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Women's Studies Home Page

Women's Studies

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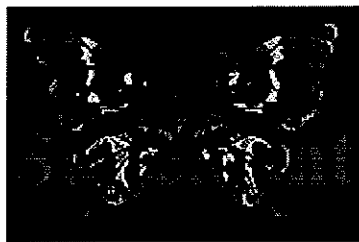
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Denison University Department of Women's Studies

Welcome to the Denison University Department of Women's Studies Home Page. This is a new project being undertaken by the Women's Studies department to help inform others of what is happening here at Denison. In order to gain more information on a specific topic, please click on one of the butterflies below.



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Denison University Department of Women's Studies

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary study of women's experience as it is mediated by ethnicity, race, class and sexual identity. The program examines women's contributions to society in the social sciences, sciences, arts, and humanities, and studies the social construction of gender in a variety of cultures and historical periods. Women's Studies scholars have introduced new ways of knowing, new theoretical insights and new understandings of basic concepts such as work, art, politics, literature, and history as they have incorporated the study of women into a variety of disciplines.

Denison's Women's Studies faculty are dedicated to helping students develop rigorous analyses and creative leadership skills. Outstanding student research in Women's Studies is recognized through the Nan Nowik Memorial Awards given for work in feminist scholarship, creative expression, and political service and activism. Students participate in collaborative research with faculty, campus symposia, and the biennial Great Lakes College Association's Women's Studies Conference, as well as other intellectual activities.

The Denison Women's Studies program offers 26 courses throughout the college and provides both a major and a minor. A major requires completion of 32 hours in Women's Studies; a minor requires 24 credit hours. The program is unique for its breadth and depth at a college of Denison's size, and the University is recognized nationally for its educational leadership in requiring a Women's Studies or Minority Studies course of all its graduates.

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Women's Studies Courses Offered at Denison University

Women's Studies 101--Issues in Feminism. This interdisciplinary course will examine some aspects of institutionalized sexism in contemporary America, such as differential role socialization and its consequences; legal inequalities; job discrimination; reproductive issues; and violence against women. Every woman's experience of sexism is mitigated by her class, race, age, religion, sexual preference, and so forth; therefore, the diversity of women's experience is a key factor in our study. The class format will be primarily a lecture and discussion style with speakers and small group discussions.

Women's Studies 205/Math.Sci. 200--Women and Mathematics. This course will cover some of the basic issues that are involved in the topic of gender differences in mathematics. The main goal will be to determine what is known about these differences and what is currently thought about why they exist. Recent studies comparing the mathematical abilities and achievements of boys and girls will be examined, and possibilities for reduction of discrepancies will be considered. The history of women in mathematics and some of the women mathematicians whose pursuits were not restrained by the societies in which they lived will also be examined.

Women's Studies 210/S/A 210--Sexual Inequality. This course compares and evaluates a variety of theories which attempt to explain the origins, persistence and effects of sexual inequality in American society. In particular, it explores the structural and historical causes and consequences of inequality in a number of institutional settings: the family, the work place, the political arena, religious activity and face-to-face interactional contexts. Although its primary focus is American society, the course compares problems of sexual inequality in American society to other, quite different, societies in order to gain a comparative understanding of how discrimination, prejudice, and structural inequality create special problems for women wherever they are found. Throughout, the focus is on learning to use structural, historical, and theoretical information as guides to understanding social change and the choices facing women and men in this decade. This course satisfies the Minority/Women's Studies requirement and has no prerequisite.

Women's Studies 225/English 225--Women in Literature. Selected works by women, and literature which explores women's traditional and changing roles and examines the many facets of women's unique position, experience, and perspective on the world will be covered. Our goal is a more accurate understanding of the behavior and experiences of men and women and the implications of sex and gender to art and within our lives. In addition to exploring important literature of the past, we will be reading selections by recent authors because they constitute an important contemporary literary movement that has been especially creative and energetic in the last ten years.

Women's Studies 241/History 241--Women in Modern Europe. This course surveys the history of women in Europe from 1700 through the present. Topics covered include women in revolutions, the effect of industrialization on women and the family, changing views of sexuality, women's rights movement and socialism, the female experience in world wars, women under fascism, and women in the welfare state.

