PROPOSAL FOR A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GENDER STUDIES

Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) is an interdisciplinary program that examines gender and sexuality as social constructs, as historically variable, and as ordering human behavior, perceptions, and values. We serve as a resource for faculty and students in departments and disciplines across campus. For more information, see http://as.vanderbilt.edu/wgs/. Gender and sexuality studies scholars reexamine traditional beliefs, bring a critical perspective to the practices that shape women’s and men’s lives, and recognize that race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and age are crucial aspects of human experience that intersect with gender in significant ways. In virtually every field of academic study, scholarship on women, gender, and sexuality has grown increasingly influential because of its path-breaking theoretical perspectives and empirical findings. Because gender cuts across most areas of knowledge, students can raise similar questions within different disciplines and, by using various methodologies, achieve a deeper understanding of the complexity and wholeness of human experience.

The Program in Women’s and Gender Studies has offered a Certificate in Gender Studies since the early 2000s. The program has graduated 56 students since 2004. Currently 10 students are enrolled from English, French and Italian, Political Science, Spanish and Portuguese, Community Research and Action, and the Graduate Department of Religion. Graduate-level WGS courses have been taught by WGS-affiliated faculty from a wide range of disciplines, including English, Communication Studies, History, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology.

The Certificate in Gender Studies is designed to enable students across disciplines to enrich their graduate education, broaden their research methodologies, and develop new teaching expertise. Our courses provide genuinely interdisciplinary training—including pedagogical training—by deliberately introducing students to the depth and breadth of faculty expertise in gender and sexuality studies across the university. The certificate additionally offers students a valuable professional credential, strengthening their ability to compete for jobs as well as for national fellowships and postdoctoral awards. The program is rigorous, yet flexible, fostering close faculty-student interaction in an intellectually challenging and collegial atmosphere. Because the program is interdisciplinary and because students approach the concentration from a range of home fields and with widely varying preparation, all programs are individualized.

For faculty with interests in gender and sexuality, the Certificate in Gender Studies provides an expanded scholarly community, offers opportunities to develop a new depth of interdisciplinarity in research and teaching, and facilitates contact with graduate students and colleagues across disciplines. At the university level, the Certificate in Gender Studies contributes to the recruitment and retention of graduate students and faculty and enables Vanderbilt to compete more effectively with top-rank graduate institutions that offer a Gender Studies certificate to their students and faculty, including Duke, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern, and Boston University (to name but a few) (see Attachment).
Any student enrolled in a graduate program at Vanderbilt is eligible to apply for the Certificate in Gender Studies. Acceptance in the program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3, satisfactory performance of B+ of better in WGS 301, and the approval of the student’s primary adviser and the Director of the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies. Graduate courses successfully completed at Vanderbilt University prior to admission to the program may be counted toward the certificate requirements with the approval of the Director of the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies if the course can satisfy one of the curriculum requirements of the program.

Students wishing to enroll must complete an “Intent to Enroll” form, which must be signed by the student, the director of the WGS Certificate Program, and the director of the Graduate Program (DGS) for the degree program in which the student is enrolled. A signed copy of the form has to be submitted to the Graduate School (richard.hoover@vanderbilt.edu) and to the University Registrar’s Office (university.registrar@vanderbilt.edu).

The Certificate in Gender Studies requires 13 credit hours of course work, distributed as follows:

- WGS 301: Gender and Sexuality: Feminist Approaches (3 credit hours).
- WGS 302: Gender and Pedagogy (1 credit hour).
- Three additional interrelated graduate-level courses (9 credit hours) on women, gender, and/or sexuality, appropriate to the student’s program of study and forming an intellectually cohesive whole. At least one course (3 credit hours) must come from outside the student’s home discipline and up to six credit hours of specifically named required courses from a student’s primary degree program may count toward the certificate. Courses must be approved for credit by the WGS Director. One course (3 credit hours) may be satisfied through an independent study with a faculty member affiliated with the Women’s and Gender Studies program, with the approval of the director of Women’s and Gender Studies.

