

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 BA Essay Seminar, and a BA 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 BA Essay seminar for fourth-year students, and a BA 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 Affiliated 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 BA 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 BA 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	BA Essay Seminar (GNDR 29800)
<u>1</u>	BA 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. Students must also receive a grade of *A* on their BA project or essay with a recommendation for honors from their faculty adviser.

Advising. Each student chooses a faculty adviser for their BA project from among the Gender Studies Affiliated Faculty listed below. By the beginning of their third year, students are expected to have designed their program of study with the assistance of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies.

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* (=FNDL 25500)

Gender Studies Interdisciplinary Sample Minor

GNDR 10100-10200. Problems in Gender Studies

GNDR 20800. Sexual Identity/Life Course/Life Story (=CHDV 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 BA 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 website at genderstudies.uchicago.edu/ or contact the Assistant Director at 702.2365.

Faculty

D. Allen, L. Auslander, K. Austin, O. Bashkin, L. Berlant, C. Brekus, B. Brown, M. Browning, E. S. Carr, M. A. Case, T. Chin, K.-H. Choi, E. Clemens, C. Cohen, B. Cohler, J. Cole, J. Comaroff, B. Cormack, R. Coronado, K. Culp, J. Dailey, S. Dawdy, D. Delogu, W. Doniger, S. Ebeling, D. English, J. Elshtain, J. Eyferth, M. Feldman, N. Field, S. Fitzpatrick, P. Foong, R. Fox, M. A. Franks, S. Gal, L. Gandhi, M. Gilliam, J. Goldstein, R. Gutiérrez, E. Hadley, M. Hansen, J. Heckman, E. Helsinger, J. Henly, J. Hoffman, R. Jean-Baptiste, J. Johnson, W. Johnson, R. Kendrick, J. Knight, D. Kulick, A. Kumler, E. Laumann, L. Letinsky, D. Levin, D. Orlinsky, A. Lugo-Ortiz, A. Maggi, R. Majumdar, P. Markell, J. Marsh, J. Mateo, M. McClintock, F. Meltzer, S. Michaels, J. M. Miller, K. Morrison, D. Nelson, L. Norman, M. Nussbaum, W. Olmsted, M. Osadjan, E. L. Osborn, L. Pick, V. Ritter, M. Roderick, M. Roth, L. Ruddick, J. Saville, J. Scappettone, K. Schilt, B. Schultz, B. Shallcross, M. Silverstein, W. Sites, A. Stanley, C. Stansell, R. Strier, L. Van Valen, W. Veeder, C. Vogler, L. Waite, F. Walsh, M. Ward, E. Weaver, L. Wedeen, R. West, J. Wild, A. Winter, D. Wray, H. Wu, T. Zara, J. Zeitlin, L. Zerilli, 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). *K. Schilt, Winter; D. Nelson, Spring.*

10200. Problems in the Study of Sexuality. (=CHDV 20202, ENGL 10300, HUMA 22900, PSYC 22650, 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. Cobler, Winter.*

20170. Deviant Behavior. (=SOVI 20175) This course examines how distinctions between “normal” and “deviant” are created, and how these labels shift historically, culturally, and politically. We analyze the construction of social problems and moral panics (e.g., smoking, “satanic” daycares, obesity) to explore how various moral entrepreneurs shape what some sociologists call a “culture of fear.” Additionally, we investigate the impact on individuals of being labeled “deviant,” either voluntarily or involuntarily, as a way of illustrating how both social control and social change operate in society. *K. Schilt, Autumn.*

20202/30100. Women Mystery Writers: From Page to Screen. (=CMST 20101) Many distinguished filmmakers have found inspiration in mystery novels written by women. This course is a reading of novels by Patricia Highsmith (*Strangers on a Train, The Talented Mr. Ripley, Ripley's Game*) and Ruth Rendell (*Tree of Hands, The Bridesmaid, Live Flesh*). Time permitting, we also read *Laura* by Vera Caspary, *Bunny Lake Is Missing* by Evelyn Piper, and *Mischief* by Charlotte Armstrong. We also analyze the films based on these novels, directed by such luminaries as Hitchcock, Chabrol, Caviani, Clément, Wenders, Almodóvar, and Preminger. Topics include techniques of film adaptation; transnational dislocations from page to screen; the problematics of gender; and the transformations of “voice,” understood both literally and mediatically. *R. West, Winter.*

20701. The Autobiography of Teresa of Avila. (=FNLD 23112, HIST 19801, RLST 20701) This course is a close reading of the autobiography of Teresa of Avila in which we pay attention to her attitudes towards prayer and religious practice, mystical experience, community organization, sin and redemption, and gender. Our reading is supplemented by other texts written by Teresa, as well as secondary works that help us interpret her in her historical context. *L. Pick, Winter.*