Women's Studies 242/History 242--Comparative US & European Women's

History. Focusing on a variety of themes in women's history, this course surveys the experience of women on both sides of the Atlantic from the eighteenth century to the present. Themes include women's work and sociability, women in reform movements, the effects of wars on women, and recent feminist movements.

Women's Studies 270/Communication 229--Gender, Race and the Mass Media. An examination of the historical and contemporary significance of race and gender in issues of media portrayals, media employment or recognition and media coverage in news and entertainment programming. This course explores media access and portrayals of African-Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, women and other marginalized populations in print, broadcasting, and film.

Women's Studies 271/Education 229--Women and Minorities: The Educational Dilemma. Students will gain an understanding of how discrimination against women and minorities in the educational setting has been a source of many inequalities in our society. Paradoxically, women and minorities have made unique and important contributions to this system which has not always served them well. An analysis will be made of the contributions of these groups to all levels of education throughout history. The course will also investigate the extent to which the institution of education has adapted to women and minorities and in turn been influenced by them in their various capacities as students, teachers, administrators, parents, and members of special interest groups. Field trips, role playing, etc.

Women's Studies 272/Religion 229--Women and Western Religion. An introductory course analyzing the historical experiences of women within Western religion and contemporary trends in feminist theological thought. The course asks whether the Bible and Western theological systems have supported male dominance and/or provided opportunities for female growth and freedom. A variety of views will be considered, including that of feminists who attack Christianity as essentially sexist and liberation theologians who claim true Christians should embrace feminism.

Women's Studies 273/Economics 325--Women in the Labor Force. This is an advanced course focusing on women in the labor force. Recent trends in women's labor force participation, occupational segregation, and earnings are examined. Both Neo-classical and Radical theories are applied to these trends for possible explanation. Finally, numerous ways to intervene in the market on the part of government and private enterprises are studied to determine the most effective way to rectify observed market imperfections.

Women's Studies 275/Philosophy 275--Philosophy of Feminism. Feminism addresses a radical challenge to traditional ways of doing philosophy. In asking why women and women's experiences seem to be missing from the tradition of philosophy, it implicitly puts into question philosophy's claim to objectivity, universality, and truth. Has philosophy's apparent exclusion of women meant that an entire realm of human experience has been prevented from achieving legitimate expression? Would including women mean broadening philosophy to include a different world view--emphasizing relationship rather than division, responsibility rather than rights, diversity rather than unity? This course will examine these and other questions, emphasizing contemporary feminist discussions of ethics and of science. This course satisfies the General Education requirement in Minority/Women's studies.

Women's Studies 281/History 281--Modern American Women's History. This survey course offers a broad view of history of women in the United States from the period immediately following the Civil War through the feminist movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Topics include: women entering

the labor force in increasing numbers at the end of the 19th century; middle-class women's access to higher education in the earlier part of the 20th century; the rise of the "New" socially liberated women in the north and the alliance between mid-western women and the male dominated Klan in the 1920s; women's role in the industrial work force during the period between World War I and World War II; comparison of the reemergence of this "traditional" family ideal during the 40s and 50s with the rise of a distinct and active lesbian culture during and after World War II; and exploration of the politicization of women's lives during the Civil Rights movement of the 50s and 60s and the feminist movements of the 60s and 70s. We will conclude the course by examining the "backlash" against feminism and by considering the future direction(s) of women in American society.

Women's Studies 301/Psychology 301--The Psychology of Women. This course reviews psychological research and theories affecting women. Topics included will be: androgyny, sex bias in psychological research, feminist theory, gender differences and similarities in personality and abilities, life span development, problems of adjustment and psychotherapy, sexism in language, women's health, female sexuality, and violence against women (rape and wife battering).

Women's Studies 302--The Women In The Arts. The ideologies that frame Western culture are particularly detrimental to women artists. Certain environments and systems of support buttress the fledgling artist while she matures and grows. Others attempt to exclude her full or partial participation. According to the legends of many women artists, these conditions include such things as freedom from cultural and personal responsibilities to develop a self-consistent language of form, the money to live on while developing this language, mentors to criticize and support the work while it is evolving, and avenues for dispersing the work once it is created. In this class we will look at the institutions that make a work available, the cultural practices that determine how we come to read these works in a particular way, and the practices that are internal to the medium and the work themselves. Through investigation of particular works and their creators, we will explore some of the constraints that frame Western women artists pursuing their work while considering the relationship between the women's personal narrative (class, race, sexual orientation, etc.) and her intentions.

