

An interdepartmental program

Women's Studies

Courses of Study:
Minor
Major (B.A.)
Master of Arts (Joint)

Objectives

Undergraduate Program

Women's studies is an interdisciplinary field drawing on the humanities, arts, and social and biological sciences to explore the broad range of intellectual questions raised by the social positions of women and by gendered constructions of knowledge, identity, and culture. Students in the program have the opportunity to study theories of feminism, gender, and sexuality; the diversity of women's experiences and representations past and present; and women's movements in the United States and around the globe. This curriculum brings students into contact with the extensive research on women, gender, and feminism that has burgeoned during the past 30 years as well as with historical and cross-cultural knowledge that recognizes the intersections of gender with race, class, religion, sexuality, ethnicity, age, ability, and nationality.

Graduate Programs in Women's Studies

Our nine joint M.A. programs aim to give students a solid grounding in their discipline-specific studies while offering tools for incorporating interdisciplinary women's studies theories, knowledge, and methodologies into their learning and research. By introducing students to the latest work in a variety of fields, graduate women's studies provides cross-disciplinary dialogue and prepares students for positions and professions in women's studies. Students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in nine different fields are eligible to undertake the joint M.A. Four of these fields—anthropology, English, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, and sociology—also offer a freestanding terminal M.A. with women's studies.

How to Become an Undergraduate Major or Minor

As early as possible in their academic career, students interested in women's studies should take WMNS 5a (Women in Culture and Society), the required introduction to the field. In order to declare a major or minor, each student should meet with the women's studies undergraduate advising head, who will help him or her select as an advisor a faculty member well suited to the student's academic interests. The advisor will help to plan a course of study tailored to the student's intellectual and professional interests while meeting the core and elective requirements for the degree.

How to Be Admitted to the Graduate Program

The joint master's degree in women's studies and a discipline may be pursued independently or in conjunction with a Ph.D. in one of several fields.

The first option is a joint terminal master's degree in women's studies and anthropology, women's studies and English and American literature, women's studies and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, or women's studies and sociology. Except in rare circumstances, this option is available only at the time of admission. This degree option may require one or two calendar years, depending on requirements in the affiliating program.

The second option is available to Brandeis graduate students who are enrolled in Ph.D. programs in American history, anthropology, comparative history, English and American literature, The Heller Graduate School, music, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, psychology, or sociology. Students may elect the joint master's degree with the approval of their advisor and of the Women's Studies Program. This degree option replaces a master's degree in the student's program and may be entered at any time during the student's graduate career. Students pursuing the joint M.A. are encouraged to enroll in courses offered by the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies at Radcliffe.

Core Faculty

Susan Lanser, Chair (on leave 2004-05)
(English and American Literature;
Comparative Literature)

Joyce Antler (Acting Chair, Fall 2004)
(American Studies)

James Mandrell (Acting Chair, Spring 2005)
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Bernadette Brooten
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Dian Fox
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Karen Hansen, M.A. Advisor, Sociology
(Sociology)

Erica Harth
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Jane Kamensky, M.A. Advisor, American History
(History)

Nadia Kim
(Sociology)

**Sarah Lamb, Director of Graduate Studies,
M.A. Advisor, Anthropology**
(Anthropology)

Ángela Pérez-Mejía
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Shulamit Reinharz
(Sociology)

Harleen Singh
(Mellon Fellow in Comparative Literature
and Women's Studies)

Marion Smiley
(Philosophy)

Faith Smith, Undergraduate Advising Head
(African and Afro-American Studies;
English and American Literature)

Affiliate and Visiting Faculty

Kecia Ali

(Mellon Fellow in Islamic Studies and Women's Studies)

Pamela Allara

(Fine Arts)

Margarete Arndt

(Women's Studies)

Silvia Arrom

(History)

Marc Brettler

(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Olga Broumas

(English and American Literature)

Mary Campbell

(English and American Literature)

Patricia Chu

(English and American Literature)

