MINOR IN WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

Students who pursue a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) or earn a bachelor’s degree in Sociology or Psychology with a concentration in Women’s and Gender Studies will have the opportunity to study both women’s and men’s experiences in a variety of disciplines and contexts.

Courses will give students a solid foundation of research methods and feminist theories used to explain social, psychological and cultural behavior. Diverse perspectives help to broaden students’ understanding of gender, gender identity, gender stratification and the role these play in people’s lives. This knowledge can be applied to students’ experiences as employees and employers in the workforce, those who influence policy issues, and those who work with women and LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer and intersexed) populations.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the minor in Women’s and Gender Studies requires 15 credit hours of coursework in Women’s and Gender Studies and a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average.

Students must also meet the general education requirements as established by the College of Arts and Sciences. Students should consult with the WGS Program and their advisor for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

COURSEWORK

- Issues in Women’s and Gender Studies
- The Afro-Caribbean Experience
- Literature of American Women of Color
- Women’s and Gender Studies Practicum

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The WGS Program offers a wide variety of courses in all areas of women’s and gender studies. Nearly twenty adjunct faculty comprise the program and they are housed in seven departments. Those who teach for WGS offer courses that take the perspectives of the social sciences, the humanities and diverse cultures.

The WGS Program hosts an annual student research conference, “Celebrating Our Students,” where students are encouraged to present their outstanding papers in a supportive, professional setting on campus. These students then have the opportunity to present their work at the IU inter-campus Gender Studies undergraduate student research conference, exposing them to students and faculty from all IU campuses. Presenting work in these venues gives students confidence to forge ahead in their academic lives, and it provides excellent public speaking experience to add to their resumes as they job hunt or seek admission to graduate school.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MINOR IN WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES?

Women comprise more than half of the world’s population, and a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies leads to an enhanced understanding of women’s issues as well as gender issues in all walks of life. For instance, our students have gone on to achieve Master’s Degrees in Social Work, where they assist women regularly, while some have become correctional officers in women’s correctional facilities, and others have pursued graduate degrees in Sociology or Women’s and Gender Studies to teach and conduct research at the college level.

HANDBS-ON LEARNING

Those pursuing a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies may enroll in W480, the WGS Practicum, where they engage in unpaid work with community organizations that serve women and LGBTQI groups. This gives students an opportunity to learn more about women’s and gender issues and encourages them to connect their coursework with the real world.

Many of our students have been placed in such organizations as battered women’s shelters, and have later landed jobs and are now training others in related fields.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Connectionz is a student-run club and support group that sponsors activities such as speakers, films, pizza parties, and informal campus get-togethers and field trips, all of which add to a greater understanding of gender issues.

The Clothesline Project is an annual event in the fall at the Hass Birky Women’s Center, where the WGS Program invites students to speak out against violence through artistic expressions on T-shirts. The shirts are exhibited for a period of two weeks every fall, inspiring campus conversations about issues that affect our students and society at large. The Women’s Center sponsors and hosts a variety of workshops, films and presentations throughout the year.

RELATED DEGREE OPTIONS

- B.A./B.S. in Psychology or B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Women’s and Gender Studies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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