Nebraska Wesleyan University

Gender and Sexuality Studies

Catalog

2026-2027

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

ARHUM 4970C Capstone Internship

3 hours

This course is an experiential learning capstone option for students across a range of majors in the Arts and Humanities. Students will participate in an internship or substantial community service activity for a minimum of 135 hours. Students will also do a public presentation about their internship experience. This course requires an internship of 135+ hours. Students whose internship will be fewer hours should consider ARHUM 4970A or 4970B. Course may be repeated for credit to meet capstone requirements for multiple majors. Prerequisite: Junior Standing.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

ARHUM 4980 Vocation Seminar

1 hour

In this course, upper level students in the Arts and Humanities students reflect on their disciplinary learning and plan for their post-baccalaureate lives. This course also helps prepare students for their capstone experience. Course content includes vocational and career exploration activities, reflection on and documentation of the student's skill development in their major, and developing a proposal for the student's capstone project to be completed in ARHUM 4970/4990.

Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

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 Gender and Sexuality.

GEND 2300P Philosophies of Race and Gender

3 hours

See PHIL 2300 Philosophies of Race and Gender.

GEND 2300R Women and Religion

3 hours

See RELIG 2300 Women and Religion.

GEND 2650 Psychology of Gender

4 hours

See PSYCH 2650 Psychology of Gender.

GEND 2850 Gender, Sexuality, and the Arts

3 hours

This course examines depictions of gender and sexualities in the arts (defined broadly), especially those that intersect with music. Alongside the study of culture and the arts, students learn and apply concepts and information from gender studies. Students 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. Students complete a semester-long fieldwork project with a local music culture of their choice. They apply gender studies scholarship to their selected local music culture. The fieldwork project (and experiential learning component) for this class requires off-campus activities to be arranged by the student.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Discourse Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Exploratory
Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – U.S.
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.

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

GEND 3000 Gender Advocacy

3 hours

This course provides an overview of key contemporary theories, concepts, issues, and debates in Gender Studies. 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. Students will develop and complete an applied gender-studies project with real-world applications that they can then share with other students. Prerequisite: 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.