

WOMENS STUDIES PROGRAM
WRITING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINE PLAN
Revisions Approved by WS Curriculum Committee 05/2001

Section 1: Introduction

Women's Studies, an interdisciplinary program, does not dictate a body of knowledge that must be shared by all students but rather an approach to knowledge. The major has been designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies through WST 200, and then requires them to study feminist theory (through one of three disciplines), and women in international perspectives as well as conclude with a capstone course, either a seminar or independent research project or an internship that requires reflection in terms of feminist theory. The fifth course may be fulfilled by any course approved for writing credit. Across the major, students are asked to reflect on what they have learned through writing and speaking.

Section 2: Departmental Plan

I. Goals

It is important that students in Women's Studies learn how to express their ideas clearly. Upon completion of the requirements of the WS Major students should be able to:

- A. Acquire the vocabulary of Women's Studies and use that vocabulary appropriately.
- B. Summarize and represent in their own words Women's Studies (theoretical) literature they have read.
- C. Synthesize information from a number of sources (including primary sources), evaluate that information, form opinions, and raise critical questions about the sources and the methods used to acquire that information.
- D. Evaluate the writing of others and incorporate readers' critiques into revision of their own writing to develop a stronger sense of (academic/scholarly) audience.
- E. Apply appropriate style guidelines such as MLA, APA, or the Chicago Style Manual.
- F. Develop strategies with which to theorize their own experiences and so intervene in a variety of cultural contexts on campus and beyond the university.

II. Objectives:

A. Behaviors and B. Conditions:

1. The Women's Studies program sees the writing experience as a developmental process, with a Beginning-Level writing course (*WST 200: Introduction to Women's Studies*) helping to develop simple, basic writing skills where students will a) acquire and use the vocabulary of Women's Studies, b) summarize and paraphrase in their own words the Women's Studies literature they have read, and c) synthesize and evaluate information from a variety of sources in order to form their own critical perspectives.

2. At the Intermediate Level the writing experiences provide opportunities for developing higher order writing skills by the time the student graduates. Courses at this level (*ENG 470: Feminist Theory*; or *PHL 348: Philosophy and Feminism*; or *POL 363: Feminist Political Theory*; or *WST 300: International Perspective on Women*) will lead students to a) extended their acquisition and use of the vocabulary of Women's Studies, b) summarize and paraphrase in their own words the broadened Women's Studies theoretical literature they have read, c) synthesize and evaluate information from a variety of sources, including primary sources, in order to form their own critical perspectives, and d) evaluate the writing of others and incorporate readers' critiques into revision of their own writing to develop a stronger sense of audience, and e) apply appropriate style guidelines such as MLA, APA, or the Chicago Style Manual.
3. At the Advanced Level, the Capstone Experience (*WST 399: Independent Study*; or *WST 498: Women's Studies Internship*, or *HIS 412: Seminar in Women's History*) will include writing components whereby the students a) synthesize and evaluate information from a variety of sources, including primary sources, in order to form their own critical perspectives, b) evaluate the writing of others and incorporate readers' critiques into revision of their own writing to develop a stronger sense of academic/scholarly audience, c) apply appropriate style guidelines such as MLA, APA, or the Chicago Style Manual, and d) develop strategies with which to theorize their own experiences and so intervene in a variety of cultural contexts on campus and beyond the university.
4. In her/his experience as a Women's Studies major, each student will engage in a variety of basic writing experiences in the Beginning-Level course, including, but not limited to, journal writing, reaction writings, book reviews, film critiques, reports, and essays. In the Intermediate and Advanced-Level writing courses, in addition to the experiences listed above, students will also be required to produce position essays and/or standard research papers.

C. Criteria:

1. To qualify as a Advanced Expository Writing Course for the purposes of Women's Studies, at least 30% of the final grade must be based on assignments that evaluate the student's ability to demonstrate what she/he has learned in her/his own words.
2. Each WS major will write frequently as part of her/his required course work, and receive instructive criticism, with subsequent opportunity to improve on her/his grade.

III. Courses

A. List of Courses

1. BEGINNING LEVEL -- Introduction to Women's Studies
WST 200: Introduction to Women's Studies
In this course students will:

- a) Acquire the vocabulary of Women's Studies and use that vocabulary appropriately.
- b) Summarize and represent in their own words Women's Studies literature they have read.
- c) Synthesize information from a number of sources, evaluate that information, form opinions, and raise critical questions about the sources and the methods used to acquire that information.

2. INTERMEDIATE LEVEL -- Theoretical Perspectives (one of the following)

PHL 348: Philosophy and Feminism

POL 363: Feminist Political Theory

ENG 470: Feminist Theory

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL -- International Perspectives:

WST 300: International Perspective on Women

In these courses students will:

- a) Acquire an extended vocabulary of Women's Studies theory and use that vocabulary appropriately.
- b) Summarize and represent in their own words the broadened Women's Studies theoretical literature they have read.
- c) Synthesize information from a number of sources, including primary sources, evaluate that information, form opinions, and raise critical questions about the sources and the methods used to acquire that information.
- d) Evaluate the writing of others and incorporate readers' critiques into revision of their own writing to develop a stronger sense of audience.
- e) Apply appropriate style guidelines such as MLA, APA, or the Chicago Style Manual.

3. ADVANCED LEVEL -- Capstone Experience (one of the following)

WST 399: Independent Study

WST 498: Women's Studies Internship

HIS 412: Seminar in Women's History

Each of these courses will require students to explore one topic in depth through a seminar, research project or internship. Through this topical exploration, the student will:

- a) Synthesize information from a number of sources, including primary sources, evaluate that information, form opinions, and raise critical questions about the sources and the methods used to acquire that information.
- b) Evaluate the writing of others and incorporate readers' critiques into revision of their own writing to develop a stronger sense of academic/scholarly audience.

- c) Apply appropriate style guidelines such as MLA, APA, or the Chicago Style Manual.
- d) Develop strategies with which to theorize their own experiences in their world context and intervene in a variety of national and international contexts.

IV. Special Circumstances

A. Accessibility

1. Transfer students

Transfer students with 60 hours of transfer credit will satisfy the lower-division writing component of the major. Transfer students with fewer than 60 transfer hours can receive WAC-Gen.Ed credit for 2 writing courses. In order for transfers to receive any WAC-Gen.Ed credit, students will have to show how courses taken at other institutions have met the criteria established. The Women's Studies director, in consultation with the student's advisor, will make this determination.

2. Double majors

Since the program is interdisciplinary and includes many writing courses, Majors must take all their writing courses from the list of approved courses. Double majors will complete the writing requirement through the department of their first major.