

GENDER STUDIES

Why does gender matter so much to us? How are our expectations of others, and ourselves, tied to societal expectations of behavior based on gender? How much of our identity is biological and how much is cultural? Do expectations of gender identity vary among cultures or historical periods? Where and how do we learn what is “natural” behavior, and are our understandings of “natural” different for women and men? How do concepts of gender differences influence scholarly and creative disciplines? Have feminist scholarship and activism affected our understanding of the past, present, and future?

Gender is a fundamental aspect of personal and social identity. It is a biological, psychological, and cultural category of paramount importance. In addition, gender is often a criterion for social stratification and different political treatment, as well as a favored symbol for expressing essential values and beliefs.

A major in Gender Studies offers students an opportunity for focused study of such varied issues (in both contemporary and past societies) as human reproduction, gender roles in the family and society, the psychology of identity, sexuality, and images of men and women in literature and art.

Faculty who teach and advise in gender studies do research and creative work in many disciplines. Current interests include cross-cultural gendered division of labor, women's empowerment and fertility, children's labor, domestic violence, gender stereotypes, sexism, identity development, linguistics, *in vitro* fertilization and other reproductive experiences, marital decision making, psychology of affirmative action, American women's history, sixteenth century witchcraft, modern American art and feminist art, Anglophone and Francophone literature, and theatrical depictions of gender.

CURRICULUM – *The Gender Studies Major*

Students interested in gender studies take a flexible course of academic study that draws from all four divisions of the university. *Introduction to Gender Studies* examines the social construction of gender and the interconnections between multiple categories of identity.

Introduction to Feminist Theory and Practice examines and critiques a variety of feminist theories and how they apply to people's lives today. We explore the tension between feminist theory and practice as we look at significant contributions to the field by women of color, gay and lesbian studies, queer studies, and the study of masculinities.

Finally, you will take a senior capstone experience to complete the Gender Studies core course requirement. This capstone experience may take the form of a class, a tutorial, an independent study, or an internship. Whatever the form, you will use it as a way to complete a senior project, incorporating concepts from previous classes in gender studies.

To complement the core courses, a student will choose eight additional courses that focus on gender analysis, one of which must be either *Women and Men in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, or *Gender and Feminism in Historical Perspective*, and one of which must be either *The Biology of Human Reproduction*, or *Psychology of Gender*. Class selection for these eight courses must represent at least two different academic divisions, and include at least two courses at or above the 200 level and one course at or above the 400 level. Tutorials and independent studies in gender studies may also fulfill this requirement.

The Gender Studies Minor

For the gender studies minor, students take *Introduction to Gender Studies* and *Introduction to Feminist Theory and Practice* and select a minimum of four additional courses, representing at least two different academic divisions.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
During their junior or senior year, many students do independent research.

Megan O'Connor, '05 completed a project called “Hookin’ Up and Gettin’ Sketchy: Sex and Consent in Fraternity Life”
Allyson Kirking’s, '06 capstone project was called “When a Man Loves a Woman: How

the Film *Frida* Queers Heteronormative Structures.”

Heather Antti, '97 completed a project on “Masculinity and the Men’s Movement.”

Marjorie Quigley, '06 completed a project called “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Feminist Perspectives on Divorce.”

Some projects culminate in senior honors papers. Ulrika Dahl received *magna cum laude* honors at graduation for her study of women and work, “Appleton Women as Homemakers: Work, Community, and the Identity of Resistance.”

Students who complete the gender studies major possess a new lens through which to view their world, a lens that will allow them to use gender in analyzing not only their own professional fields of endeavor, but also their personal lives.

FACULTY

Carla Daughtry, associate professor of anthropology
Mount Holyoke, B.A.; University of Michigan, M.A.
Interests: cultural anthropology, refugee communities

Terry Gottfried, professor of psychology
University of Minnesota, B.A., Ph.D.
Interests: perception of speech and singing, psychology of cognition and language

Beth Haines, associate professor of psychology
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, B.S.; University of Wisconsin-Madison, M.S., Ph.D.
Interests: gender, identity, problem-solving, social development, sexuality

Karen A. Hoffmann, associate professor of English
Lawrence University, B.A.; Indiana University, M.A.
Interests: American and African-American literature

Eilene Hoft-March, professor of French
Carroll College, B.A.; University of California, Berkeley, M.A., Ph.D.
Interests: 20th- and 21st centuries French literature, evolution of the novel, autobiography

Brenda R. Jenike, assistant professor of anthropology
Pomona College, B.A.; University of California-Los Angeles, M.A., Ph.D.
Interests: anthropology of Japan, medical anthropology, cultural gerontology, gender ideology, psychological anthropology

Edmund M. Kern, associate professor of history
Marquette University, B.A.; University of Minnesota, M.A., Ph.D.
Interests: early modern Europe, religious culture, Habsburg Monarchy, Austria, witchcraft

Brent Peterson, professor of German
Johns Hopkins University, B.A.; University of Iowa, M.A.; University of Minnesota, Ph. D.
Interests: construction of national and ethnic identities; the intersection of historical fiction and history; the “long 19th century” (1789-1918); post-war, post-wall experiences of both Germanies

Megan Pickett, associate professor of physics
Cornell University, B.A.; Indiana University, M.A., Ph.D.
Interests: star and planet formation, the history of women in the physical sciences, transgender rights and protections, and transgender narratives

Kathy Privatt, associate professor of theatre and drama and James G. and Ethel M. Barber Professor of Theatre and Drama
Central Missouri State University, B.S.E.; Southwest Missouri State University, M.A.; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Ph.D.
Interests: American theatre-corporate funding on Broadway, art vs. popular theatre

Monica Rico, assistant professor of History
University of California, B.A., M.A., Ph. D.
Interests: American gender history, gender and the environment, masculinities

Judith Sarnecki, professor of French
Knox College, B.A.; Portland State University, M.A.T.; University of Iowa, M.A.; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ph.D.
Interests: 20th-century French literature and theory, cinema, women authors, gender issues

Nancy A. Wall, associate professor of biology; associate dean of the faculty
Presbyterian College, B.S.; University of South Carolina, M.A.; Vanderbilt University, Ph.D.
Interests: cranio-facial development, pattern formation differentiation, development neurobiology