To: the Committee on Educational Programs:

From: Katherine Crawford  
Director, Program in Women’s and Gender Studies

The Program in Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) is requesting that a change to the WGS major and minor. Currently, students are required to take WGS 1150 (Sex and Gender in Everyday Life). WGS would like to amend the requirement allowing students to take either 1150 or WGS 1160 (Sex and Society). Students must take one class or the other, but they can take both courses (with the second counting as elective hours).

Written rationale:

WGS 1150 and WGS 1160 cover some of the same basic conceptual ground (basic tenets of feminist analysis; intersectionality; aspects of gender theory), but they do so from different perspectives and the courses in develop in intellectually divergent ways. Specifically, 1150 comes out of the tradition of the Women’s Movement, with a particular emphasis on feminism, women, and gender inequality. WGS 1160 reflects its origins in sexuality studies, Queer Theory, and highlights on-going issues particularly around sexual violence. While both courses provide an introduction to important basic concepts that inform the major and minor, 1150 and 1160 also offer distinct intellectual engagements for students. WGS therefore requests that students be allowed to take either course to fulfill their introductory level requirement. WGS further requests that students be allowed to take both courses if they so desire, with the second course counting as elective hours toward the major or minor.

Vote of the Faculty:

On November 5, 2015, the faculty voted unanimously in support of the motion to count WGS 1150 or 1160 toward the major/minor requirements; and voted unanimously to allow students to take both courses if they choose to do so (the second course counting as elective hours).

Current Catalog Copy:

Core Courses: WGS 1150 (or 1150W), and 3201, and either 3246W or 3250 (3250W).

New Catalog Copy:

Core courses. One of 1150 (1150W) or 1160, and 3201, and one of 3246W or 3250 (3250W).
Thank you for your attention, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Katherine Crawford
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Director, Program in Women’s and Gender Studies
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Women’s and Gender Studies

DIRECTOR Katherine B. Crawford (History)
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Melanie Adley
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES Melanie Adley PROFESSOR EMERITA Charlotte Pierce-Baker
PRINCIPAL SENIOR LECTURER Julia A. Fesmire (Women’s and Gender Studies, English)
SENIOR LECTURERS Sandy Stahl (Women’s and Gender Studies) LECTURERS Jamie Shenton (Women’s and Gender Studies)

Affiliated Faculty
PROFESSORS Houston A. Baker (English, African American and Diaspora Studies), Robert F. Campany (International Programs), Ellen W. Clayton (Pediatrics, Law), Katharine B. Crawford (History), Cynthia J. Cynus (Blair), Colin Dayan (English), Katharine M. Donato (Sociology), Bonnie J. Dow (Communication Studies), Lynn E. Enterline (English), Earl E. Fitz (Portuguese), Vivien G. Fryd (History of Art), Tracey E. George (Law), Barbara Hahn (German), Joni L. Hensch (Law), Cathy L. Jnade (Spanish), Michael P. Keyling (English), Vera M. Kutzhinska (English), Amy-Jill Levine (New Testament Studies), Leah S. Marcus (English), Jonathan M. Metzl (Sociology, Medicine, Health, and Society), Holly J. McCammon (Sociology), Thomas A. McGinn (Classical Studies), José M. Medina (Philosophy), Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore (Religion, Psychology, and Culture), Dana D. Nelson (English and American Studies), Kelly Oliver (Philosophy), Mark L. Schoenfield (English), Kathryn Schwarz (English), Virginia M. Scott (French and Italian), Laurel C. Schneider (Religious Studies), Tracy D. Sharpney-Whiting (African American and Diaspora Studies, French), John M. Sloop (Communication Studies), Hortense J. Spillers (English), Cecelia Tichi (English), Benigno L. Tito (Spanish and Portuguese), Arleen M. Tuchman (History), Holly A. Tucker (French and Italian, Biomedical Ethics and Society) ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Brooke A. Ackerly (Political Science), Ellen T. Armour (Theology, Philosophy), Vanessa B. Beasley (Communication Studies), Karen E. Campbell (Sociology), Laura M. Carpenter (Sociology), Beth A. Conklin (Anthropology), Nathalie A. Debrauwere-Miller (French and Italian), Ildi Dobbs-Weinstein (Philosophy), Jennifer Fay (Cinema and Media Arts, English), James C. Fraser (Human and Organizational Development), Kathryn L. Garcia (Classical Studies), Teresa A. Goddo (English), Derek M. Griffith (Medicine, Health, and Society), Lisa Guenther (Philosophy), Eva M. Hartn (Chemistry), Sarah E. Igo (History), Christina Karageorgou-Bastia (Spanish and Portuguese), Shaul J. Kelner (Sociology, Jewish Studies), Reina A. Kjer (American Sign Language), Carina M. Kraft (Spanish and Portuguese), Bridget E. Orr (English), Richard N. Pitt (Sociology), Lynn T. Ramey (French), Nancy B. Reisman (English), Adam S. Meyer (Jewish Studies), Catherine A. Molineux (History), Ifeoma C. Nwankwo (English), Emanuelle Oliveira-Monte (Spanish and Portuguese), Bridget E. Orr (English), Richard N. Pitt (Sociology), Lynn T. Ramey (French), Nancy B. Reisman (English), Ruth Rogaski (History), Allison H. Schachter (English, Jewish Studies), C. Melissa Snarr (Ethics and Society), Meike G. Werner (German and Slavic Languages), Edward N. Wright-Rios (History) ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Candido Amich (English), Christina Essin (Theatre), Alim Hamnaie (Medicine, Health, and Society), Rolanda L. Johnson (Nursing), Claire S. King (Communication Studies), Mireille M. Lee (History of Art), Linda G. Manning (Psychiatry), N. Michelle Murray (Spanish and Portuguese) SENIOR LECTURERS Yolette T. Jones (History), Elizabeth S. Meadows (English), Courtney S. Muse (Medicine, Health, and Society), Elena Olazagasti-Segovia (Spanish), Alexandra A. Sargent (Theatre), Gay H. Welch LECTURERS Sophie Bjork-James (Anthropology), Elizabeth R. Covington (English), Jeremy DeVaal (History), Christy Halbert, Amanda M. Kinard (English), Nancy M. Roche (English), Terrie Spalding (Sociology)