Olga Davidson

(Women's Studies)

Roxanne Dávila

(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Susan Dibble

(Theater)

Tracy Edwards

(Philosophy)

Elizabeth Ferry

(Anthropology)

Sylvia Fishman

(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

ChaeRan Freeze

(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

David Gil

(The Heller School)

Laura Goldin

(American Studies)

Jane Hale

(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Anita Hill

(The Heller School)

Deirdre Hunter

(Women's Studies)

Caren Irr(English and American Literature)
(Women's Studies)**Jacqueline Jones**

(History)

Alice Kelikian

(History)

Thomas King

(English and American Literature)

Jytte Klausen

(Politics)

Lorraine Klerman

(The Heller School)

Ann Koloski-Ostrow

(Classical Studies)

Robin Feuer Miller

(German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature)

Paul Morrison

(English and American Literature)

Phyllis Mutschler

(The Heller School)

Jessie Ann Owens

(Music)

Ellen Schattschneider

(Anthropology)

Nancy Scott

(Fine Arts)

Aurora Sherman

(Psychology)

Eva Thorne

(Politics)

Judith Tsipis

(Biology)

Sabine vonMering

(German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature)

Dessima Williams

(Sociology)

Leslie Zebrowitz

(Psychology)

Requirements for the Undergraduate Major

Nine courses are required for the major. They are to be distributed as follows:

A. Three core courses are required: WMNS 5a (Women in Culture and Society: Multidisciplinary Perspectives), WMNS 105b (Feminist Theories in Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspective), and WMNS 198a (Research Seminar). Ordinarily, WMNS 5a and WMNS 198a will be offered each fall, and WMNS 105b each spring. With permission of the undergraduate advising head, students may be allowed to substitute another feminist theory course for WMNS 105b.

B. Six additional courses that either carry the WMNS designation or are approved as Women's Studies electives. These six courses must meet the following additional requirements: At least one course must have a historical focus encompassing a period before 1945. Courses that fulfill this requirement include but are not limited to: AMST 121a, AMST 123b, ANTH 141b, CLAS 145b, ENG 46a, ENG 114b, ENG 134a, ENG 144b, FA 173a, GECS 150a, HIST 55b, HIST 153a, HIST 154b, HIST 173b, HIST 187a, MUS 58b, MUS 150a, NEJS 115b, NEJS 175a (formerly NEJS 129b), NEJS 148b, NEJS 128b (formerly NEJS 153b), PHIL 28a, RECS 137a, SPAN 125b.

1. At least one course must examine a particular culture, society, or region of the non-Western world or systematically make comparisons across cultures. These courses include but are not limited to: AAAS 133b, ANTH 144a, ANTH 145a, ANTH 151b, HIST 173b, SOC 123a, SOC 171a, SPAN 164b, SPAN 168b, and WMNS 165b.

2. No more than three courses may be taken from any one department or program outside women's studies.

3. Students are strongly encouraged to undertake an internship in women's studies as one of their electives.

C. Completion of a senior essay or thesis. The research seminar (WMNS 198a) will guide students in designing and writing a senior paper, which must be submitted in final form by the spring semester of the senior year.

Courses that fulfill University requirements or requirements for another major may also count toward the major in women's studies.

Students who wish to receive honors in women's studies are required to complete a senior thesis. These students should enroll in the Research Seminar (WMNS 198a) during the fall semester and in Senior Thesis Research (WMNS 99b) during the spring. WMNS 99b does not count as one of the nine courses required for the major.

No course counting for the major may be taken on a pass/fail basis. However, students who maintain a grade average of 3.3 or higher in their women's studies courses will be permitted to count toward the major one credit-bearing peer assistantship in women's studies.

