

Women's Studies

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The women's studies minor

Within the community of faith and learning at Goshen College, the women's studies minor enables students from a variety of disciplines to examine women's experience in a gendered society. This interdisciplinary program draws on courses from a variety of disciplines and women's resources in the campus community to enhance a core of courses offered by the Women's Studies Program. Women's studies courses strive to foster the study and cultivation of feminist scholarship and practice in students' personal and professional preparation. In teaching feminist scholarship, our courses examine the roles and contributions of women across time and space in the arts, the sciences and the professions; they also develop the analytical, reflective and synthesis skills that characterize feminist scholarship. This interdisciplinary program draws on courses from a variety of disciplines and women's resources in the campus community to enhance a core of courses offered by the Women's Studies Program.

Courses for the women's studies minor meet the following criteria:

- Critically examine cultural assumptions about gender as well as race and class.
- Explore the production of knowledge in disciplines that reflect on women's lived experiences.
- Equip students to identify factors that constrain women's lives.
- Examine feminist genres, research methods, structures, analytical tools, aesthetics, criticism, contemporary issues and pedagogy.

Typical plan of study

The minor consists of 18 hours from the following women's studies courses, including other cross-listed courses as available. Although there are few prerequisites, faculty recommend that students take WoSt 300, Introduction to Women's Studies. A range of courses are offered in a variety of disciplines.

Introduction to Women's Studies
Women's Concerns
Contemporary Women's Issues
Women in Text and Image: Gender in Popular Culture
Spiritual Writings of Women
International Women's History
Women in the Bible
Women in Literature
Liberation Theologies
Marriage and Family
Social Problems

Women's studies and your future

Ultimately, the women's studies program aims to involve students in the transformation of individual as well as cultural paradigms. By combining theory and practice to this end, the women's studies

minor can help you prepare for any career that involves speaking for, researching, writing about or serving women or other groups (disadvantaged by race or class, for example). In recent years, the number of advocacy programs has increased dramatically. Many such agencies prefer to hire people with knowledge of and sensitivity toward the issues and problems that confront the groups they work with.

Opportunities for graduate study

There are more than 100 graduate programs in women's studies in the United States. Other fields for further study that would be strengthened by a women's studies minor are numerous. Such fields include:

- all areas of the humanities including literature
- education
- psychology
- anthropology
- social work
- nursing and other medical fields
- law and legal advocacy
- pastoral ministry
- human service professions
- relief agencies and shelters

Faculty

Robert M. Birkey, Ph.D.; professor of social work; B.A., Goshen College, 1969; M.S.W., California State University, 1974; Ph.D., the University of Notre Dame, 1995.

Beth Martin Birky, Ph.D.; professor of English; B.A., Goshen College, 1983; M.A., Arizona State University, 1988; Ph.D., Loyola University, 1997.

Jo-Ann Brant, Ph.D.; professor of Bible, religion and philosophy; B.A., University of Alberta, 1980; M.A., 1986, Ph.D., 1992, McMaster University.

Ann E. Hostetler, Ph.D.; associate professor of English; B.A., Kenyon College, 1976; M.A., Pennsylvania State University, 1982; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1996.

Carol Jarvis, M.S.W.; associate professor of social work; B.S.W., 1983, M.S.W., 1984, University of Georgia.

Jeanne Liechty, M.S.W.; associate professor of social work; B.A., Goshen College, 1992; M.S.W., Smith College, 1994.

Jan Bender Shetler, Ph.D.; associate professor of history; B.A., Goshen College, 1978; M.A., 1993, Ph.D., 1998, University of Florida.

