

Interdisciplinary Programs of Study

The College offers a variety of programs of study that are informed by more than one disciplinary field. They include the college's Honors Program, the major in Latin American and Latino Studies, and several minors, including Community Service Learning (CSL); Core Texts and Enduring Questions (CTEQ); Law, Ethics, and Constitutional Studies (LEX); Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS); and Women's Studies (WMS).

MINOR IN WOMEN'S STUDIES (WMS)

Throughout the greater part of the twentieth century, scholars in most academic disciplines considered the experiences of women to be peripheral. During the late 1960s, however, many researchers turned their attention to the study of women, attempting to correct what they viewed as distortions in scholarship. They discovered that the study of women opens new perspectives from which to view social reality.

At Assumption College, the Women's Studies program began with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This grant brought together professors from four disciplines to design an introductory interdisciplinary course entitled Women's Studies I: Images of Women in America (CLT/ENG/HIS/PSY/SOC/WMS 285). In 1993, a minor in Women's Studies was approved. The minor program requires students to take the introductory course along with five other courses, three of which must be taken beyond the student's major requirements as specified in Assumption's policy on the "double counting" of courses. A new course, Women of the World (CLT/ENG/HIS/PSY/WMS 385), was recently added by Women's Studies to expand the scope of our program by including the experiences and challenges of women worldwide. Students may also pursue internships focused on women's issues in a variety of placements, including within educational or social service agencies. This minor is important for all students, but especially for those who intend to work in areas of policy making, urban planning, business, social service and counseling, or the law.

Students interested in Women's Studies have the option of constructing a special major within the discipline with the approval of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. This generally encompasses WMS 285, WMS 385, eight Women's Studies electives, and an internship in a placement related to women and/or girls. In addition to the introductory Images course, students following the Women's Studies minor select from an array of courses approved as Women's Studies electives. These courses change from semester to semester, but often include many of the following:

ANT 131 Cultural Anthropology	GEO/SOC 108 World Population Issues
ARD 217 Typography	HIS 313 Women and the American Experience
BIO 380 Biology of Cancer	HIS 338 Classics of Spiritual Direction
CLT 210 Classical Mythology	HIS 359 Revolutionary America
CRM 325 Victimology	HRS 420 Family Aspects of Disability
CRM 335 Family Violence	HRS 421 Loss and Bereavement Across the Lifespan
ECO 210 Economics of Women, Men, and Work	IDS 250 Community Tax Assistance
ECO 264 Comparative Economic Systems	LAS 200 Introduction to Latin American Studies
EDU 101 Schools in American Society	MGT 301 Business and Society
ENG 219 Approaches to Media Analysis	MGT 311 Diversity in the Work Force
ENG228 Voices of Multitudes	MGT 330 Global Social Entrepreneurship
ENG 263 Children's Literature	POL 376 Terrorism and the Modern World
ENG/PHI 265 Introduction to Peace Studies	PSY 217 Psychology of Women
ENG 281 Women in Literature	PSY 220 Interpersonal Communication
ENG 287 Literature of American Women of Color	PSY 310 Stereotypes and Prejudice
ENG 353 Novels of Jane Austen	SOC 122 Social Problems
ENG 363 Nineteenth-Century British Novel	SOC 223 Family in Society
ENG 371 The 1920s	SOC 224 Gender Issues in Society
ENG 396 American Film	SPA 255 Sports in the Hispanic World
ENG 387 Survey of Afro-American Literature	SOC 315 Masculinities
FRE 401 French Popular Culture Today	SPA 316 Emerging Modernities in the Hispanic World

SPA 317 Border Identities in Spain
SPA 318 Rebellion and Reinvention in Mexico
SPA 370 Women Writers in Contemporary Spain

SPA 381 Contemporary Spanish American Drama
WMS 385 Women of the World

Field-based courses in Psychology, Sociology, and Human Services and other disciplines count for the Women's Studies minor if the field placement focuses on women and/or girls. An Independent Study with a focus on women and/or issues of significance to women may also count for the minor, as do courses with a focus on women offered in Continuing and Career Education, through the Worcester Consortium, or in Study Abroad. For further information, contact the Women's Studies Director Prof. Carl Robert Keyes 508-767-7324, or by e-mail at ckeyes@assumption.edu.

Course Descriptions

CLT/ENG/HIS/PSY/SOC/WMS 285 WOMEN'S STUDIES I: IMAGES OF WOMEN IN AMERICA

This team-taught course is an introduction to the study of women. The course develops a coherent, integrated view of women and their roles; emphasizes the full range of contributions of and the limited opportunities for women; examines and appraises the experiences of women; and critically examines the thinking about women at various times and from various perspectives. The basic approach is interdisciplinary and the concentration of the course is on women in the United States from the nineteenth century to the present. This course satisfies either one Social Science requirement or the second literature requirement in both Cores. In addition, the course can serve as an elective in the major or minor programs in Psychology, Sociology, or History. In Modern and Classical Languages, CLT 285 may count for the one course that French or Spanish majors may take from the Modern and Classical Languages offerings in English.

Choquette, Farough, Kercher, Keyes, Leone, Loustaunau, Parmley/*Three credits*

CLT/ENG/HIS/PSY/WMS 385 WOMEN OF THE WORLD

This team-taught course helps students learn about the character and quality of women's lives across cultures in the contemporary period and to study the consequences of globalization by examining it through the prism of gender. Accounts of women's lives in regions outside the United States are presented along with readings that provide the historical, social, political, and economic background needed to fully understand these lives. In this course we encounter the powerful and the powerless; the rich and the poor; the courageous and the meek; and in learning their stories we also learn something about the world they inhabit and that we inhabit along with them. In experiencing this world of women, we learn about the human struggles that unite and divide people across cultures in the modern world. This course qualifies as an elective in the major and minor programs in Anthropology, History, Psychology, or Sociology. It also can be chosen to fulfill the Cultural Perspectives requirement in the Human Services and Rehabilitation Studies major. This course satisfies the humanities depth Core requirement as a second literature (pre-2020) and the Global Awareness Core requirement (2020 and beyond).

Kercher, Kisatsky, Mukhina, Murphy, Perschbacher, Rao/*Three credits*