**Nebraska Wesleyan University**

# Gender and Sexuality Studies

## Catalog

2025-2026

## About the Program

The study of gender and sexualities is an intersectional and interdisciplinary field that draws upon research in the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, the arts, and professional education. Gender and Sexuality Studies courses encourage students of all gender identities and expressions to make strong personal connections between classroom material and their own experience. Through applying feminist theories to their own lives, students learn, interpret, and evaluate various cultural phenomena, using a broad range of criteria, including gender, ethnicity, race, class, age, and sexual orientation.

The Bachelor of Arts designates a broad-based liberal arts education. The Bachelor of Science is advisable for those who wish to signal social science expertise in a related career such as social work or counseling psychology.

***Department Learning Outcomes***
Majors will be able to:

1. Explain how gender and sexualities change or vary across languages, geographical regions, nations, and/or cultures.
2. Engage in critical thinking about how gender and sexualities relate to structural or institutional systems of power, including stereotyped assumptions.
3. Conduct research incorporating recent scholarship in gender studies and effectively communicate the results of that research.
4. Design and complete an activism, community service, and/or advocacy project and critically reflect upon the outcomes and how it relates to course content.
5. Reflect upon how intersectional identities, cultural pluralism, and a variety of feminisms applies to their personal lives and the lives of others.

## Majors, Minors & Degrees

### Majors

1. Gender and Sexuality Studies (B.A., B.S.)

### Minors

1. Gender and Sexuality Studies

## Courses

### GEND 1900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

## GEND 1950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
*Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or permission of the department chair.*

## GEND 1960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
*Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.*

## GEND 1970 Internship

1-8 hours

This course allows students to participate at a meaningful level in an internship with a public official, political figure, public agency, campaign or interest group and to use that experience as the basis for an academic paper.
Pass/Fail only.
*Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.*

## GEND 2200 Topics in World Literature: Sexualities

4 hours

See ENG 2200 World Literature: Sexualities.

## GEND 2300P Philosophies of Race and Gender

3 hours

See PHIL 2300 Philosophies of Race and Gender.

## GEND 2850 Sex and the Arts

4 hours

Including films, music videos, and musicals this course examines varied depictions of sexualities in the arts (defined broadly), especially those that intersect with music. Alongside the study of culture and interdisciplinary musical arts, students learn and apply concepts and information from gender studies. Selected pieces require students to explore marginalized cultures in the United States and consider systems of privilege and oppression and other issues associated with the intersection of gender, sexualities, race, socio-economic status, and other markers of diversity. Collaborating in pairs, students complete research assignments related to a semester-long fieldwork project with a local music culture of their choice. They apply scholarship and instruction on participant observation fieldwork and library research associated with their selected local music culture. The fieldwork project (and experiential learning component) for this class requires some off-campus activities to be arranged by the student.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

## GEND 2900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A course designed to treat subject matter not covered in other courses or to provide advanced study of subject matter introduced in other courses. The title, content, and credit hours will be determined by current mutual interests of Gender Studies faculty and students.
*Prerequisite(s): GEND 3000 Gender Advocacy, plus additional requirements as may be determined by the instructor.*

## GEND 2950 Independent Study

1-3 hours

An opportunity for a student to engage in an individually arranged research project supervised by a Gender Studies faculty member. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Pass/Fail only.
*Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.*

## GEND 2960 Gender Studies Special Projects

1-3 hours

An opportunity for a student to engage in an individually arranged project supervised by a Gender Studies faculty member. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog. P/F only. Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

## GEND 2970 Gender Studies Internship

1-8 hours

A supervised, experiential learning opportunity in which the student works with an agency dealing with gender concerns. Students prepare weekly written reports and a reflective paper at the close of the semester. All students enrolled in the practicum will meet regularly with the faculty coordinator to discuss their internship activities and their relevance to gender studies. No P/F.
*This course does not fulfill a core requirement for the major.*
*Corequisite(s): GEND 3000 Gender Advocacy or permission of the program director.*

## GEND 3000 Gender Advocacy

3 hours

This course provides an overview of key contemporary theories, concepts, issues, and debates in Gender Studies as well as an overview of the historical roots that inform this interdisciplinary area of study. Students will also conceptualize and develop an applied gender-project. While topics may vary by instructor expertise and state of the discipline, currently, focus will be placed upon intersectionality (categories such as gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, citizenship status, social class, caste, ability, and age interlock and work together), transnationalism (no matter one's location or awareness, one is connected to others in different parts of the world) and masculinities (analysis of masculine social formation and feminist masculinities). Students will glean an overview of the field of Gender Studies and its emergence from Women's Studies and advocacy for women's rights. Students will become familiar with key concepts from current gender scholarship. As professors encounter current scholarship they will change the course content to reflect the latest debates in the field. Upon completing the course, students must be able to show that they can conceptualize and complete a substantial project with real-world applications that they can then share with other students.
*Prerequisite(s): Minimum sophomore standing.*
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Exploratory
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

## GEND 3900 Selected Topics

1-5 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the program director.

## GEND 3950 Independent Study

1-3 hours

An opportunity for a student to engage in an individually arranged research project supervised by a member of the Gender Studies faculty. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
*Prerequisite(s): Minor in Gender Studies, junior or senior standing, and permission of the Gender Studies instructor.*

## GEND 3960 Special Projects

1-3 hours

An opportunity for a student to engage in an individually arranged project supervised by a member of the Gender Studies faculty. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog. P/F Only.
*Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.*

## GEND 3970 Internship

1-8 hours

A supervised, experiential learning opportunity in which the student works with an agency dealing with gender concerns. Students prepare weekly written reports and a reflective paper at the close of the semester. All students enrolled in the practicum will meet regularly with the faculty coordinator to discuss their internship activities and their relevance to gender studies. No P/F.
*Prerequisite(s): Permission of the program director.*
*Pre or corequisite(s): GEND 3000 Gender Advocacy.*

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

## GEND 4900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the program director.

## GEND 4910 Directed Readings

1-6 hours

An opportunity for students, under the supervision of a faculty member, to pursue scientific literature not covered in other coursework.

## GEND 4950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
*Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or permission of the department chair.*

## GEND 4960 Special Projects

1-3 hours

An opportunity for a student to engage in an individually arranged project supervised by a member of the Gender Studies faculty. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
*Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.*

## GEND 4970 Gender Studies Internship

1-8 hours

A supervised, experiential learning opportunity in which the student works with an agency dealing with gender concerns. Students prepare weekly written reports and a reflective paper at the close of the semester. All students enrolled in the practicum will meet regularly with the faculty coordinator to discuss their internship activities and their relevance to gender studies. No P/F.
*Pre or corequisite(s): GEND 3000 Gender Advocacy.*

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

## GEND 4990 Capstone

1 hour

This capstone course brings together student's original research and writing on a gender and sexuality-related topic with learning from the major and from the Archway Curriculum. Students will learn how to take feminism into the world and remain aware of issues of intersectionality beyond graduation. Students will explore through their Archway Curriculum e-Portfolio (ACeP) their earlier work, engage in discussion with other students about themes relevant to their work, and prepare for the next stage of their career beyond college.

*Prerequisite(s): Senior standing and permission of the supervising Gender and Sexuality Studies faculty member.*