Women’s & Gender Studies

Gonzaga’s Women’s and Gender Studies Department is an inter- and multi-disciplinary program that employs critical feminist theories and methodologies to foster transformative understanding of the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class among other socially defined identities. Using gender as a central analytic, we examine and question systems of power, inequality, and injustice and their role in shaping lived experiences of persons, locally, nationally, globally. We foster an ethical and intellectual commitment to dismantle sexism, heterosexism, and other dimensions of intersecting oppressions such as racism and classism. Our faculty empower students to imagine a more just future and equip them with the tools to collectively enact it.

THE PROGRAM

As a department that intersects with several different academic disciplines, a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies (WGST) complements many of Gonzaga’s majors.

The program currently offers stand-alone and cross-listed courses in many different disciplines. Faculty members trained in feminist scholarship and pedagogy teach WGST courses, and they seek to create a community of learners in which both professors and students take responsibility for the educational experience.

Beyond the classroom, WGST students and faculty host organized events, such as the annual Pop Culture lecture series and “Take a Stand,” a dramatic production featuring stories about sexual violence written and performed by students.

CURRICULUM

Courses that students may enroll in include:

- Feminism and Science
- Feminist Thought
- Gender and Pop Culture
- Gender, Difference, and Power
- Global Gender Regimes
- The “-isms”: Racism, Classism, Sexism
- Philosophy of Sex and Gender
- Psychology of Gender
- Transnational Feminisms
- Women and Politics
- Women, Nature, and the Environment
OUTCOMES
Students participating in WGST courses contribute their ideas and talents inside and outside of the classroom. Service-learning opportunities allow students to bring theory and practice together.

The skills developed in WGST courses are applicable to many careers. Gonzaga WGST graduates work in business, education, journalism, government, international development, law, public relations, social services, and research. WGST graduates have also entered graduate programs in art history, counseling, literature, media studies, political science, social work, sociology, and women’s and gender studies.

CAREER OUTCOMES
Recent graduates are pursuing a multitude of interesting experiences:

• studying overseas as a Fulbright Scholar
• serving in the Peace Corps
• pursuing a law degree at Georgetown University
• working in community outreach for women’s health education
• serving on the staff of a U.S. Senator
• volunteering with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps
• coordinating volunteers in programs for troubled teens in the Pacific Northwest
• testifying at the United Nations
• studying culinary arts in San Diego
• teaching with Teach for America

Overall, the shared educational journey found in the WGST curriculum has inspired its graduates to fight for gender justice in a global society.

THE FRINGE
WGST is also home to The Fringe. The Fringe is a student-run journal dedicated to creating campus dialogue about gender, sexuality, intersectional feminism, and more. The theme of The Fringe is chosen annually by students. Though the theme changes yearly, the journal is always a forum for feminist voices and welcomes various types of expression, including essays, art, poetry, and photography created by Gonzaga students, alumni, and faculty. Students interested in taking leadership roles in The Fringe should contact the department.

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For more information:
gonzaga.edu/womens-gender-studies