WRITER IN RESIDENCE Alice Randall (English, African American and Diaspora Studies)

WOMEN’S and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary program that examines gender as a social construct and as a historically variable component of culture that orders human behavior, perceptions, and values. Women’s and Gender Studies teaches its students to reexamine traditional beliefs, to engage in new kinds of research, and to bring a critical perspective to the everyday practices that shape women’s and men’s lives in the United States and globally. Our courses and instructors pay particular attention to the consequences for women, men, and children of living in a world characterized by profound inequalities. The program also recognizes that race, class, ethnicity, age, sexuality, ability, and nationality are crucial aspects of identity and experience; these are understood to be intersecting and contested features of social life and are examined as such.

Because these aforementioned features of human experience cut across many disciplines, students in Women’s and Gender Studies achieve a deeper understanding of the complexity and wholeness of human life. In the classroom, as well as in faculty and student research, our goal is to transform traditional ways of knowing by reaching across epistemological and methodological divisions to foster comprehensive, interdisciplinary perspectives on gender, sexuality, identity, and power in social life. Women’s and Gender Studies not only compels us to recognize the problems and possibilities of the changing times in which we live, but also empowers us to effect change.

The Women’s and Gender Studies program offers a major and a minor which provide an excellent foundation for students who plan to enter professional schools in law, medicine, and business; for those who pursue advanced degrees in women’s and gender studies, the humanities, and social sciences; as well as for those who move into
Careers in business, government, research, teaching, health and social administration, counseling, journalism, advocacy, and the media.

**NOTE:** New course numbers took effect in fall 2015. Former course numbers are included in course descriptions in this catalog and at this website: registrar.vanderbilt.edu/faculty/course-renumbering/course-lookup/.

**Program of Concentration in Women’s and Gender Studies**

The interdisciplinary major in women’s and gender studies consists of 36 credit hours of course work, distributed as follows:

1. **Core courses.** Either WGS 1150 (or 1150W) or WGS 1160 and 3201, and either 3246W or 3250 or 3250W. One of 1150, 1150W, or 1160; 3201; and one of 3246W, 3250, or 3250W. (9 credit hours)

2. **Senior Seminar.** WGS 4960. Generally taken in the spring second semester of the student’s final year. (3 credit hours)

3. **24 credit hours of electives.** Any courses in the Women’s and Gender Studies program; any courses dual-listed in Women’s and Gender Studies; any course that meets the approval of the **director** of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), and is not used to satisfy the above requirements. These elective courses may include up to 6 credit hours of internship and/or independent research (Women’s and Gender Studies 3882, 3883).