Requirements for the Undergraduate Minor

- A. Successful completion of WMNS 5a.
- B. Four additional semester courses chosen from the list of core and elective courses provided below, excluding WMNS 99b.
- C. A senior research paper on an approved topic. Students may elect to enroll in WMNS 99b in conjunction with the senior paper. See undergraduate advising head or women's studies program coordinator for details.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology and Women's Studies

Students who are candidates for the joint degree of Master of Arts in anthropology and women's studies must:

- A. Complete WMNS 205a, the foundational course in women's studies. Under certain circumstances an alternative course can be taken instead of WMNS 205a. See advisor and women's studies program coordinator for approval.
- B. Complete ANTH 144a (The Anthropology of Gender).
- C. Complete two elective graduate courses in women's studies chosen from the list of courses in the *Bulletin*, at least one of which must be from a field other than anthropology.
- D. Complete ANTH 190a and ANTH 193b.
- E. Complete three additional elective graduate courses in anthropology, selected with the approval of their advisor.
- F. Submit an acceptable master's research paper, dealing with a topic related to anthropology and to women's studies, approved by their advisor. The paper must be evaluated by their advisor and one additional faculty member.
- G. Attendance at the year-long, noncredit, Women's Studies Colloquium Series.

There is a residence requirement of one full year of course-work. There is no language requirement for the joint master's degree in anthropology and women's studies. Students interested in the joint degree program should consult with the anthropology department women's studies liaison.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Master of Arts in English and American Literature and Women's Studies

- A. ENG 200a (Methods of Literary Study).
- B. WMNS 205a, the foundational course in women studies. Under certain circumstances, an alternative course may be substituted for WMNS 205a. See advisor and women's studies program coordinator for approval.

C. Five additional courses in the English department selected from 100-level courses and graduate seminars (200-level courses). At least two of these courses must be at the 200 level. One of these five courses must be listed as an elective with the Women's Studies Program.

D. One women's studies course in a department other than the English department.

E. Attendance at the year-long, noncredit, Women's Studies Colloquium Series.

F. Language requirement: A reading knowledge of a major foreign language (normally modern European or classical Greek or Latin) must be demonstrated by passing a written translation examination. The completion of the language requirement at another university does not exempt the student from the Brandeis requirement.

G. First-year students must present a paper at the First-Year Symposium in the spring term.

H. Thesis requirement: This project must be 25 to 35 pages long. Papers written for course work, papers presented at conferences, and papers written specifically for the M.A. degree are all acceptable. The paper must engage a feminist perspective or deal with literary subjects appropriate to women's studies. The paper must satisfy the reader's standards for excellence in M.A. degree-level work. Each paper will be evaluated by a reader for whom the paper was not originally written. For further information, contact the women's studies advisor in the English department.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Master of Arts in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Women's Studies

Students interested in the joint two-year terminal M.A. degree program must first be admitted to the M.A. degree program in NEJS in the regular manner.

Residence Requirement and Program of Study

Ordinarily, two years of full-time residence are required at the normal course rate of seven courses each academic year. Students who enter with graduate credit from other recognized institutions may apply for transfer credit for up to four courses, or, with prior approval of the M.A. advisor, candidates may receive transfer credit for up to four courses at a university abroad.

Courses must include the designated foundational course in women's studies, one women's studies course in NEJS, one women's studies course outside of NEJS, and the year-long, noncredit, eight-part Women's Studies Colloquium Series. The remaining courses must be jointly approved by each student's NEJS advisor and by the NEJS women's studies advisor.

Advising

Students are assigned advisors from the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies department and from the Women's Studies Program. Students must meet with their advisor(s) regularly, and before enrolling in courses, to assure appropriate course coherency.

Language Requirement

All candidates are required to demonstrate proficiency in biblical or modern Hebrew or in Arabic.

Comprehensive Examination

All candidates for the Master of Arts degree are required to pass a comprehensive examination.