20800/30800. Sexual Identity, Life Course, and Life Story. (=CHDV 24600/34600, HIPS 26900, PSYC 24600/34600) This course considers gay, lesbian, and bisexual lives from childhood through later life. Beginning with study of the concept of sexual identity, this course explores what is known about biological factors presumed relevant to emergence of same gender sexual orientation. We also discuss social circumstances and aspects of personal development salient among those persons whose self-identify is or becomes gay, lesbian, or bisexual across the years of childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood, as well as in middle and later life. We focus on such issues as gender atypical interests, the contribution of

familial circumstances, and the role of the “coming-out” story. We also explore such issues as intimacy, partnership, parenthood, and aging among bisexual men and women, lesbians, and gay men. We conclude with considerations and limitations of “queer theory” to our understanding of sexual identity and life story. *B. Cohler. Winter. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

21400/31400. Introduction to Theories of Sex/Gender: Ideology, Culture, and Sexuality. (=ARTH 21400/31400, 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. *R. Zorach. Winter.*

21600. Milton's *Paradise Lost*. (=FNDL 21900, HUMA 20800, RLST 26400) This course focuses on a close reading of *Paradise Lost*, attending to its redefinition of the heroics of war and of marriage and friendship. Topics include family, politics, history, psychology, and theology. *W. Olmsted. Autumn.*

21601. Introduction to Political Philosophy. (=PHIL 21600) What would a just liberal democratic political order involve, and is that the best or only form of “legitimate” government? What are the best, reasoned justifications for such a political order, and how utopian or distant from present realities is the political philosophizing behind such justifications? Does a just liberal democratic society require that citizens be friends, or equals, or autonomous choosers, or free of particular identities or political passions? And what are the duties of citizens when the political order falls short of this ideal? This course addresses these questions and others, taking as a point of departure the political theories of John Stuart Mill, John Rawls, and Martha Nussbaum. *B. Schultz. Spring.*

21900. Victorian Women Writers. (=ENGL 21900) This course covers the difficulties and possibilities for women writing in nineteenth-century Britain, as these are variously encountered and exploited in works by Victorian poets and novelists. Likely texts include Charlotte Brontë, *Villette*; Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* and selected poems; Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*; George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*; and selected poetry by Felicia Hemans, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti, Alice Meynell, “Michael Field,” and Charlotte Mew. We also evaluate some approaches to Victorian women’s writing (e.g., Gilbert and Gubar, Armstrong, Homans, Mermin, Leighton) and look at various analyses of sex and gender roles in the Victorian period (e.g., Davidoff, Hall, Poove). *E. Helsinger. Winter.*

23102. Love, Conjuality, and Capital: Intimacy in the Modern World. (=CHDV 22212/32212, SALC 23101/33101) A look at societies in other parts of the world demonstrates that modernity in the realm of love, intimacy, and family often had a different trajectory from the European one. This course surveys ideas and practices surrounding love, marriage, and capital in the modern world. Using a range of theoretical, historical, and anthropological readings, as well as films, the course explore such topics as the emergence of companionate marriage in Europe and the connections between arranged marriage, dowry, love,

and money. Case studies are drawn primarily from Europe, India, and Africa. *J. Cole. Spring.*

23502/32600. Women in Modern Africa. (=CRPC 20204/30204, HIST 20204/30204) This course surveys key themes and debates in twentieth-century colonial and postcolonial African women's history. Exploring both women's history and the history of gender, this course examines shifting conceptualizations of "woman" in diverse case studies and historical contexts across the continent. Topics include sexuality, reproduction, and health; public activism and political roles; work and economic activity; religion; and policy and the law. Course material includes analyzing historical monographs, fiction, and material culture, as well as a service-learning component with Chicago-based community organizations that focus on advocacy in Africa. *R. Jean-Baptiste. Spring.*

24160. Love and Tragedy in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*. (=BPRO 24160, CHDV 24160, HUMA 24160, ISHU 24160) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing.* Tolstoy's great novel *Anna Karenina* may be the finest and most compelling depiction in literature of the diverse aspects and outcomes of romantic love. Combining humanistic and social scientific perspectives, this course undertakes an intensive study of the novel to examine the joys and sorrows of romantic love, and the successes and tragedies that follow from it, as well as the aesthetic achievement of the novel as a major work of art. Resources for understanding the development of the novel's characters and the fate of their relationships are drawn from Freud's *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis* and other works. Bases for a critical appreciation of novel are drawn from Aristotle's *Poetics* and Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy*. *D. Orlinsky, H. Sinaiko. Spring.*

