

# 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 the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, 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.** Problems in Gender Studies (GNDR 10100 and 10200) must be taken in the 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

9	courses distributed according to the requirements of Path A or Path B
2	Problems in Gender Studies (GNDR 10100-10200)
1	B.A. Essay Seminar (GNDR 29800)
<u>1</u>	B.A. Essay (GNDR 29900)
13	

**Grading.** Two of the supporting field courses may be taken for *P/F* grading. All other courses must be taken for a quality grade.

**Honors.** Students with a 3.0 or higher overall GPA and a 3.5 or higher GPA 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. 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)
- GNDR 25900. Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion*  
(=FNLD 25500)

### *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, visit the Center for Gender Studies Web site at [humanities.uchicago.edu/cgsl/](http://humanities.uchicago.edu/cgsl/) or contact the Assistant Director at 702-9936.*

### Faculty

D. Allen, L. Auslander, K. Austin, O. Bashkin, L. Berlant, D. Bevington, C. Brekus, B. Brown, M. Browning, E. S. Carr, M. A. Case, J. Cattellino, K.-H. Choi, E. Clemens, C. Cohen, B. Cohler, J. Cole, J. Comaroff, D. Delogu, W. Doniger, S. Ebeling, D. English, M. Feldman, N. Field, S. Fitzpatrick, S. Gal, J. Goldsby, J. Goldstein, E. Hadley, M. Hansen, E. Helsinger, J. Henly, J. Hoffman, D. Hristova, J. Johnson, W. Johnson, R. Kendrick, J. Knight, L. Letinsky, D. Levin, A. Lugo-Ortiz, S. MacPherson, A. Maggi, P. Markell, J. Mateo, M. McClintock, F. Meltzer, S. Michaels, J. M. Miller, K. Morrison, J. Mueller, D. Nelson, L. Norman, M. Nussbaum, W. Olmsted, C. Raver, V. Ritter, M. Roderick, M. Roth, L. Ruddick, A. Ruttan, S. Sassen, J. Saville, B. Schultz, B. Shallcross, M. Silverstein, W. Sites, A. Stanley, R. Strier, H. B. Thomsen, L. Van Valen, W. Veeder, C. Vogler, F. Walsh, M. Ward, E. Weaver, L. Wedeen, R. West, A. Winter, H. Wu, J. Zeitlin, R. Zorach

### 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. Autumn.*

**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. *L. Berlant, Autumn; S. Michaels, Winter.*

**16901. Roaring Girls: Gender in Renaissance Drama.** (=ENGL 16901) This course addresses some of the issues, themes, and techniques of reading Renaissance drama, both as a historical period and as a literary genre. The primary focus of the course is on how gender, culture, and class are represented in the plays, through physical presentation onstage—through what other characters say about female characters, and through what the female characters themselves have to say. Close reading is essential in this process, as the specific language of gender is investigated, but we also address the historical context of these representations through consideration of the material environment of the original staging. *S. Murray. Spring.*

**17903. U.S. Women's History.** (=HIST 17903, LLSO 28009) This course explores the history of women in the modern United States and its meaning for the world of both sexes. Rather than studying women in isolation, it focuses on changing gender relations and ideologies; on the social, cultural, and political forces shaping women's lives; and on the implications of race, ethnic, and class differences among women. Topics include the struggle for women's rights, slavery and emancipation, the politics of sexuality, work, consumer culture, and the rise of the welfare state. *A. Stanley. Autumn.*

**20800/30800. Sexuality, Identity, and the Life Course.** (=CHDV 24600, HIPS 26900, ISHU 35900, PSYC 24600/34600, SOCS 25900) Beginning with a consideration of the shifting historical context of narratives in our culture concerning sexuality, this course explores the concept of sexual identity, its impact on human development across the course of life, and its expression in the personal narratives. In addition to addressing the role of generational or historical change in shaping understandings of sexuality, we consider recent empirical and theoretical investigations of the cultural construction of sexuality, including the possible contributions of "queer theory." We then move on to a consideration of the developmental processes relevant to an understanding of sexuality. *B. Cobler. Spring.*

