

# Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies BA

---

## Overview

The Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Program within the College of Liberal Arts offers an undergraduate major, minor and certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (GSWS) as well as a minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies. The program offers a cohesive framework of inquiry into gender and sexuality issues in the U.S. and around the world. The curriculum for the **Bachelor of Arts in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies** highlights the ways in which gender and sexuality relate to other social categories, such as race, class, disability, nationality and ethnicity. As an interdisciplinary field, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies takes into account social, historical, economic, political and cultural variables in its study of women's experience, the workings of gender as both an analytical category and identity, and the functioning of sexuality in social life. The field pays particular attention to inequality and discrimination based on gender, sexuality and gender identity. Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies also seeks to transform traditional fields of study by incorporating new methodologies, data, theories and frameworks developed by feminist scholars.

The Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Program offers students an interdisciplinary curriculum taught by faculty from various departments and other schools and colleges across the university. Students learn to apply the methods and theories of social scientists, historians, philosophers, film and literary critics, and legal analysts to the study of women's experiences, as well as gender, sexuality and trans identities. They explore a growing body of feminist theories that revise our understanding of gender, society and culture.

**Campus Location:** Main

**Program Code:** LA-GSWS-BA

## Special Programs

Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies majors are required to take a Fieldwork course involving an internship which gives them the opportunity to get hands-on professional experience.

We encourage students to take advantage of university study abroad programs. Please contact the director for more information.

## Accelerated Degree Programs

Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies majors have several options for a 4+1 accelerated BA + master's degree program:

- BA in GSWS / MA in Sociology
- BA in GSWS / MEd in Advocacy and Organizational Development
- BA in GSWS / MEd in Urban Education
- BA in GSWS / MPP in Public Policy

For more information on these programs see the Accelerated Programs section of this *Bulletin* as well as the program's web site.

## Advising Policy

We encourage students to take Foundations in Women's Studies (GSWS 1301), Critical Race Feminist Theory (GSWS 2051), Feminist Theory (GSWS 3097) and Field Work (GSWS 4389) before taking the Research Seminar (GSWS 4396).

## Double-Counting of Credits

Students combining a minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies and a major, minor, or certificate in GSWS may double-count for both programs only Field Work (GSWS 4389 or LGBT 4489) and Queer Lives (GSWS 2405 or LGBT 2405).

## Distinction in Major

Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies students may graduate with a distinction in the major if they have a GPA of 3.5 or better in the major, a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and successfully completed an honors thesis (minimum 3 credits) under the supervision of a faculty member from Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies.

## Awards

The Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Program has the following five annual undergraduate awards that honor academic and creative excellence in our students:

- Barbara Brownstein Prize
- Sonia Sanchez Scholarship
- Lucia Beck Weiss and Howard J. Weiss Prize

- Audre Lorde Prize
- Certificate of Excellence

## Professional Development

After graduation, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies students enter professional schools in law, medicine and business; take graduate degrees in the humanities and social sciences; and pursue careers in health, counseling, teaching, public advocacy and many other fields.

## Contact Information

Department Office  
811 Mazur Hall  
215-204-1644

Dr. Barbara Thornbury, Program Director  
811 Mazur Hall  
barbara.thornbury@temple.edu

LaTasha Goodman, Administrator  
1041 Mazur Hall  
215-204-8516  
latasha.goodman@temple.edu

Learn more about the Bachelor of Arts in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies.

*These requirements are for students who matriculated in academic year 2023-2024. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2023 should refer to the Archives to view the requirements for their Bulletin year.*

## Summary of Degree Requirements

### University Requirements

- MATH 0701 (4 s.h.) and/or ENG 0701 (4 s.h.), if required by placement testing.
- All Temple students must take a minimum of two writing-intensive courses as part of the major. The specific courses required for this major are GSWS 3097 or ENG 3097, and GSWS 4396.
- Students must complete requirements of the General Education (GenEd) Program. See the General Education section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for more details.