In addition, each student must submit to the WGS program one paper or project demonstrating the application of a gender studies or sexuality studies framework or methodology to research, teaching, or fieldwork. The paper or project may be written as an independent study or as a requirement for a course.

The Associate Director of WGS will manage the Certificate program, enroll students, monitor their progress, and certify their fulfillment of the requirements. When the AD position is vacant or filled by an interim (we are currently hiring a new AD), the Director of WGS (currently Laura Carpenter) will manage the program.

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES GRADUATE CATALOG COPY

The Program in Women’s and Gender Studies offers interdisciplinary graduate instruction in gender studies in cooperation with the Departments of Anthropology, English, French and Italian, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Spanish and Portuguese, and the Graduate Department of Religion. Affiliated faculty from other schools, including Peabody College (Human Organization and Development), the Law School (Law & Economics), and the Divinity School, also participate in the program. Students work toward a certificate in Gender Studies.
A certificate in Gender Studies is awarded with either the M.A. or Ph.D. degree upon fulfillment of the following requirements: (1) Completion of at least 13 credit hours of course work across two or more disciplines. Two courses, WGS 301 (3 credit hours) and WGS 302 (1 credit hour) are required. Three additional interrelated graduate-level courses (9 credit hours) on women, gender, and/or sexuality, appropriate to the student’s program of study and forming an intellectually cohesive whole, are required. At least one course (3 credit hours) must come from outside the student’s home discipline. Up to six credit hours of specifically named required courses from a student’s primary degree program may count toward the certificate. Courses must be approved for credit by the WGS Director. One course (3 credit hours) may be satisfied through an independent study with a faculty member affiliated with the Women’s and Gender Studies program, with the approval of the director of Women’s and Gender Studies. (2) Completion of one paper or substantial project demonstrating the application of a gender studies or sexuality studies framework or methodology to research, teaching, or fieldwork.

Any student enrolled in a graduate program at Vanderbilt is eligible to apply for the Certificate in Gender Studies. Acceptance in the program requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3, satisfactory performance of B+ or better in WGS 301, and the approval of the student’s primary adviser and the Director of the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies. Courses taken at Vanderbilt prior to admission to the program may be counted toward the certificate requirements with the approval of the Director of the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies.

Students wishing to enroll must complete an “Intent to Enroll” form, which must be signed by the student, the director of the WGS Certificate Program, and the director of the Graduate Program (DGS) for the degree program in which the student is enrolled. A signed copy of the form has to be submitted to the Graduate School (richard.hoover@vanderbilt.edu) and to the University Registrar’s Office (university.registrar@vanderbilt.edu).

COMPARABLE PROGRAMS AT OTHER SCHOOLS

**Duke University (Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies)**

Required Coursework (4 courses total)
1. One required course: Women’s Studies (WS) 701: Foundations in Feminist Studies
2. Two graduate-level (600-level or above) courses in WS (may be cross-listed)
3. One additional graduate-level course (500-level or above) in WS or “other academic unit focusing on women, gender or an intersectional approach to the study of race and/or sexuality”

Required Papers/Projects or Research Focus
1. Qualifying exams or dissertation must have as a central focus women, gender, feminism, or sexuality. (Needs approval by DGS)

Additional Requirements
1. A WS faculty member or program affiliate must be on qualifying exam and dissertation committees.

**Northwestern University (Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies [GSS])**
1. Required Coursework (5 courses total & colloquium participation)
2. Two required courses: one in feminist studies (GSS 405: Advanced Feminist Theory), and one in sexuality studies (GSS 490: Queer Theory or GSS 490: Sociology of Sexuality)
3. Three graduate-level (400-level) courses in GSS (may be cross-listed; can double-count courses in home department); 300-level courses may count if taken for graduate credit and approved by DGS
4. Two quarters of involvement in the GSS Graduate Colloquium, a one-credit, two-quarter course (can be audited)

Required Papers/Projects or Research Focus
1. Must submit a final paper of article-length or longer on a topic related to GSS or using the field’s methods (e.g., Master’s thesis, dissertation, or other project); must be approved by the Graduate Advisor in GSS

Additional Requirements
1. The student’s mentor (ideally GSS faculty or affiliated) on the final paper must submit an official letter on student’s behalf confirming completion of this requirement.

