Gender Studies

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Program of Study

Gender Studies at the University of Chicago encompasses diverse disciplines, modes of inquiry, and objects of knowledge. Gender Studies allows undergraduates the opportunity to shape a disciplinary or interdisciplinary plan of study focused on gender and sexuality. The plan of study, designed with the assistance of a Gender Studies Adviser, can take the form of a gender-track in a traditional academic discipline, interdisciplinary work on a gender-related topic, or a combination thereof. Students can thus create a cluster of courses linked by their attention to gender as an object of study or by their use of gender categories to investigate topics in sexuality, social life, science, politics and culture, literature and the arts, or systems of thought.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Gender Studies. Information follows the description of the major.

Program Requirements

The major requires eleven courses, a B.A. Essay Seminar, and a B.A. research project or essay that will count as a thirteenth course. The Center for Gender Studies recognizes two main paths by which students might develop an undergraduate concentration. Path A is for students whose central interest lies in the interdisciplinary study of gender and sexuality; it is designed to provide students with a range of conceptual and historical resources to pursue such study with creativity and rigor. Path B is for students whose interest in gender and sexuality is primarily organized around a specific other discipline or field such as History, English, or Political Science; it is designed to provide students with the conceptual and methodological resources to pursue Gender Studies within such a field. Within those goals, each path is meant to provide students with the opportunity to design a course of study tailored to their particular interests. Each path consists of the two required introductory Problems in Gender Studies courses (GNDR 10100 and 10200), a group of nine electives chosen in consultation with the Chair of Undergraduate Studies), a B.A. Essay seminar for fourth-year students, and a B.A paper written under the supervision of an appropriate faculty member.
Path A: GNDR 10100; GNDR 10200; nine electives, which must meet the following chronological, geographical, and methodological distribution guidelines: at least one course with a main chronological focus that is pre-1900 and at least one course with a main chronological focus that is post-1900; at least one course with a main focus that is North America or Europe and at least one course with a main focus that is Latin America, Africa, or Asia; at least two courses in the Humanities and at least two courses in the Social Sciences. Any given course may fulfill more than one distribution requirement; for instance, a course on gender in Shakespeare would count as fulfilling one course requirement in pre-1900, Europe, and Humanities.

Path B: GNDR 10100; GNDR 10200; five Gender Studies courses in a primary field; and four supporting field courses. Courses in the primary field focus on gender and/or sexuality in a single discipline or in closely related disciplines and develop a gender track within that discipline. Supporting field courses provide training in the methodological, technical, or scholarly skills needed to pursue research in the student’s primary field.

Two-Quarter Theory Course Sequence. All students majoring in Gender Studies take Problems in Gender Studies (GNDR 10100 and 10200) in their second or third year.

Research Project or Essay. A substantial essay or project is to be completed in the student’s fourth year under the supervision of a Gender Studies Adviser who is a member of the Gender Studies Core Faculty in the student’s primary field of interest. Students must submit the essay by May 1 of their fourth year or by fifth week of their quarter of graduation.

This program may accept a B.A. paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest B.A. proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, when neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Summary of Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 courses distributed according to the requirements of Path A or Path B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Problems in Gender Studies (GNDR 10100-10200)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 B.A. Essay Seminar (GNDR 29800)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 B.A. Essay (GNDR 29900)</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>13</td>
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Grading. Two of the supporting field courses may be taken P/F. All other courses
must be taken for a quality grade.

**Honors.** Students with a 3.0 or higher overall grade point average and a 3.5 or higher grade point average in the major are eligible for honors. The faculty adviser for the B.A. essay will be invited to submit outstanding essays to a subcommittee of the Gender Studies faculty, which will then make the final decision.

**Advising.** Each student chooses a Gender Studies Adviser who is a member of the Gender Studies Core Faculty listed below. By the beginning of their third year, students are expected to have designed their programs of study with the assistance of their Gender Studies Adviser. Students may also seek advice from the Director of Undergraduate Studies while designing their program of study.

**Minor Program in Gender Studies**

Gender Studies at the University of Chicago encompasses diverse disciplines, modes of inquiry, and objects of knowledge. A minor in Gender Studies allows students in other major fields to shape a disciplinary or interdisciplinary plan of study that will provide a competence in gender and sexuality studies. Such a minor requires a total of six courses: the Gender Studies core sequence, GNDR 10100 (Problems in the Study of Gender); GNDR 10200 (Problems in the Study of Sexuality); and four additional courses in Gender Studies.

Students who elect the minor program in Gender Studies must meet with the director of undergraduate studies before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. (The deadline for students graduating in 2006-07 is the end of Autumn Quarter 2006.) Students choose courses in consultation with the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. The chair’s approval for the minor program should be submitted to a student’s College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the adviser.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and at least four of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Samples of disciplinary and interdisciplinary plans of study follow.

**Gender Studies Disciplinary Sample Minor**

- GNDR 10100-10200. Problems in Gender Studies
- GNDR 21300. Victorian Wives, Mothers, and Daughters
  (=ENGL 21100)
- GNDR 22401. Chicana/o Intellectual Thought (=ENGL 22804)
- GNDR 24702. When and Where They Entered: Black Women Writers of the 1940s and 1950s (=AFAM 25103, CRPC 25103/47901, ENGL 25103/47901)
Gender Studies Interdisciplinary Sample Minor

GNDR 10100-10200. Problems in Gender Studies
GNDR 20800. Sexual Identity/Life Course/Life Story (=HUDV 24600)
GNDR 22701. Sexuality and Censorship in Pre-Stonewall Film
(=CMST 20901, ENGL 28601, HIST 18501)
GNDR 24001. Love and Eros in Japanese History (=HIST 24001)
GNDR 24900. Foucault and The History of Sexuality (=PHIL 24800)

Nonmajors are encouraged to use the lists of faculty and course offerings as resources for the purpose of designing programs within disciplines, as an aid for the allocation of electives, or for the pursuit of a B.A. project. For further work in gender studies, students are encouraged to investigate other courses taught by resource faculty. For more information about Gender Studies, consult the Center for Gender Studies Web site at humanities.uchicago.edu/cgs/ or the Assistant Director at 702-9936.

