

**STUDENT REQUEST FOR A NON-WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES DESIGNATED COURSE
TO SUBSTITUTE FOR A WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES COURSE
(Updated Fall 2023)**

The student, working with the instructor of the course, must draft a request and submit it to the director of the WGS. The director will circulate the request to the WGS Program Steering Committee for review and approval/denial. If approved, the student must fill out a Course Substitution form and obtain all required signatures.

The request must include:

- ✓ a course syllabus
- ✓ a narrative that explains (1-2 pages in length is suggested) how the course meets one or more of the WGS Program Learning Objectives (PLOs), which are listed below.
- ✓ student's signature
- ✓ instructor's signature, which designates support of the student's request
- ✓ a copy of the student's most recent Degree Works record
- ✓ if the course has already been completed by the student, the WGSPSC may request copies of work completed for the course

Women's & Gender Studies (WGS) Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

PLO #1: Articulate an understanding of and demonstrate the ability to critique human experiences in relationship to gender and the evolution of gender in specific historical, social, and cultural contexts.

After taking courses that support PLO #1, which corresponds with the major distribution area historical knowledge (A), students will be able to demonstrate that they can

- Recognize the intersections between gender and other social and cultural identities, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, class, and sexuality;
- Comprehend the impact of gender and women's experiences on individuals' historical and contemporary agency, and how the ability to express agency has shaped people's lives in geographical settings;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of women's studies as an academic discipline, with an understanding of its growth and relation to the fields of gender and sexuality studies;
- Articulate a critical appreciation of the richness and diversity of gender expressions and feminisms;
- Articulate theoretical perspectives relevant to feminist theories;
- Explain relationships between feminist theory and practice.

PLO #2: Articulate an understanding of the complexity of power structures and modes of authority, especially as they pertain to structural and institutional modes of power and oppression.

After taking the courses that support PLO #2, which corresponds to the major distribution area social and behavioral sciences (B), students will be able to

- Demonstrate an understanding of cross-cultural studies of gender; Articulate an understanding of intersectionality between gender and other modes of oppression;
- Determine how various types of research tools and social/behavioral science research methods are used to study the human experience and gender;
- Perform an institutional, structural, and behavioral analysis of gender and/or women's lives;
- Articulate theoretical perspectives relevant to feminist and gender theories;
- Explain relationships between feminist and gender theory and practice.

PLO #3: Demonstrate a broad and interdisciplinary understanding of the methods women and the marginalized have employed to achieve self-expression, voice, and visibility, and to exercise agency.

After taking the courses that support PLO #3, which corresponds to the major distribution area expressions and representations (C), students will be able to:

- Demonstrate through analysis and/or practice their understanding of ways in which artistic works (i.e. literature, music, and the visual arts) expose the reality of gender-based human experiences;
- Demonstrate through analysis and/or practice their understanding of ways in which artistic works have been created to express gender-based social and/or political views, issues of sexuality, and the relationship between the personal and the political;
- Articulate theoretical perspectives relevant to feminist and gender theories;
- Demonstrate through analysis and/or practice the relationship between feminist and gender theory and practice.

PLO 4: Upon completion of the WGS Program, students will demonstrate the ability to interpret, relate, critique, and investigate feminist and gender perspectives and theories.

After completing a theory intensive course, students will be proficient/skilled at

- Discussing feminist and gender theories and perspectives, applying them to primary and secondary texts;
- Demonstrating the ability to incorporate feminist and gender theories by writing argumentative essays, analyses, research papers, and/or style sheets appropriate to that course and assignment;
- Demonstrating an understanding of the relationship between feminist and gender theories and practices;
- Articulating and critiquing perspectives relevant to feminist and gender theories.