Thesis or Research Project

Students receiving a joint M.A. degree in women's studies and NEJS must complete a research project on an issue connected to women's studies. This project must be at least 25 pages long, in a format suitable for submission to a specific journal or for presentation at a professional conference. It may be a revision of a paper previously completed while enrolled in the M.A. degree program at Brandeis. It must concern a topic relevant to NEJS and to women's studies. The project is read by two faculty members within NEJS and by an additional member of the Women's Studies Program Committee. It must be defended before that three-person committee by the first week of May of the year in which the candidate intends to receive the degree. (Check the date with the Office of the University Registrar. It may vary with the academic calendar.) Once the project is found to be of acceptable M.A. degree quality, one copy of the project should be submitted to the Women's Studies Program office, and an additional copy should be deposited in the Brandeis Library.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology and Women's Studies**Program of Study**

The joint Master of Arts degree in sociology and women's studies is a one-year (12-month) program. Requirements include the completion of seven courses to be distributed as follows: the foundational course in women's studies (WMNS 205a); one graduate course outside sociology listed as an elective in women's studies; one graduate sociology course listed as an elective in women's studies; plus three other regular graduate sociology courses (one methods, one theory, and one outside the area of gender). Also required are a directed study focused on student research, year-long attendance in the Women's Studies Colloquium Series (noncredit), and submission of two substantial M.A. papers or a thesis.

Residence Requirement

One year.

Language Requirement

There is no foreign language requirement for the joint master's degree.

Courses of Instruction**(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students****WMNS 5a Women in Culture and Society: A Multidisciplinary Perspective**

[ss]

This introductory, interdisciplinary course explores women's experiences in the United States and other societies, focusing on the diversity of women's lives. Basic social science assumptions and new feminist perspectives are used to examine a broad range of topics, fields, and issues. Usually offered every fall.
Ms. Singh

WMNS 92a Internship in Women's Studies: Prevention of Violence against Women and Children

Prerequisite: WMNS 5a.

This course combines fieldwork in violence prevention programs with a weekly seminar concerning violence against women and children. The seminar examines the tensions and commonalities between "family violence" and "feminist" approaches, with an emphasis on feminist scholarship. Usually offered every fall.
Ms. Hunter

WMNS 92b Internship and Analysis

Usually offered every semester.
Staff

WMNS 98a Independent Study

Independent readings, research, and writing on a subject of the student's interest under the direction of a faculty advisor. Usually offered every year.
Staff

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Master of Arts in Conjunction with Doctoral Programs for Brandeis Ph.D. Students Only

The length of time and the number of courses required varies since programs have their own requirements for a master's degree. Each program has a women's studies advisor who works with students to develop their course of study. Students are thus able to take full advantage of the interdisciplinary nature of women's studies by designing an individualized program that cuts across several fields.

WMNS 205a Graduate Foundational Course in Women's Studies

An examination of major issues in women's studies and feminist theory, issues that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries and open up new areas of inquiry. Conducted in a seminar format with active student participation. Students identify problems relevant to their own fields for individual or collaborative research projects.

Additional Courses

Two courses cross-listed with women's studies (one inside the student's program and one outside) and two or more additional courses that can be non-women's studies courses in the student's program.

Colloquium Series

Provides an opportunity for students to hear a wide range of feminist scholars speak about their work. Students are encouraged to participate in selecting speakers whom they wish to hear.

Thesis

The thesis must have a women's studies focus and be approved by the student's program and the Women's Studies Graduate Committee.

Additional Requirements

Students should consult the women's studies advisor from their program to ensure that all master's degree requirements in their program are satisfied.

WMNS 98b Independent Study

See WMNS 98a for special notes and course description. Usually offered every year.
Staff

WMNS 99a Senior Research Project

Independent research and writing under faculty direction, for the purpose of completion of the women's studies senior research project. Completion of the senior project is required to complete the women's studies minor. Usually offered every year.
Staff

WMNS 99b Senior Research

See WMNS 99a for special notes and course description. Usually offered every year.
Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students**WMNS 105b Feminist Theories in Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspective**

[ss]

This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken WMNS 105a in previous years.