**University of Pennsylvania (Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies [GSWS])**

Required Coursework (5 courses total)
1. One required course: Seminar in feminist theory or queer/sexuality theory
2. Four graduate-level courses in GSWS or cross-listed (or courses approved to have significant content related to gender, sexuality, and/or women’s studies)

Required Papers/Projects or Research Focus
1. Must submit a paper relevant to gender, sexuality, and/or women’s studies

Additional Requirements
1. Must attend at least 5 of 6 GSWS graduate seminars on pedagogy

**Boston University (Graduate Certificate in Women’s, Gender, Sexuality Studies [WGSS])**

Required Coursework (4 courses total)
1. One required course: a graduate course dealing with “feminist, gender, and/or queer theories and methodologies” (e.g., GRS WGS 801: Theories and Methods in WGSS)
2. One interdisciplinary course taught by the Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies
3. Two graduate-level courses taught by WGSS-approved programs

Additional Requirements
1. Must attend at least one pedagogical workshop on gender analysis in teaching
2. Voluntary participation in a WGSS graduate symposium series (to workshop papers, presentations, job talks, etc.)

SEE ATTACHED SACS LEARNING OUTCOMES MATERIALS
I. Mission Statement

The Program in Women's and Gender Studies seeks to provide students with a broad, interdisciplinary view of scholarship on women, gender, and sexuality. The program allows students enrolled in post-baccalaureate degree programs to enrich their graduate education beyond their disciplinary specialization, broaden their research methodologies, develop new teaching expertise, and document their specialization in gender and/or sexuality studies.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be expected to produce original research on gender and/or sexuality in which they draw on scholarship from more than one disciplinary tradition and/or on interdisciplinary scholarship in gender and sexualities studies. By extending their research beyond their disciplinary specialization, students will enhance their ability to address the complexities and diversity of gender and sexuality as they shape people's lives.

2. Students will be expected to understand the key concept of intersectionality—the insight that gender, race, ethnicity, social class, and sexual orientation are all fundamental aspects of human experience and that their effects are complex and intersecting rather than additive in nature—and be able to apply it in pedagogical and research contexts.
3. Students will be expected to develop familiarity with a range of theoretical perspectives, especially feminist theories, employed in contemporary gender and sexuality studies. By becoming conversant with theories emanating from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, students will gain new tools for enriching their research and teaching, as well as gain insight into the history of feminist thought in western and non-Western contexts.

III. Assessment Measures (Please provide rubrics or assessment tools if used)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student materials submitted to fulfill the certificate’s project/paper requirement will be evaluated by faculty members, all of them expert gender and/or sexuality scholars, for evidence of an interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary approach. The scores will be determined on the basis of a quantitative rubric (see attached).</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final projects from WGS 302 (Gender and Pedagogy) will be evaluated by faculty members, all of them experienced teachers in gender and/or sexuality studies, for evidence of the ability to employ the concept of intersectionality in teaching or other scholarly materials. The scores will be determined on the basis of a quantitative rubric (see attached).</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final projects from WGS 301 (Gender and Sexuality: Feminist Approaches) will be evaluated by faculty members, all of them experts on gender and/or sexuality research, for evidence of familiarity with feminist and other theories of gender and sexuality. The scores will be determined on the basis of a quantitative rubric (see attached).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rubric for Student Learning Outcome 1: Using an Inter- or Multi-Disciplinary Approach

Student materials submitted to fulfill the project/paper requirement will be evaluated according to the following three criteria, scored on a three-point scale: agree (1), neutral (2), disagree (3):

1. The student demonstrates familiarity with frameworks, theories, and/or empirical research related to gender and/or sexuality from more than one discipline or interdiscipline.
2. The students can apply approaches from multiple (inter)disciplines to enhance knowledge of a particular phenomenon.
3. The student can write a scholarly gender/sexuality studies essay that is effectively organized and coherent.
4. The student can write a scholarly gender/sexuality studies essay that makes proper use of citations and references.

