

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES
OFFERS GREAT PREPARATION

PROFESSIONS

Law, medicine and health, social work, education, journalism, and many more

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

K-12; higher education; graduate studies in social sciences, humanities, sciences or GWS; policy institutes, think-tanks

PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY

Labor unions; trade associations; lobbying organizations; local, state, or federal government; NGOs

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Organizations that focus on women, human rights, environmental sustainability, violence prevention, reproductive justice, LGBTQ rights, and many more

STUDY NEW PERSPECTIVES ON

- Girlhoods
- Global and local economies
- Law and legal philosophies
- Activism and Social Movements
- Masculinities
- Media and popular culture
- Queer, post-colonial, intersectional theories
- Sexualities
- Gendered Violence
- Disability
- Reproductive Justice and Health Disparities

CONTACT US

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 College of Arts
and Sciences

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR

If you are looking for a major with some of the boldest cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and teaching, in a department where you can find a warm collegial community and classes you can truly enjoy, check out UK GWS.

In GWS, students analyze ideas about femininity and masculinity across culture and history. Explore women's lives. Examine the organization and representation of gender within societies around the world.

REQUIREMENTS

Students take 42 hours in addition to the pre-major requirements. This includes UK Core requirements (15 hours) and approved GWS electives (15 hours).

PRE-MAJOR REQUIREMENTS:

- GWS 200 Sex and Power
- GWS 201 Gender and Popular Culture

CORE REQUIREMENTS:

- GWS 250 Social Movements OR GWS 340 History of Feminist Thought to 1977
- GWS 350 Introduction to Feminist Theorizing
- GWS 400 Doing Feminist Research
- GWS 599 Senior Seminar

AWARDS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Tomasky Leaders Scholarship Fund
- Space, Place, & Southern Grace for Feminist Studies
- Kate Black Activism Award
- Joan Callahan Award for Scholastic Achievement
- Jan Oaks Feminist Creativity Award

FACULTY & THEIR INTERESTS

ARIA HALLIDAY

Black feminist thought, Hip-Hop feminism, Black girlhood, Literature and visual culture, film & media studies

FRANCES HENDERSON

Comparative politics, social movements, critical feminist theory, intersectionality

JENNIFER S. HUNT

Psychology of gender, social inequalities under the law, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination.

CAROL MASON

20th-century American culture and literature, critical studies of whiteness, race and reproduction, sexuality

ELLEN RIGGLE

LGBTQ identity and politics, queer theory, and sexuality and law.

MELISSA STEIN

LGBTQ history, race and policing, African-American history, feminist science studies, history of medicine.

ANASTASIA TODD

Disability studies, girlhood studies, affect theory.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

History of gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, African history, imperialism, modern Britain

CHARLIE ZHANG

Gender and sexuality in East Asia, masculinities studies, queer of color analysis, affect studies.

STUDENT PROFILES

Emily Youatt is pursuing a PH.D. in public health at the University of Michigan: "Employers and graduate school professors alike have been impressed by the writing and analytic skills I developed during my time as a GWS major at UK. But the really special thing is the enduring relationships I developed with the faculty. I am extremely grateful for their continuing encouragement and wisdom!"

John Crowell is a law student at the Salmon P. Chase College of Law: "Becoming involved with UK's gender and women studies department was one of the best decisions I made at UK. I was surprised by the vast amount I learned about race, class, sexuality and masculinity as well as women's issues. This kind of insight and understanding is important to any life and any career."

Cheryl Chastine received her M.D. from the UK College of Medicine: "My GWS experiences formed the lens through which I look at the world now: the interplay of gender, class, race, background and life experience in shaping people's beliefs and behaviors. The empathy and understanding that I derived allows me to relate to, and care for, my patients in a way that I could never have achieved otherwise."