What is gender? What does it mean to be a man or a woman? Why do some men and women answer these questions differently? The best way to attempt to answer such complex questions is to approach the subject from a wide range of viewpoints.

The Minor

Gender studies is an interdisciplinary academic program which aims to expand students’ understanding of femininity and masculinity, as well as the ways women and men locate themselves within gendered systems. Since gender is both a biological fact and a social construction, students examine how gender roles are created from the building blocks of nature and culture. Students also learn how the application of a gendered lens has challenged traditional historical and cultural assumptions about men and women in society. By promoting critical thinking across theoretical boundaries, gender studies prepares students to live and work effectively and respectfully in modern society. The minor is particularly appropriate for students planning to attend graduate school in gender studies, as well as those who wish to incorporate a gendered dimension into a professional career such as law, public policy, or business, yet it combines well with any major.

What Courses Will I Take?

The gender studies minor requires seven courses. It provides a solid background in the significant issues of gender studies scholarship, allows some flexibility in tailoring the program, and enables you to synthesize these concepts with your major program(s). Only Introduction to Gender Studies (GNS 210) is required. The remaining six courses (18 credit hours) can be selected from a range of classes in other disciplines, but must include one course each in two of the three divisions (Humanities, Social Studies, and Science & Mathematics). Although enrollment in GNS 210 is recommended as soon as possible, courses can be taken in any order. Some of the courses fulfilling the gender studies minor have prerequisites, so taking these prerequisites early is also advisable.

Faculty

ANDREA ABRAMS (Ph.D., Emory University), Associate Professor of Anthropology
KIYONA BREWSTER (Ph.D., Northwestern University), Assistant Professor of Sociology
EVA CADAVID (Ph.D., University of Rochester), Associate Professor of Philosophy
MARY B. DANIELS (Ph.D., University of Kentucky), Professor of Spanish
SARA EGGE (Ph.D., Iowa State University), Assistant Professor of History
HELEN EMMITT (Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley), J. Rice Cowan Professor of English
MYKOL HAMILTON (Ph.D., University of California-Los Angeles), H.W. Stodghill Jr. and Adele H. Stodghill Professor of Psychology
MATTHEW PIERCE (Ph.D., Boston University), Assistant Professor of Religion
ELLEN PRUSINSKI (Ph.D. Indiana University), Assistant Professor of Education
JAMIE SHENTON (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University), Assistant Professor of Anthropology

For Further Information

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Related Website
Gender Studies Program Overview

The Centre Commitment

We back our promise with a deeply engaging and intensely personal education guarantee. If you meet regular academic and social expectations, you will complete all three parts of the Centre Commitment, or the college will provide up to an additional year of study tuition-free.

Centre students will:
- Study abroad
- Have an internship or research opportunity
- Graduate in four years