Rubric for Student Learning Outcome 2: Employing the Concept of Intersectionality

Final projects from WGS 302 (Gender and Pedagogy) will be evaluated according to the following two criteria, scored on a three-point scale: agree (1), neutral (2), disagree (3):

1. The student exhibits an accurate understanding of the concept of intersectionality as defined in some strand(s) of feminist scholarship.
2. The student effectively incorporates intersectional analyses into materials produced for the course.
3. The student thoughtfully address her/his own intersectional social position in materials produced for the course.
4. The student shows consideration of the ways her/his future students’ learning experiences might be influenced by their intersectional social positions.

Rubric for Student Learning Outcome 3: Feminist and Other Theories of Gender and Sexuality

Final projects from WGS 301 (Gender and Sexuality: Feminist Approaches) will be evaluated according to the following two criteria, scored on a three-point scale: agree (1), neutral (2), disagree (3):

1. The student can accurately and fairly explicate the arguments made by key gender and sexuality theorists.
2. The student can thoughtfully apply one (or more) theories to illuminate a particular phenomenon.
3. The student can compare and contrast competing theories as they pertain to a particular phenomenon.
4. The student can make a case for how a specific theory (or theories) contributes to a more effective understanding of a particular phenomenon.
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate
Date: Friday, April 3, 2015 2:09:44 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Kreyling, Michael P
To: Carpenter, Laura M

Professor Carpenter: The English department is pleased to support the reauthorization of the graduate certificate program in WGS. Michael Kreyling, Interim Chair

Michael Kreyling
Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37235
615-322-2541
615-343-8028 (FAX)

From: Carpenter, Laura M
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:17 AM
To: Kreyling, Michael P
Cc: Schwarz, Kathryn; Enterline, Lynn E
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Michael,

As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in your department are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by your department. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,
Laura

*****
Laura M. Carpenter
Associate Professor of Sociology
Interim Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Director, Program in Career Development
Vanderbilt University
l.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7546
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate  
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 9:28:08 AM Central Daylight Time  
From: Scott, Virginia M  
To: Carpenter, Laura M  
CC: Debrauwere-Miller, Nathalie

Dear Laura,

We in French and Italian are in full support of the graduate certificate in WGS. We have had several students take courses in Gender Studies and these courses have complemented many of our offerings for the PhD in French. In addition, when we recruit graduate students to our program we are always eager to mention that they can take courses in Gender Studies to support their graduate work in French. Graduate faculty in French who work on areas related to Gender Studies include Nathalie Debrauwere-Miller, Paul Miller, Lynn Ramey, Virginia Scott, Tracy Sharpyle-Whiting and Holly Tucker.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with your program for both undergraduate and graduate studies.

Best,

Virginia

Virginia M. Scott  
Professor of French  
Chair, French and Italian

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From: Carpenter, Laura M  
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:18 AM  
To: Scott, Virginia M  
Cc: Debrauwere-Miller, Nathalie  
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Virginia,

As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in your department are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by your department. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,

Laura
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate  
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 9:51:22 AM Central Daylight Time  
From: Harrington, Joel F  
To: Carpenter, Laura M  
CC: Crawford, Katherine B

Dear Laura,

I’m happy to offer my support as chair of History. Do you have any information on the certificate that I can share with my colleagues? We have a departmental meeting on Monday and I could distribute copies.

Good luck with the reapproval process.