Examines diverse theories of sex and gender within a multicultural frame. Considers the history of feminism, theoretical underpinnings of women's movements in and outside the United States, and the implications of different feminist theories for academic inquiry. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Smiley

WMNS 106b Women in the Health Care System

[ss]

Explores the position and roles of women in the U.S. health care system and how it defines and meets women's health needs. The implications for health care providers, health care management, and health policy are discussed. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Arndt

WMNS 165b Feminism and Human Rights

[ss]

Examines the emerging body of feminist human rights work in light of its theoretical assumptions about non-western cultures. Why did the call for women's rights emerge at this historical moment? How do we best understand the enabling and potentially disabling aspects of feminist human rights theory? Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Visweswaran

WMNS 195b The Woman's Voice in the Muslim World

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This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken NEJS 195b in previous years.

Study of the writings of women and the writings expressing the woman's voice, starting with pre-Islamic lamentation poetry and extending all the way to modern literature. There will be special focus on literary genres in which women's viewpoints and traditions are articulated. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Davidson

WMNS 198a Women's Studies Research Seminar

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Examines theories and practices of feminist scholarship and introduces interdisciplinary methodologies in order to guide students in designing and completing an independent research project. Usually offered every year in the fall.

Ms. Brooten and Ms. Hansen

(200 and above) Primarily for Graduate Students**WMNS 205a Graduate Foundational Course in Women's Studies**

An interdisciplinary course offered through the Women's Studies Program. Includes presentation of feminist material in various fields. Specific themes vary from year to year.

Staff

WMNS 299a Directed Readings in Women's Studies

Usually offered every year.

Staff

WMNS 299b Directed Readings in Women's Studies

Usually offered every year.