### College of Liberal Arts Requirements

- Completion of a minimum of 123 credits, including:
  - 90 credits in CLA/CST courses;
  - 45 credits of which must be at the upper level (numbered 2000-4999).
    - For **Social Science majors**, 6 upper level credits (numbered 2000-4999) must be taken in Humanities Subject Areas: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek (Ancient), Greek and Roman Classics, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Philosophy, Religion, Russian, and Spanish in the College of Liberal Arts, Art History in the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, or any department in the College of Science and Technology.
  - A minimum GPA of 2.0, cumulatively, in CLA/CST coursework, and in the major.
  - Only courses in which a student receives a grade of at least C- can satisfy GenEd, major, minor, or CLA Foreign Language and Global Studies requirements.
- **Professional Development Requirement**
  - All students in the College of Liberal Arts are required to take a 1 credit seminar in professional development. CLA 1002 Professional Development for Liberal Arts Majors is the appropriate course option for this major. Other courses that fulfill this requirement may be found on the CLA College Requirements page. Only one course in this category may count towards graduation.
- **Foreign Language/Global Studies Requirements:**
  - All students must complete or test out of the first and second levels of a foreign language - these courses are numbered 1001 and 1002;
  - All students must complete at least one course from the GenEd Global/World Society category; and
  - All Bachelor of Arts students must complete one of the following options:
    - Third semester of a foreign language;
    - Demonstrated proficiency beyond the third semester in a foreign language (placement exam or certification from the language department);
    - Take one Global Studies course from the list on the CLA College Requirements page;

- Study Abroad at an approved program; or
- Take a second General Education Global/World Society course.
- **Notes on Foreign Language Study**
  - The third level of language is numbered 1003 in French, Spanish, and Portuguese and numbered 2001 in all other foreign language subjects.
  - Students are strongly encouraged to take the third level of a foreign language as it is the minimum required for election to the prestigious honor society *Phi Beta Kappa*. (Taking the course does not guarantee admission but not taking it guarantees exclusion.)
  - See the College of Liberal Arts Policies section of this *Bulletin* for more information on the Foreign Language Placement, Regression in Coursework, and guidelines for students' other experiences with language.

**General Electives** are typically one-third of a student's program of study and can be focused on a second major, a minor, or towards some other personal enrichment or professional goals. See an academic advisor for assistance in developing an academic plan for these courses.

## Major Requirements (36 credits in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Introductory Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies courses</b>		
GSWS 1301	Foundations in Women's Studies	3
Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies elective numbered 1000-1999		3
GSWS 3097	Feminist Theory	3
or ENG 3097	Feminist Theory	
GSWS 3551	Critical Race Feminist Theory	3
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
Select two courses in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at any level (numbered 0800-4999)		6
Select two courses in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies numbered 2000-4999		6
Select one elective from the GSWS Sexuality Electives List		3
Select one elective from the GSWS Race Electives List		3
<b>Two-course sequence <sup>1</sup></b>		
GSWS 4389	Field Work	3
GSWS 4396	Research Seminar	3
<b>Sexuality Electives</b>		
AMST 2003	The American Sexual Past	
GSWS 2002	Gender in the Cinema	
GSWS 2405	Queer Lives	
HIST 2109	Sexuality and Gender in American History	
LGBT 2002	Religion and Human Sexuality	
LGBT 2400	Topics in LGBT Studies	
LGBT 2405	Queer Lives	
POLS 3124	Politics of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	
SOC 2572	Sex & Society	
<b>GSWS Race and Diversity Electives</b>		
AAAS 2134	The Literature of American Slavery	
AAAS 2151	History of Blacks in Cinema	
AAAS 2205	Black Politics in America	
AAAS 2251	Mass Media and the Black Community	
AAAS 3205	The Black Woman	
AAAS 3257	Black Social and Political Thought	
AAAS 3268	Critical Readings in African American History	
AAAS 3296	The Black Family	
AAAS 4221	The Black Child: Development and Socialization	
AAAS 4146	Women Writers in Black Literature	
AAAS 4248	Dimensions of Racism	
AMST 3071	African American Experiences	
ANTH 2361	Peoples of Latin America	