**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.* This course examines contemporary theories of sexuality, culture, and society. We then situate these theories in global and historical perspectives. Topics and issues are explored through theoretical, ethnographic, popular, and film and video texts. *Winter.*

**21600. Milton's *Paradise Lost*.** (=FNDL 21900, HUMA 20800, IMET 31900, RLST 26400) *Class limited to twenty-five students.* This course focuses on a close reading of *Paradise Lost*, attending to its redefinition of the heroics not only of war but also of marriage and friendship. We study the text's engagement of issues of family, politics, history, psychology, and theology. *W. Olmsted. Winter.*

**21601. Introduction to Political Philosophy.** (=PHIL 21600) Why obey the law? Are any existing governments actually legitimate, just, or worthy of obedience? Can a legitimate government fail to respect human rights or democratic processes? What would it take to achieve a legitimate and just society, or a legitimate and just international order? How and why should we combat genocide, prejudice, inequality, and injustice? How can we achieve a genuine civic knowledge? These are but a few of the fundamental questions of political philosophy that are addressed in this course, which draws primarily on comparatively recent works by John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Jurgen Habermas, Bernard Williams, Peter Singer, Martha Nussbaum, Danielle Allen, and Anthony Kwame Appiah. *B. Schultz. Spring.*

**21603. Empire and Intimacy: Race and Sexual Fantasy in European Literature.** (=CMLT 21603, ENGL 18105, ISHU 21601) This course critically examines European fascination with non-Western peoples, their bodies and sexual practices from the late Renaissance to the twentieth century. Along with select English and French literature that imagines cross-cultural contact in its most shocking form (i.e., interracial sexuality), we examine European proto-anthropology that detailed the sexual "aberrations" of subaltern peoples. Literature to be read includes works by Shakespeare, Behn, Diderot, Byron, C. Brontë, Haggard, Gide, and Forster. All texts available in English; students with a reading knowledge of French encouraged to read French works in the original. *G. Cohen-Vrignaud. Spring.*

**21905. Class and Gender in the Victorian Novel.** (=ENGL 21905) In the Victorian novel, class conflict is sometimes translated into that tractable and supremely narratable topos: romantic conflict. While acknowledging this tendency, this course starts from the premise that Victorian novels do not always present heterosexual love as an adequate symbolic solution to the "problem" of relations among the classes. In other words, we assume that Victorian novelists conceived of and represented the relationship between class and gender in a variety of ways. As we read, we think carefully about the ways in which various social oppositions (e.g., public/private, tasteful/vulgar, production/consumption, sentiment/reason) get mapped onto the masculine/feminine binary. *C. Benford. Autumn.*

**22401. Latino/a Intellectual Thought.** (=CMLT 21401, ENGL 22804, LACS 22804, SPAN 22801) This course traces the history of Latina/o intellectual work that helped shape contemporary Latina/o cultural studies. Our focus is on how Chicanas/os and Puerto Ricans have theorized the history, society, and culture of

Latinas/os in the United States. Themes include folklore and anthropology, cultural nationalism, postcolonialism, literary and cultural studies, community activism, feminism, sexuality, and the emergence of a pan-Latino culture. Throughout, we pay attention to the convergences and divergences of Chicana/o and Puerto Rican studies, especially as contemporary practitioners have encouraged us to (re)think Latina/o studies in a comparative framework. *R. Coronado. Spring.*

**23100. Foucault and the History of Sexuality** (=ARTV 27904, CHSS 41900, CMLT 25001, HIPS 24300, PHIL 24800) *PQ: Prior philosophy course or consent of instructor. Open only to College students.* This course centers on a close reading of the first volume of Michel Foucault's *The History of Sexuality*, with some attention to his writings on the history of ancient conceptualizations of sex. How should a history of sexuality take into account scientific theories, social relations of power, and different experiences of the self? We discuss the contrasting descriptions and conceptions of sexual behavior before and after the emergence of a science of sexuality. Other writers influenced by and critical of Foucault are also discussed. *A. Davidson. Autumn.*