Staff

Electives**AAAS 133b**

The Literature of the Caribbean

AMST 102a

Women, the Environment, and Social Justice

AMST 118a

Gender and the Professions

AMST 121a

The American Jewish Woman: 1890-1990s

AMST 123b

Women in American History: 1865 to the Present

AMST 124b

American Love and Marriage

AMST 127b

Women and Popular Culture

AMST 139b

Reporting on Gender, Race, and Culture

ANTH 141b

Engendering Archaeology: Exploring Women's and Men's Lives in the Past

ANTH 144a

The Anthropology of Gender

ANTH 145a

Anthropology of the Body

ANTH 178b

Culture, Gender, and Power in East Asia

BIOL 160b

Human Reproductive and Developmental Biology

BISC 2a

Human Reproduction, Population Explosion, Global Consequences

COML 122b

Writing Home and Abroad: Literature by Women of Color

COML 160b

Narrative in Literature and Film

COML 195a

Feminism and Film

COML 198a

Feminist Texts, Feminist Theory

ENG 28b

Queer Readings: Before Stonewall

ENG 46a

Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers

ENG 107a

Caribbean Women Writers

ENG 114b

Gender and the Rise of the Novel in England and France

ENG 121a

Sex and Culture

ENG 131b

Feminist Theory

ENG 134a

The Woman of Letters, 1600-1800

ENG 144b

The Body as Text: Castiglione to Locke

ENG 151a

Lesbian and Gay Studies: Desire, Identity, and Representation

ENG 157b

American Women Poets

ENG 181a

Making Sex, Performing Gender

ENG 234a

Writing British Women 1660-1800: Critical Inquires

ENG 240a

Sex and Culture

FA 19b

Lives of the Artists

FA 61b

Inventing Tradition: Women as Artists, Women as Art

FA 131b

Center Stage: Women in Contemporary Art

FA 173a

Georgia O'Keeffe and Stieglitz Circle

FREN 190b

Advanced Seminar

- GECS 150a**
From Rapunzel to Riefenstahl: Real and Imaginary Women in German Culture
- HIST 55b**
The History of the Family
- HIST 153a**
Americans at Home: Families and Domestic Environments, 1600 to the Present
- HIST 154b**
Women in American History, 1600-1865
- HIST 157a**
Americans at Work: American Labor History
- HIST 187a**
Problems in American Women's History
- HS 319a**
Work and Individual and Social Development
- HS 515a**
Race/Ethnicity, Gender in Human Services Research
- HS 527f**
Law and Society: Gender Equality
- HS 549a**
Gender, Work, and Family Policy
- LGLS 120a**
Sex Discrimination and the Law
- LGLS 126b**
Marriage, Divorce, and Parenthood
- MUS 58b**
Construction of Gender in Opera
- MUS 150a**
Women and Music, Past and Present: Style, Identity, Culture
- NEJS 29a**
Feminist Sexual Ethics in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- NEJS 115b**
Women and the Bible
- NEJS 128b**
History of Jewish and Christian Women in the Roman Empire
- NEJS 148b**
Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Jews and Christians: Sources and Interpretations
- NEJS 172a**
Women in American Jewish Literature
- NEJS 175a**
Jewish Women in Eastern Europe: Tradition and Transformation
- NEJS 176a**
Seminar in American Jewish Fiction: Philip Roth and Cynthia Ozick
- NEJS 192b**
Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel, 1882-1948
- NEJS 196a**
Marriage, Divorce, and Sexual Ethics in Islamic Law
- PHIL 28a**
Western Philosophical Tradition: Feminist Perspectives
- PHIL 67b**
Contemporary Continental Philosophy: The Traditions and Feminist Engagements
- PHIL 120b**
Gender and Moral Philosophy
- PHIL 121a**
Politics, Philosophy, and the Legal Regulation of Sexuality
- POL 125a**
Women in American Politics
- POL 159a**
Seminar: The Politics of the Modern Welfare State: Women, Workers, and Social Citizenship
- PSYC 160b**
Seminar on Sex Differences
- RECS 137a**
Women in Russian Literature
- SOC 105a**
Feminist Critiques of American Society
- SOC 112a**
Topics on Women and Development
- SOC 117a**
Sociology of Work
- SOC 130a**
Families
- SOC 131b**
Women's Biography and Society
- SOC 132b**
Social Perspectives on Motherhood and Mothering
- SOC 134a**
Great Women of Sociology
- SOC 138b**
Seminar: Gender and the Life Course
- SOC 169b**
Issues in Sexuality
- SOC 171a**
Women Leaders and Transformation in Developing Countries
- SOC 206b**
Advanced Topics in Family Studies
- SOC 207a**
Feminist Theory
- SPAN 125b**
Literary Women in Early Modern Spain
- SPAN 164b**
Studies in Latin American Literature
- SPAN 168b**
Latin America Narrated by Women
- SPAN 192a**
Women's Fiction in Translation

Yiddish

Faculty

See Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

Courses of Instruction

YDSH 10a Beginning Yiddish

Meets for four class hours per week.

The first of a four-semester sequence, this course introduces basic Yiddish grammar. Students also develop reading, writing, and conversational skills. Yiddish songs, poetry, and folklore are incorporated throughout. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Kellman

YDSH 20b Continuing Yiddish

Prerequisite: YDSH 10a or permission of the instructor. Meets for four class hours per week.

Continues the study of grammar begun in YDSH 10a. Writing and speaking skills receive more emphasis than in the previous course, and students begin to build vocabulary and reading skills that will enable them to approach more complex texts. The history and culture of Eastern European Jewry is studied through Yiddish songs, films, and literature. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Kellman

YDSH 30a Intermediate Yiddish

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Prerequisite: YDSH 20b or permission of the instructor. Meets for four class hours per week.

Third in a four-semester sequence. Students continue to develop reading skills as they sample texts from Yiddish prose fiction, folklore, and memoir literature. Grammatical instruction is more contextualized than in the previous courses. Speaking and writing skills are strongly emphasized. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Kellman

YDSH 40b Advanced Intermediate Yiddish

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Prerequisite: YDSH 30a or permission of the instructor. Meets for four class hours per week.

The fourth in a four-semester sequence, this course is a continuation of YDSH 30a. Students discuss assigned texts in Yiddish. Written assignments emphasize the development of fluency and grammatical accuracy. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Kellman