ANTH 2362	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean
ANTH 2364	People and Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa
ANTH 2367	Peoples of South Asia
ASST 2107	Asian American Experiences
ASST 3636	Asian Women in Transition
ENG 2114	Social Justice and Literature
ENG 2402	African-American Literature II
ENG 2601	Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures
ENG 2822	Language and Race
ENG 3411	Studies in African-American Literary Genre
ENG 3412	The Harlem Renaissance
ENG 3413	African-American Literary Criticism
ENG 3414	Blacks/Literature/Drama/Media
ENG 3610	Topics in Postcolonial Literature
ENG 3611	Postcolonial Theory
GUS 2073	African Development
GUS 2074	East and South Asia
GUS 3013	African Americans in Philadelphia
HIST 2103	African American History to 1865
HIST 2104	African American History 1865-Present
HIST 2105	Race and the U.S. Constitution
HIST 2514	Introduction to Latin America
HIST 2107	Asian American History
HIST 2515	Civilization and Modernity in the Caribbean
HIST 2611	Third World Issues through Film
HIST 2516	Modern Islamic History
HIST 2702	Imperialism, Race, and Empire
HIST 2703	African Diaspora
HIST 2705	Anti-Semitism/Holocaust/Racism
HIST 2806	Colonial North Africa in European History
HIST 3217	African American Church and Black Liberation
HIST 3221	Jewish Experience in America
HIST 3511	Southern Africa: A History
HIST 3521	The Chinese Revolution
HIST 3522	Contemporary China
HIST 3531	Modern India
HIST 3542	Women and Society in Japan
HIST 3551	History of Vietnam
HIST 3561	History of Brazil
HIST 3563	Puerto Rican History
HIST 3564	Caliban's World: Cultural Politics in the 20th Century Americas
HIST 3571	Israel: History, Politics and Society
HIST 3572	Modern Middle East
HIST 3675	Third World Women's Lives
HIST 3751	Colonialism and Decolonization
LAS 2020	Topics in Latino Studies
LAS 2030	Topics in Caribbean Studies
LAS 2101	Latin America through Film and Fiction
LAS 2362	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean
LAS 3101	Latino Identity in the United States
LAS 3601	"Other Voices" in Latin American Literature
LAS 3801	African Culture in Brazil

POLS 3441	African American Political Theory
SOC 2179	Racial and Ethnic Stratification
SOC 3223	East to America: The Sociology of Asian Americans
SOC 3242	Constructing Race and Ethnicity
SOC 3249	Social Inequality

**Total Credit Hours** **36**

1

The final requirement for the major is a two-course sequence. This sequence should be taken during the major's last three semesters of enrollment. Students will select a field assignment (internship) with the assistance of the advising coordinator. This sequence is designed for students to learn how to write a research paper.

## Suggested Academic Plan

### Bachelor of Arts in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

#### Suggested Plan for New Students Starting in the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
<b>Fall</b>		
ENG 0802	Analytical Reading and Writing	4
or ENG 0812	or Analytical Reading and Writing: ESL	
or ENG 0902	or Honors Writing About Literature	
GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course <sup>GQ</sup>		4
Foreign Language 1001 - first level		4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
IH 0851	Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life	3
or IH 0951	or Honors Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life	
Foreign Language 1002 - second level		4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GSWS 1301	Foundations in Women's Studies	3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
IH 0852	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good	3
or IH 0952	or Honors Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good	
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Elective - any level		3
One 0800-4999 Elective in Any School or College		2
Select one of the following:		3
Foreign Language - third level		
GenEd Global/World Society Course		
Internationally-Focused Course From Approved List		
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Elective - 1000-1999		3
GSWS 3097	Feminist Theory	3
or ENG 3097	or Feminist Theory	
CLA 1002	Professional Development for Liberal Arts Majors	1
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3

CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	2
<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	
GSWS 3551 Critical Race Feminist Theory	3
Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Elective - any level	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Humanities/CST Course	3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	3
<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
Course from the GSWS Race Electives List	3
Course from the GSWS Sexuality Electives List	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Humanities/CST Course	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course	3
One Elective numbered 0800-4999 in Any School or College	3
<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	
GSWS 4389 Field Work <sup>1</sup>	3
One 2000+ Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Elective	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course	3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	3
<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
GSWS 4396 Research Seminar (Capstone Course) <sup>1</sup>	3
One 2000+ Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Elective	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course	3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	3
One 0800-4999 Elective in Any School or College	3
<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>123</b>

1

These courses may not be offered every semester. Please see advisor for offerings.