Joel

Joel F. Harrington  
Centennial Professor and Chair  
Department of History  
Vanderbilt University  
(615)-322-2577

From: Carpenter, Laura M  
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:19 AM  
To: Harrington, Joel F  
Cc: Crawford, Katherine B  
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Joel,

As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in your department are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by your department. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I’d be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,

Laura
****
Laura M. Carpenter
Associate Professor of Sociology
Interim Director, Women’s and Gender Studies
Director, Program in Career Development
Vanderbilt University
l.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7546
Subject: Re: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 1:40:01 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Perkins, Douglas D
To: Carpenter, Laura M
CC: Heflinger, Craig Anne, Shinn, Beth

Dear Laura,

I’m very glad to add my support to the Gender Studies graduate certificate and our facilitating exchanges of students and opportunities in both directions— as noted, we often have students who want to pursue the overlap with WGS and we very much welcome students from other programs taking our courses.

Best, Doug

--
Prof. Douglas D. Perkins
Director of Graduate Studies, Dept. of Human & Org. Development
http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/departments/hod/index.php
Director, Ph.D. Program in Community Research & Action http://vu.edu/cra
M.Ed. Program in Community Development & Action http://vu.edu/cda
B.S. Track in Community Leadership & Development
Peabody College #90, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37203-5721 USA
D.Perkins@vanderbilt.edu; skype: dougperkins1; google+
phone: (615) 322-7213, Fax: (615) 322-1769
My homepage: https://my.vanderbilt.edu/perkins/
Assoc. Editor, Psychosocial Intervention/Intervención Psicosocial / http://www.psychosocial-intervention.org

From: <Carpenter>, Laura M <laura.carpenter@Vanderbilt.Edu>
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 1:27 PM
To: Beth Shinn <beth.shinn@vanderbilt.edu>
Cc: Douglas Perkins <douglas.d.perkins@vanderbilt.edu>, Craig Anne Heflinger <c.heflinger@vanderbilt.edu>
Subject: Re: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Thanks very much, Beth! We are delighted to have your support.

Laura

From: <Shinn>, Beth <beth.shinn@Vanderbilt.Edu>
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 12:46 PM
To: "Heflinger, Craig Anne" <c.heflinger@Vanderbilt.Edu>, "Carpenter, Laura M"
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Laura,

As Craig Anne says, several of our students have found your certificate a valuable experience, and we welcome your students in our classes as well. This enriches the doctoral experience for everyone.

Beth
From: Heflinger, Craig Anne  
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:56 AM  
To: Carpenter, Laura M; Shinn, Beth  
Cc: Perkins, Douglas D  
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

I am copying the HOD DGS, Doug Perkins.  
Yes, we have several CRA students- and a few CDA masters students- who pursue the Gender Studies certificate. This is one of our valued interdisciplinary opportunities for students and as a faculty member and advisor of those students, I can endorse the helpfulness of and interest in this Certificate Program- and Doug or Beth, in your roles can you provide an endorsement about students outside HOD taking relevant courses to earn Certificate credit?

cah

Craig Anne Heflinger, Ph.D.  
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Human & Organizational Development (615-322-8275)  
Associate Dean for Graduate Education, Peabody College (615-322-1572)  
Vanderbilt University  
c.heflinger@vanderbilt.edu  
Mail: 230 Appleton Place, Box 90 Peabody, Nashville, TN 37203, USA

GradLEAF site: https://my.vanderbilt.edu/gradleaf

From: Carpenter, Laura M  
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:36 AM  
To: Shinn, Beth  
Cc: Heflinger, Craig Anne  
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Professor Shinn,  

Please allow me to introduce myself: I'm Laura Carpenter, Interim Director of Women's and Gender Studies (WGS). As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender
Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in HOD and CRA are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by HOD and CRA. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department/program. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,
Laura

*****
Laura M. Carpenter
Associate Professor of Sociology
Interim Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Director, Program in Career Development
Vanderbilt University
l.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7546
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Date: Friday, April 3, 2015 8:43:57 AM Central Daylight Time

From: Wuerth, Julian

To: Carpenter, Laura M

CC: Talisse, Robert Basil

Dear Laura,

The Philosophy Department definitely supports the formal reapproval of the Gender Studies certificate by the Graduate School. As you mention, graduate students in our PhD program have pursued Gender Studies certificates in the past. This has been a benefit to them and to the Philosophy Department. Given our Department’s strength in feminist philosophy and philosophy of gender, we have reason to expect that the Certificate will continue to be of interest to our students moving forward.