Women's Studies 303--Feminist Perspective on Sexuality. In this course we will critically review many classic texts developed by feminist thinkers (and their detractors) which deal with the subject of sexuality. Topics include: female sexual scripts, sexual politics, reproductive rights, constructionism/essentialism, sexual violence, sexual and racial tropes, and the feminist "sex wars."

Women's Studies 305/Latin Am. Studies 401--The Gendering of Self and Culture: Latin American Women Speaking the Text. This course will examine a variety of narratives written by 20th century Latin American women writers. We will focus on the representation of women's experience in Latin America and the ways they use to theorize and recreate their views and positions in various literary forms.

Women's Studies 307/Political Science 307/Honors 286--Gender Justice. This course examines various ways of understanding gender by looking at a variety of theories and philosophical perspectives within feminist thought. The emphasis upon justice is an emphasis upon developing concrete proposals to move us closer to justice for men and women in both the private and public realm--the world of politics, which includes work and governance. This is the required advanced seminar in Women Studies.

Women's Studies 308/Art 408/Honors 122--Women Artists in the Age of Feminism. This course traces the history of art by women in the U.S. from

the early 1960s to the present day. It focuses on the similarities and difference in the methodologies, issues, topics, and strategies of first-(1960-1975) and second-(1975 to present) generation feminist artists, art critics, and art historians. The change in development and the diversities in the feminist concept of women's art is a major focus of the course.

Women's Studies 313/S/A 313--Families, Sexuality and the State. What is the shape of the American family in the 1990s? In the midst of high divorce rates and changing roles for women and men, what is the family's future? This course will consider these questions by examining the contemporary American family in historical and cross-cultural perspective. It will especially focus on the family as one important institution that organizes the roles of women and men in society. Topics covered will include: the nature of families--upper-, middle-, and working classes, black, white; partner selections and roles; parents and children; family violence; divorce and remarriage. This course satisfies the Minority/Women's Studies requirement.

Women's Studies 321/S/A 321--Women In Developing Societies. The focus of this course will be on two interrelated issues: (1) The impact of socioeconomic change on the roles and life-experiences of women in developing societies, and (2) the social and economic contributions of women within the developmental process. By adopting a cross-cultural perspective, we intend to investigate how and why global patterns of socioeconomic change have had markedly different effects on the lives of women in diverse regions of the world. A further consideration dependent upon our cross-cultural approach will be an evaluation of the appropriateness of western-style change, including feminist orientations toward women's liberation, within Third World contexts.

Women's Studies 325/English 325--African-American Women's Literature. This course focuses on the literary, cultural, and oral traditions of 20th century African-American women writers.

Women's Studies 326/English 326--Native American Women's Literature. This course will cover Native American history, religion, and oral traditions to create a sense of the great diversity and of the similarities among the many Indian nations in the United States. Many kinds of Native women's writing will be covered--autobiography, essays, poetry, and novels. Students will also be expected to develop skills in literary analysis, research, and paper writing.

Women's Studies 346/S/A 346--Social Policy, the Sexes, and Equality. Social policy affects our lives every day. Education, work, housing, health care, and family life are just some of the areas it shapes. In this seminar we will learn what social policy is, how it impacts differently on different populations, and what relationship it has to the American idea of equality. We will begin by looking at the evolution of social welfare policy in the U.S., noticing that sex and race stratification have played key roles. Most of our time will be spent studying the dilemmas that arise when social policies attempt to meet special needs and to treat people equally. In particular we will examine policies directed at mothers (e.g., AFDC, maternity leave, fetal protection) and policies intended to mitigate the impact of occupational sex segregation (e.g., comparable worth).

Women's Studies 352/Political Science 352--Race/Sex Discrimination and the Law. Gender and sex roles are among the basic reference points around which American society is organized. They are also used to define economic and political right and responsibilities. This course examines how American law and legal institutions have created and enforced distinctive and often discriminatory roles in the social, economic, and political spheres for women by comparison to men. Although diverse topics are covered, there are


three basic premises which underlie all of them: (1) Law and legal institutions are a fundamental part of the political processes of American society; (2) Law reflects dominant social, political, and economic values of society; (3) As societal values change over time, law, rather than being a neutral force, can serve as either a tool of, or an obstacle to, institutionalizing social change.