**23400. Virginia Woolf.** (=ENGL 23400, FNDL 24011) Readings include *The Voyage Out, Jacob's Room, Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse, The Waves, Between the Acts*, and selected essays. *L. Ruddick. Autumn.*

**25300. Autobiographical Writings, Gender, and Modern Korea.** (=EALC 24305) This course explores the relationship between gender, the genre of autobiography, and Korea's historical contexts. Focus is placed on self-representation, fictionalization, and the conditions of self-writing. *K.-H. Choi. Spring.*

**25402. Economies of Sex and Gender.** (=ANTH 25416) This course offers an anthropological examination of sex, gender, and economic life at their intersection. We read ethnography and social theory to explore the economic dimensions of gender and sex as they are experienced and organized. Simultaneously, we question how key aspects of "economy" (e.g., money and production) are themselves sexed and gendered in theory and practice. Topics include kinship, sex, and exchange; work; gendered currencies; and colonialism and development. *J. Cattellino. Spring.*

**26601. Evolution and Medicine; Brain and Sex.** (=BIOS 29285, ECEV 30900, EVOL 30900) *PQ: Completion of the general education requirement for the biological sciences. This course does not meet requirements for the biological sciences major.* This course on medical implications uses lectures, readings, and discussions to cover a variety of areas in the evolutionary half of biology, with a focus on the brain and on sex. We consider such topics as hormones and behavior, what use are males, evolution of immunity, ghosts of environments past, and mating strategies. *L. Van Valen, M. Stoller. Spring.*

**27100. Sociology of Human Sexuality.** (=SOC1 20107/30107) *PQ: Prior introductory course in the social sciences.* After briefly reviewing several biological and psychological approaches to human sexuality as points of comparison, we explore the sociological perspective on sexual conduct and its associated beliefs and consequences for individuals and society. Substantive topics include gender relations; life-course perspectives on sexual conduct in youth, adolescence, and adulthood; social epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections (including AIDS); sexual partner choice and turnover; and the incidence/prevalence of selected sexual practices. *E. Laumann. Spring.*

**27501. From Gender Critique to Gay Marriage: South Asian Texts and Events.** (=SALC 33000/43000) *PQ: Consent of instructor.* This is a survey of texts (both primary and secondary) written about women and family from 1810 to 2005. Starting with Rammohun Roy's third treatise on women and property, we move through a series of textual reflections relating to women's rights, or the lack thereof, until the end of the twentieth century. The course ends with questions about the move away from the category of "gender" to "queer" in South Asian context. We end with texts, both written and filmic, that question Section 377 of the Constitution. Writers include Raja Rammohun Roy, Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, Pandita Ramabai, B. R. Ambedkar, Mlalbari, and Gandhi, as well as the "Towards Equality Report" produced by the Women's Commission in 1976. *R. Majumdar. Spring.*

**29501. Colloquium: Home and Homeless in Europe.** (=HIST 29619) This course examines the ways that the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have been characterized by the massive migrations of people, forced and voluntary, across short and long distances, permanently and temporarily. We address being "at home" politically through study of criteria for citizenship and immigration law; being "at home" economically through welfare legislation; being "at home" socially through analysis of discriminatory practices, as well as those intended to help people to be "at home"; being "at home" materially through a study of how people make, shape, and define their homes; and being "at home" emotionally through memoirs, fiction, and film. Special attention is paid to the gendered and generational meanings of home and exile. *L. Auslander. Spring.*

**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 for P/F grading with consent of instructor. With prior approval, students who are majoring in Gender Studies may use this course to satisfy program requirements. Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**29800. B.A. Essay Seminar.** *PQ: Consent of instructor and program chairman. May be taken for P/F grading 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.*