Please let me know if I can do anything else to support the program.

Best wishes,

Julian

Julian Wuerth
Associate Professor and Acting Department Chair
Department of Philosophy
Vanderbilt University
111 Furman Hall
Nashville, TN 37240

615-343-5349
julian.wuerth@vanderbilt.edu


---

From: Carpenter, Laura M
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:29 AM
To: Talisse, Robert Basil; Wuerth, Julian
Cc: Guenther, Lisa Noelle; Oliver, Kelly; Medina, Jose M
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Professors Talisse and Wuerth,

Please allow me to introduce myself: I'm Laura Carpenter, Interim Director of Women's and Gender Studies (WGS). As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in your department are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by your department. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,
Laura

*****
Laura M. Carpenter
Associate Professor of Sociology
Interim Director, Women’s and Gender Studies
Director, Program in Career Development
Vanderbilt University
l.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7546
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 10:53:15 AM Central Daylight Time

From: Lewis, David Eric
To: Carpenter, Laura M
CC: Ackerly, Brooke A

Laura,

We are delighted to be able to have Gender Studies certificate students take courses in our department and partner with you. Please let me know what more you might need from me.

Best,

David

David E. Lewis, Interim Chair
William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor
Department of Political Science
Vanderbilt University

From: Carpenter, Laura M
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:26 AM
To: Lewis, David Eric
Cc: Ackerly, Brooke A
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Professor Lewis,

Please allow me to introduce myself: I'm Laura Carpenter, Interim Director of Women's and Gender Studies (WGS). As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in your department are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by your department. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,
Laura
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 11:21:50 AM Central Daylight Time
From: Dehart, Paul J
To: Carpenter, Laura M
CC: Armour, Ellen True, Miller-Mclemore, Bonnie J, Snarr, Carey Melissa, Schneider, Laurel C

Dear Laura,

I am happy to respond in favor of the Gender Studies certificate. Gender and sexuality issues are of course one of the strong points of interest and expertise among our departmental faculty. It is hardly surprising and, indeed, welcome that our students might wish to pursue the certificate (as long as they meet the other conditions specified by the department and their areas of concentration, of course). That students in other graduate departments will take courses with us that might count toward the certificate is also most welcome, and only increases our profile in the university. So please regard this as a sign of support, from my perspective as GDR chair, for the reapproval of the Gender Studies certificate within the Graduate School.

Sincerely,
Paul

From: Carpenter, Laura M
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Dehart, Paul J
Cc: Armour, Ellen True; Miller-Mclemore, Bonnie J; Snarr, Carey Melissa; Schneider, Laurel C
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Paul,

As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in the Graduate Department of Religion are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by the GDR. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,
Laura

*****
Laura M. Carpenter
Associate Professor of Sociology
Interim Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Director, Program in Career Development
Vanderbilt University
l.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7546
I am supportive too. KD

As a departmental member, I'm totally supportive of this.

Holly

Dear Katharine,

As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in your department are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by your department. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,
Laura

*****

Laura M. Carpenter
Associate Professor of Sociology
Interim Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Director, Program in Career Development
Vanderbilt University
l.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7546
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 3:07:07 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Trigo, Benigno
To: Carpenter, Laura M

Dear Professor Carpenter,

It is with pleasure that I write in support of the Gender Studies Certificate. I am aware of several graduate students in our department who have pursued the gender studies certificate and I am confident that some of the students in the Women’s and Gender Studies program are taking and will take courses in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese (Ben Galina, for example, took a course with Professor Michelle Murray). The Gender Studies Certificate provides a solid foundation of scholarship in the field of gender studies, and this is a most valuable resource (and certification) for any member of my discipline pursuing a Tenure Track position in a research university today. One of my most promising dissertation advisees has a Gender Studies Certificate. He is doing exceptionally well in his research, and I expect him to do similarly well when he enters the job market. But beyond the singular case of my student, or of the graduate students in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the idea of a Gender Studies Certificate is in itself valuable and worth supporting for the sake of our college and campus life. The current state of our culture, and the need that we have to reflect more deeply and seriously on matters of sexual difference, requires initiatives like the Gender Studies Certificate. These initiatives have the potential of helping to help prevent the intolerant climate that sometimes emerges against our very best intentions.