Women's Studies 361/62--Directed Study.

Women's Studies 363/64--Independent Study.

Women's Studies 399--Topics in Women's Studies--Gender, and Collegiate Culture.

Women's Studies 451/52--Senior Research.

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Denison Professors of Women's Studies

Eloise A. Buker:

Professor of Women's Studies and Political Science and Chair of Women's Studies (B.A., Capital University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Hawaii) teaches Issues in Feminism, Gender Justice, Feminist Political Theory, Postmodern Thought and Feminist Methodologies.

Robin L. Bartlett:

Professor of Economics (A.B., Western College; M.A., Ph.D., Michigan State University) teaches Women in the Labor Force.

Donna Childers:

Assistant Professor of Political Science (B.A., M.A., Florida State University; Ph.D., University of California/Santa Barbara) teaches Race and Sex Discrimination and the Law.

Suzanne E. Condray:

Associate Professor and Chair of Communications (B.A., East Texas Baptist College; M.A., Colorado State University; Ph.D., Louisiana State University) teaches Gender, Race, and the Mass Media.

Susan Diduk:

Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology/Anthropology (B.A., College of William and Mary; Ph.D., Indiana University) teaches Sexual Inequality and Human Nature and Cultural Diversity: Being Human.

Amy Green:

Assistant Professor of History (A.B., Harvard College; Ph.D., Yale University) teaches America Women's History.

Linda Krumholz:

Associate Professor of English (B.A., Reed College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison) teaches Women in Literature and African-American Women's Literature.

Bernardita Llanos:

Assistant Professor of Modern Languages (B.A., Universidad Catolica de Chile; M.A., University of California/Davis; Ph.D., University of Minnesota) teaches The Gender of Self and Culture: Latin American Women Speaking the Text.

Gill Wright Miller:

Associate Professor of Dance (B.F.A., Denison University; M.A.L.S., Wesleyan University) teaches Women in Art.

Joan Novak:

Associate Professor of Religion (B.S., University of Nebraska; Ph.D., University of Iowa) teaches Women in Western Religion.

Lisa Ransdell:

Dean of Freshman Students (B.A., M.A., Ph.D., The Ohio State University) teaches Sexual Inequality, Women's Studies, Feminism, Women's Health Issues; and Feminist Perspectives on Sexuality.

Kaye Rasnake:

Associate Professor of Psychology (B.A., B.S. Concord College; M.A., Ph.D., The Ohio State University) teaches Psychology of Women.

Lyn Robertson:

Associate Professor and Chair of Education (B.A., Denison University; M.A., Northwestern University; Ph.D., The Ohio State University) teaches Women and Minorities: Educational Dilemma.

Sandy Runzo:

Associate Professor of English (B.A., West Virginia University; M.A., Ph.D. Indiana University) teaches Women in Literature.

Anne Shaver:

Professor of English (A.B., University of Kentucky; M.A., Northwestern University; Ph.D., Ohio University) teaches Early British Women Writers, Women in Literature, and Lesbian Literature.

Rita Snyder:

Professor of Psychology (B.A., University of Michigan; Ph.D., Indiana University) teaches Gender, Psychology, and Self.

Joy Sperling:

Assistant Professor of Art (M.A., M.F.A., Edinburgh University; Ph.D., University of California/Santa Barbara) teaches Women Artists in the Age of Feminism.

Bahram Tavakolian:


Professor of Sociology/Anthropology, (A.B., M.A., Ph.D., University of California/Los Angeles) teaches Sexual Inequality and Women and Environment in the Third World.

Mary Tuominen:

Assistant Professor of Sociology/Anthropology (B.S., Western Washington State College; M.P.A., Seattle University; Ph.D., University of Oregon) teaches Sexual Inequality; Families, Sexuality and the State; and Social Movements: Women, Organizing, and Change.


David R. Wells:

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics (B.A., Bucknell University; Ph.D., University of Southern California) teaches Women in the Labor Force.

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Women's Programs at Denison University

The Office of Women's Programs was established in 1978 with a goal of creating a campus climate which affirms women students and enhances their intellectual and social development. This is done through campus programming, advocacy training, assessment and resource sharing. Some of the best received functions of the office include a yearly seminar on Women and Leadership, the Women's Programs' Speakers Series, the Rape Survivor Advocate

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