**Honors Program**

The Honors Program in Women’s and Gender Studies requires 36 credit hours of course work and is designed to afford exceptional students the opportunity to undertake independent research on a topic in feminist and/or gender scholarship in consultation with faculty members. The program is open to all Women’s and Gender Studies majors with junior standing who have completed at least 24 credit hours of the major and who have earned a 3.3 cumulative grade point average and a 3.3 grade point average in courses that count toward the major. Students must be approved for acceptance into the Honors Program by the program director. To graduate with honors in Women’s and Gender Studies, students must:

(a) Complete 36 credit hours of course work;

(b) Complete the required courses for the major (described above);

(c) Submit for approval a short description of the Honors project/thesis to the director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program, no later than the spring second semester of the junior year;

(d) Complete 6 credit hours of independent research, Women’s and Gender Studies 4998 and 4999 (Honors Research and Project), typically during the senior year under supervision of the project adviser. These 6 credit hours count as electives in the 36 credit hours of course work for Honors majors.

(e) Complete an honors project by the spring second semester of the senior year; and

(f) Pass an oral examination on the topic of the Honors project/thesis.

Candidates for honors in Women’s and Gender Studies may, with the written permission of the director of the program, substitute one 3000-level course in gender and/or feminist studies for one 2000-level course required for the major. Such permission must be acquired prior to enrollment in the course.

Information concerning the Honors Program is available from the director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program. College regulations governing honors may be found in this catalog under Honors Programs.
Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies

The minor in Women’s and Gender Studies consists of 18 credit hours of course work, distributed as follows:

1. Core courses. One of 1150, 1150W, or 1160; 3201; and one of 3246W, 3250, or 3250W. Either WGS 1150 (or 1150W) or WGS 1160 and 3201, and either 3246W or 3250 or 3250W. (9 credit hours)

2. Senior Seminar. WGS 4960. Generally taken in the spring second semester of the student’s final year. (3 credit hours)

3. At least 6 credit hours of electives. Any courses in the Women’s and Gender Studies program; any courses dual-listed in Women’s and Gender Studies; any course that meets the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and is not used to satisfy the above requirements.

Recommended courses organized by subject area are as follows.

*Note: 1111 First-Year Writing Seminars and Special Topics courses vary each semester. For full descriptions of current seminar offerings and information on whether a particular First-Year Writing Seminar can be used to fulfill requirements for the Women’s and Gender Studies major or minor, consult the program director.

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND DIASPORA STUDIES: 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar; 1204, Diaspora Feminisms; 2204, Politics of Beauty and Blacks; 3214, Black Masculinity: Social Imagery and Public Policy; 4264, Black Diaspora Women Writers.

ANTHROPOLOGY: 2105, Race in the Americas; 3121, Global Wealth and Poverty; 2342, Biology of Inequality; 2110, Gender and Cultural Politics.


COMMUNICATION STUDIES: 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar; 3100, Rhetoric of Social Movements; 3110, Women, Rhetoric, and Social Change; 3720, Communicating Gender; 3950, Rhetoric of Mass Media; 3890, Selected Topics in Communication Studies.

DIVINITY: 7123, Ethics and Society: Justice.


GERMAN: 4535, German Romanticism; 4537, Women and Modernity; 2444, German Fairy Tales: From Brothers Grimm to Walt Disney; 3344, Women at the Margins: German-Jewish Writers.

HISTORY: 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar; 2835, Sexuality and Gender in the Western Tradition to 1700; 2840, Sexuality and Gender in the Western Tradition since 1700; 3010, Pornography and Prostitution in History; 2810, Women, Health, and Sexuality; 4960, Majors Seminar.

HISTORY OF ART: 2765, Art since 1945; 3228W, Gender and Sexuality in Greek Art; 3840, Directed Study; 4960, Advanced Seminar.

ITALIAN: 3340, Famous Women by Boccaccio.

JEWISH STUDIES: 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar.

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND SOCIETY: 1111, First-Year Writing Seminar; 1940, Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities; 1930, Health Social Movements; 2250, War and the Body; 2230, Masculinity and Men’s Health; 2240, Bionic Bodies, Cyborg Cultures; 3890, Special Topics.

PHILOSOPHY: 3604, Gender and Sexuality; 3007, French Feminism.


PSYCHOLOGY: 3705, Human Sexuality.


RUSSIAN: 1874, Russian Fairy Tales.

SOCIOLOGY: 3611, Women and the Law; 3603, Women and Social Activism; 3221, The Family; 3711, Women, Gender, and Globalization; 3604, American Social Movements; 3722, Gender in Society; 3616, Women and Public Policy in America; 3702, Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the United States; 3704, Race, Gender, and Sport; 3723, Gender, Sexuality, and the Body; 3304, Race, Gender, and Health; 3724, Gender Identities, Interactions, and Relationships.

SPANISH: 4755, Latin and Latin American Women Writers; 3893, Special Topics in Hispanic Literature.

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ANTHROPOLOGY: 2105, Race in the Americas; 3121, Global Wealth and Poverty; 2342, Biology of Inequality; 2110, Gender and Cultural Politics.


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