Faculty

Courses: Gender Studies (GNDR)

10100-10200. Problems in Gender Studies. PQ: Second-year standing or higher. Completion of the general education requirement in social sciences or humanities, or the equivalent. May be taken in sequence or individually. This two-quarter interdisciplinary sequence is designed as an introduction to theories and critical practices in the study of feminism, gender, and sexuality. Both classic texts and recent conceptualizations of these contested fields are examined. Problems and cases from a variety of cultures and historical periods are considered, and the course pursues their differing implications in local, national, and global contexts. Both quarters also engage questions of aesthetics and representation, asking how
stereotypes, generic conventions, and other modes of circulated fantasy have contributed to constraining and emancipating people through their gender or sexuality.

10100. Problems in the Study of Gender. (=ENGL 10200, HIST 29306, HUMA 22800, SOSC 28200) This course addresses the production of particularly gendered norms and practices. Using a variety of historical and theoretical materials, it addresses how sexual difference operates in various contexts (e.g., nation, race, class formation; work, the family, migration, imperialism, postcolonial relations). S. Michaels, Winter; L. Auslander, Spring.

10200. Problems in the Study of Sexuality. (=ENGL 10300, HUMA 22900, SOSC 28300) This course focuses on histories and theories of sexuality: gay, lesbian, heterosexual, and otherwise. This exploration involves looking at a range of materials from anthropology to the law and from practices of sex to practices of science. S. Michaels, Autumn; B. Cohler, Winter.

15600. Medieval English Literature. (=ENGL 15600) For course description, see English Language and Literature. M. Miller. Spring.

21703. Critical Perspectives on Masculinity. This course critically examines different approaches to studying masculinity as a historically variable social formation. Beginning with psychoanalytic and feminist approaches to the study of gender, we trace the emergence of masculinity as an object of study. We then move on to examine the concept of “hegemonic masculinity,” sex role theory, and notions of gender as performance. We also consider the role of the state and legal regimes, as well as the intersections of sexuality, race, ethnicity, and class with forms of masculinity. Case studies are drawn from regions ranging from Highland New Guinea to the contemporary United States. J. Osburg. Autumn.


21400/31400. Introduction to Theories of Sex/Gender: Ideology, Culture, and Sexuality. (=ENGL 21401/30201, MAPH 36500) PQ: Consent of instructor required; GNDR 10100-10200 recommended. For course description, see English Language and Literature. L. Berlant. Winter.
21600. Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. (=FNDL 21900, HUMA 20800, IMET 31900, RLST 26400) *Class limited to twenty-five students.* For course description, see Fundamentals. *W. Olmsted.* Winter, 2008.

22701. Sexuality and Censorship in Pre-Stonewall Film. (=CMST 20901, ENGL 28601, HIST 18501) For course description, see Cinema and Media Studies. *R. Gregg.* Offered 2007-08; not offered 2006-07.

23001/33001. Gender and Literature in South Asia. (=CMLT 23500, SALC 23002/33002) *Prior knowledge of South Asia not required.* For course description, see South Asian Languages and Civilizations. Texts in English. *V. Ritter.* Spring.

24401. Reading Freud. (=ENGL 22202) For course description, see English Language and Literature. *J. M. Miller.* Winter.

24701. When and Where They Entered: Black Women Writers of the 1940s and 1950s. (=AFAM 25103, CRPC 25103/47901, ENGL 25103/47901) For course description, see English Language and Literature. *J. Goldsby.* Winter.


26601. Evolution and Medicine; the Brain and Sex. (=BIOS 29285, ECEV 30900, EVOL 30900) For course description, see Biological Sciences. *L. Van Valen, M. Stoller.* Spring.


27201. Venetian Women Writers and the “Woman Question,” 1575 to 1675. (=ITAL 24701/34701) For course description, see Romance Languages and Literatures (Italian). *E. Weaver.* Winter.

27501. From Gender Critique to Gay Marriage: South Asian Texts and Events. (=SALC 33000/43000) *PQ: Consent of instructor.* For course description, see South Asian Languages and Civilizations. *R. Majumdar.* Spring.


28600. Pasolini. (=CMST 23500/33500, ITAL 28400/38400) PQ: Consent of instructor. For course description, see Romance Languages and Literatures (Italian). A. Maggi. Autumn.

29100/39100. Modern Creative Couples: Collaboration—Connubial and Otherwise. (=ITAL 29100/39100) For course description, see Romance Languages and Literatures (Italian). All work in Italian. R. West. Autumn.

29700. Readings in Gender Studies. PQ: Consent of instructor and program chairman. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. May be taken P/F with consent of instructor. With prior approval, this course may be used to satisfy course requirements for Gender Studies majors. Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.

29800. B.A. Essay Seminar. PQ: Consent of instructor and program chairman. May be taken P/F with consent of instructor. GNDR 29800 and 29900 form a two-quarter sequence for seniors who are writing a B.A. essay. This seminar provides students with the theoretical and methodological grounding in gender and sexuality studies needed to formulate a topic and conduct the independent research and writing of their B.A. essay. Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.

29900. B.A. Essay. PQ: Consent of instructor and program chairman. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form signed by the faculty B.A. essay reader. The purpose of this course is to assist students in the preparation of drafts of their B.A. essay. Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.