25201/43800. Approaches to Gender in Anthropology. (=ANTH25200/43800) This course examines gender as a cultural category in anthropological theory, as well as in everyday life. After reviewing the historical sources of the current concern with women, gender, and sexuality in anthropology and the other social sciences, we critically explore some key controversies (e.g., the relationship between production and reproduction in different sociocultural orders; the links between "public" and "private" in current theories of politics; and the construction of sexualities, nationalities, and citizenship in a globalizing world). *S. Gal. Not offered 2009–10; will be offered 2010–11.*

25300. Autobiographical Writings, Gender, and Modern Korea. (=EALC 24305/34305) *Knowledge of Korean not required.* This course examines the intersections between gender; the genre of autobiography; and historical, cultural, and political contexts of modern Korea. Theoretical writings on autobiography and gender, as well as selected Korean autobiographical writings, are introduced. We also address the question of whether and to what extent these autobiographical writings lend a view of Korea's national history. *K. Choi. Winter.*

25502/35502. Motherhood as Institution and Historical Practice. *C. Stansell. Winter.*

26501/36501. Politics of Reproduction in Historical Perspective. *C. Stansell.* Winter.

27100. Sociology of Human Sexuality. (=SOCI 20107/30107) *PQ: Introductory social sciences course.* After briefly reviewing several biological and psychological approaches to human sexuality as points of comparison, this course explores 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 (e.g., AIDS); sexual partner choice and turnover; and the incidence/prevalence of selected sexual practices. *E. Laumann.* Spring.

27303. Race from Tundra to Steppe: Ethnicity, Gender, and Environment in Russian/Soviet Eurasia. (=HIST 23906, CRPC 27305, EUR 27305) In this class we explore the history of race and ethnicity in the non-European areas of Russia/the USSR through discussion of selected scholarly articles, memoirs and travel accounts, novels, and films. Topics include eighteenth-century Russian encounters with native Siberians; environmental difference and racial tension in colonized Turkestan; the Soviet state and Central Asian women; Soviet deportations of ethnic Koreans; representations and realities of the USSR's relationship with African Americans and Africans; and gender, nature, and indigenous culture in Siberia over the last one hundred years. *J. Fein.* Winter.

27601. Augustine's Confessions. (=FNDL 24310, HUMA 22700, RLST 25100) *PQ: LATN 20600 or equivalent.* Substantial selections from books 1 through 9 of the *Confessions* are read in Latin (and all thirteen books in English), with particular attention to Augustine's style and thought. Further readings in English provide background about the historical and religious situation of the late fourth century AD. *P. White.* Spring.

27604. Religion and Gender. (=RLST 27604) In what ways are notions of ideas about religion and the sacred gendered, and what are the consequences of this for how we live our lives? This course introduces the study of the relationships between religion and gender and the way these relationships play out in specific historical situations. We also examine the relationships between religions and sexualities. Examples are drawn from medieval to modern periods, with a primary focus on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. *L. Pick.* Spring.

27702/37700. Gender in the Balkans through Literature and Film. (=CMLT 23901/33901, ISHU 27610, SOSL 27610/37610) This introductory course examines the poetics of femininity and masculinity in some of the best works of the Balkan region. We contemplate how the experiences of masculinity and femininity are constituted and the issues of socialization related to these modes of being. Topics include the traditional family model, the challenges of modernization and urbanization, the socialist paradigm, and the post-socialist changes. Finally, we consider the relation between gender and nation, especially

in the context of the dissolution of Yugoslavia. All work in English. *A. Ilieva. Winter.*

28001. Historicizing Desire. (=CLCV 27706, CMLT 27000, EALC 27410) *This course meets the critically/intellectual methods course requirement for students who are majoring in Comparative Literature.* This course examines conceptions of desire in ancient China and ancient Greece through an array of early philosophical, literary, historical, legal, and medical texts (e.g., Mencius, Sima Qian, Book of Songs, Plato, Sappho). We attempt not only to bring out the cultural specificities of ancient erotic experience but also to make visible the historical and geopolitical contingencies of our own methods of reading. To do so, we explore the broader cultural background of the two ancient periods, and engage with theoretical debates on the history of sexuality, feminist and queer studies, and intercultural comparative studies. *T. Chin. Winter.*

28502. Sex and Ethics. (=BPRO 28500, ENGL 28500, PHIL 26209) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing.* Sex is a big problem. How do we think about sex in proximity to considering the ethics of risk, the ethics of harm, the potential for good? Developing an account specifically of an ethics of sex requires thinking about the place of sex and sexual vulnerability in social life with an eye toward understanding what's good and what might count as abuses, violations, disruptions, or deprivations of specifically good things about sex. In this course, we read, write, and think about sex and ethics in relation to a variety of the rubrics (e.g., act, harm, fantasy, a good, technology, health, disability, love). Probable syllabus contents involve philosophy, cinema, literature, and social science. *L. Berlant, C. Vogler. Winter.*

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. BA 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 BA 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 BA essay. *Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

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