Sincerely,

Benigno

____________________________________
Professor Benigno Trigo, Chair
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Vanderbilt University
PMB 351617
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37235-1617
Tel.: (615) 322-6930
Fax: (615) 343-7260

Academia.Edu
Check out my latest book, Kristeva's Fiction
Check out my book, Remembering Maternal Bodies

From: Carpenter, Laura M
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:27 AM
To: Trigo, Benigno
Cc: Murray, Michelle
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Benigno,

As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)
If past precedent holds, some graduate students in your department are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by your department. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your department. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettably tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them.

With thanks,
Laura

*****
Laura M. Carpenter
Associate Professor of Sociology
Interim Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Director, Program in Career Development
Vanderbilt University
l.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7546
6 April 2015

Laura Carpenter, Interim Director
Women’s and Gender Studies Program
124 Buttrick Hall

Dear Prof. Carpenter,

The Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies is a valuable complement to our graduate program in the Department of Anthropology. The interdisciplinary certificate program offers a framework in which students learn about gender from perspectives more diverse than is possible within our relatively small program.

The Gender Studies certificate program’s emphasis on feminist theory and pedagogy are especially important for our students. Anthropology is fundamentally concerned with diversity, perspectival pluralism, and cultural and historical intersections of identities, power, and formations of difference and value. Feminist theorists and feminist approaches to knowledge and research methods have been major influences on every subfield throughout our discipline. Yet although we teach a few courses on gender and sexuality at the undergraduate level, we have no graduate courses to give our students the depth and rigor they need. It is particularly useful for them to engage with interdisciplinary perspectives and learn to communicate across disciplines. The pedagogical training built into the certificate program gives them the conceptual tools and skills to develop effective, inclusive approaches in their work with students and future roles as instructors. This is training they can get nowhere else at VU, and it is highly desirable for their professional preparation.

In an increasingly competitive academic job market, the focused training and formal recognition that the graduate certificate confers offer our students a critical advantage. We strongly support and endorse the Gender Studies certificate program.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Conklin, Chair
Subject: RE: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate  
Date: Sunday, April 5, 2015 1:09:45 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: Hersch, Joni  
To: Carpenter, Laura M  
CC: Hersch, Joni

Dear Laura, 

I am writing on behalf of the PhD program in law and economics to express my strong support for re-approval of the Gender Studies graduate certificate. Our PhD program values the opportunity for our students to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and for Gender Studies certificate students to take courses in the Law and Economics PhD program. Specifically, one of the PhD program’s primary fields is Labor and Human Resources. This field includes as an important research component topics with strong overlap with Gender Studies.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Joni Hersch  
Professor of Law and Economics  
Vanderbilt Law School  
Co-founder and co-director, PhD Program in Law and Economics

From: Carpenter, Laura M  
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:38 AM  
To: Hersch, Joni  
Subject: Request for Support of Gender Studies Certificate

Dear Joni,

Greetings from Women's and Gender Studies! As you may know, all programs that have historically offered graduate certificates -- including my program's Gender Studies certificate -- have been asked to have those certificates formally reapproved by the Graduate School. (These new requirements are stipulated by the VU Board of Trust.)

If past precedent holds, some graduate students in the Law and Economics program are likely to pursue the Gender Studies certificate and some Gender Studies certificate students are likely to take courses offered by Law and Economics. I would like to make sure that this is acceptable to you and your program. If so, could you please reply to this message with a brief note of support? (Ideally by Monday, April 7; we are working on a regrettable tight deadline.)

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to discuss them. Also, if you believe such a letter of support should come from someone else at the Law School, please let me know so I may contact them ASAP.

With thanks,
Laura