

Women's Studies and Feminist Research



What is Women's Studies and Feminist Research?



Women's Studies is an exciting, dynamic, and rapidly-growing discipline. Students explore the ways in which gender, race, class, sexual orientation, and (dis)ability intersect to shape social structures and ways of thinking.

The interdisciplinary nature of Women's Studies is part of its appeal. Students have the opportunity to pursue their interests across a wide array of subject areas, including: feminist theory, feminist perspectives in health, philosophy, law, sociology, psychology, political science, and the history of women. The department also offers a variety of special topics courses in gender, media and popular culture; women and the creative arts; women and work; gender and public policy; sexuality studies; and more.

Areas of Study

Offered through the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research at Western, Women's Studies courses can be counted as either a Social Science or Arts and Humanities credit, depending on students' breadth requirement needs. The department offers a variety of three-year and four-year degree options:

- **Women's Studies** (Honors Specialization, Specialization, Major, Minor)
- **Feminist Theory** (Minor)
- **Gender, Sexuality and Culture** (Minor)

Sample Courses

Introduction to Women's Studies

Exploring how gender and other differences are established or challenged through various institutional and individual practices, this course focuses on feminist resistance to sexual, socio-cultural, economic, racial, and political oppression worldwide.

Women and Health

This course provides an overview of historical, social, economic, political and biological influences on women's health.

Social History of Women in Canada

A survey of Canadian women's history from first European contact to the late twentieth-century, this course will examine the realities of women's lived experience through biography.

After Graduation

Work in Women's Studies encourages the development of analytical and critical thinking abilities; independent research; greater confidence and aptitude for public speaking; strong organizational and overall communication skills; and an understanding of cultural and other differences.

Graduates have careers as journalists, film-makers, teachers, educators about diversity in public and private institutions, and social service/human rights workers.

Many students pursue post-graduate work in law, politics, sociology, and social work.

Careers of Graduates

- Lawyer
- Lobbyist
- Journalist
- Policy Analyst
- Television Programming
- Politician
- Midwifery
- Publications Coordinator
- Crisis Centre Director
- Counsellor
- Police Work



"Women's Studies professors are by far the most devoted, personable, inspiring and hard-working persons who succeed in cultivating an active environment and community for self-actualization and higher learning. My four years as a Women's Studies undergraduate student were the most rigorous and rewarding as I expanded my conceptual and critical thinking abilities, my understanding and application of complex theory, and my social consciousness. Women's

Studies, as an interdisciplinary program at Western, has been foundational in forming my career path. As a current graduate student I feel equipped with the necessary analytical and communication skills for further academic success."

Natalie Grella

UWO – Women's Studies Gold Medalist,
Women's Studies (Honors Specialization) and Political Science (Major)
Women's Studies and Feminist Research Master's Student, 2008



For more information on the
**Department of Women's Studies
and Feminist Research** please visit:
<http://www.uwo.ca/womens/>