent works by Chinese filmmakers that comment on women's place in pre-revolutionary and modern society.

SOCI-2416. Inequality in Society

This course explores existing patterns of social inequality and debates concerning the possibility and desirability of greater equality. Taking a theoretical and historical focus, we examine the changing nature of inequality in contemporary Canadian society in the context of globalization. Throughout, we develop our understanding of how different forms of inequality - particularly social class, gender and race - intersect. One section of the course may have a service learning requirement, where students engage in volunteer work in the community, and then reflect upon their experiences through reading, writing, and discussion.

SOCI-2423. Social Problems I — Sociological Perspectives

The various perspectives used by sociologists to examine social problems will be described and evaluated. Concrete social problems will be examined to illustrate the use of these perspectives.

SOCI-2433. Social Problems II — Canadian Social Problems

Several current Canadian social problems will be examined from the above perspectives. Problems include poverty, minorities, Canadian identity, the effects of urbanization and technology, etc. Prerequisite: SOCI 2423.

SOCI-2523. The Sociology of Aging (GERO 2113) (HMRT) (RELG) (PSYC)

This course will explore the comparative situation of older women and men in different cultures and different historical periods within Western societies. The cultural and social-structural determinants of their changing status will be examined through alternative theoretical perspectives within sociology. The social construction of 'elderly' as a status will be explored through how older people are perceived, described, talked about, and interacted with, in everyday behaviour and how these relations may be 'negotiated' by the elderly themselves. The political-economy of aging focuses upon disparities of income, and the determinants and effects of poverty on the lives of older people.

SOCI-2613. Sociology of Gender

This course will focus, in depth, on particular aspects of the social processes shaping, and shaped by, female and male roles such as gender and power, gender and social structure of work, and feminist social movements.

SOCI-2623. Gender in the Global South: A Political Economy Perspective (ECON-2303.) (HMRT 2233)

This course will critically examine the role of women in the global South. It will concentrate largely on the changes in these roles and their correspondence with the transition from traditional to new forms of economic organization, production, and power.

SOCI-2633. Sociology of the Family

A critical analysis of various conceptual frameworks in family research, and a cross-cultural analysis of marriage and the family, both past and present. Particular attention will be paid to the current developments in marriage arrangements, changes in the meaning of marriage and the family, as well as the future of the family.

SOCI-2643. The Political Economy of Women (ECON 2223)

This is a seminar course examining, in depth, selected topics on the political economy of women. Potential topics include women as paid workers, domestic labour and women and poverty.

SOCI-3173. The Sociology of Women and Education.

With the rise of neo-conservative governments in Canada, we see changes in schooling and higher education due to the restructuring of government finances and privatization. By beginning from the standpoint of women engaged in mothering, classroom teaching, graduate studies and university teaching, this course examines the impact of re-structuring on gender, ethnicity and class in the classroom and in higher education.

SOCI-3223. Globalization and Gender (GEND)

Globalization and Gender will examine how definitions of gender and sexuality are reproduced, negotiated and deployed in the context of globalization and transnational flows. Through a critical inquiry into a variety of texts, i.e. theoretical texts, ethnographic case

studies and analysis of media representation, students will examine the topics of citizenship, global labor flows, migration, militarization, neoliberalism and the construction of the gendered global subject. They will study both the opportunities and challenges that are inherent in postcolonial and transnational feminist scholarship and activism.

SOCI-3243. Sociology of Men and Masculinities (GEND)

Description: In this course, students will examine the social production of masculinities in North America and the impacts of these gender expressions on the lives of boys and men, and girls and women. Students will be introduced to theoretical perspectives used to understand the lives of men and boys, while examining topics such as fathering, the social construction of men's bodies, the ways the media (re)produces notions of masculinity, and sports masculinities.

SOCI-3323. Sociology of Women & Law

This course will explore the relationship of women to the state and to law. The ways in which criminal and family law influence gender relations in society will be analyzed, including the implications of legal intervention and non-intervention in family relations. Sex-specific and sex-related legislation, concerning such issues as sexual harassment, rape, pornography, and affirmative action, will also be examined. Theoretical concepts and issues, such as the position of women within capitalism, patriarchy, sexuality and reproduction, formal and informal control, will be addressed.

SOCI-3413. Employment Equity Policy and Gender Inequality at Work

This is an advanced course on the organization of gender inequality in the labour force and the policies aimed at creating equal opportunities for women. We begin by studying how gender segregation is organized in the occupations of teaching, clerical work, and other professions. Secondly, the course examines, from a sociological perspective, the federal and provincial government policies which are aimed at the equal and fair treatment of individuals regardless of sex: pay equity legislation, employment equity programs, contractual provisions and human rights legislation on fair employment practices.

SOCI-3583. Research for Social Change

This seminar course encourages students to explore how research can inform social justice and social change. Examining specific debates from the fields of feminist research, Indigenous methodologies, and critical race theory, students will gain new understandings in the various ways research can both reproduce and challenge operations of power and privilege. This course offers students the opportunity to engage in debates around these methodologies as they consider how to do research for social change.

STS-3303. Sex, Science & Gender (HMRT)

This course examines how scientific research, in the late 19th and 20th centuries, has shaped common conceptions of sex behaviour and how this scientific knowledge has also been shaped by cultural conceptions of gender roles and "normal" behaviour.

STS-3503. Feminism and Techno-Science (GEND) (HMRT 3273)

Examines a variety of feminist perspectives on science and technology which suggest that scientific authority (particularly in the biological and life sciences) rationalizes and normalizes gender stereotypes and inequalities, and also marginalizes women from its institutions. The content and positions of various perspectives (as well as counter-arguments) are studied for their political, philosophical, and epistemic assumptions. Prerequisite: at least 9 credit hours in STS or permission of the instructor.

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.