Organizations

ShoutOut! JMU (weblog)
The mission of ShoutOut! JMU is to provide the JMU community with accurate and constructive information concerning events, legislation, cultural criticism, and resources for women’s rights and personal health on and off campus; to foster a safe space for members of JMU’s community for interactive, informed and constructive dialogue; as a collective, to advance the cause of women and other marginalized groups by means of these conversations; the goal of this blog is not to convert readers to feminism, but instead to raise consciousness of the diversity of perspectives toward understanding everyday inequities. For more information, contact Dr. Alison Bodkin at bodkinaa@jmu.edu or visit the blog at http://shoutoutjmu.com.

JMU Feminist Collective
The JMU Feminist Collective aims to open dialogue regarding the promotion of feminist issues within the Harrisonburg and JMU communities. We serve as the hub for feminist-related activism. We are multi-issue, multi-faceted and intersectional. Please contact Dr. Kristin Wylie, faculty advisor, at wyliekn@jmu.edu for more information.

Sister Speak (zine)
An undergraduate student organization and feminist consciousness raising group, Sister Speak provides a forum for addressing gender and social justice issues and publishes a zine each semester. For more information, contact Dr. Mary Thompson at thompsmx@jmu.edu.

Events and Speakers
Each semester Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies supports programming that raises awareness of gender, sexuality, and women’s issues. Past events have included the Women’s History Month (March) keynote, the Dominion Lecture, faculty and student presentations, teach-ins, films, and guest lectures by current feminist thinkers including Zerlina Maxwell, Loretta Ross, Michael Kimmel, Joan Williams, Shelby Knox, and Jessica Valenti. Visit our website for upcoming events.

2018–2019 Advisory Board

Dr. Alison Bodkin
Communication Studies
Dr. Jessica Davidson
History
Dr. Matt Ezzell
Sociology
Dr. Dawn Goode
English
Dr. Becca Howes-Mischel
Anthropology
Dr. Besi Muhonja
English
Dr. Louise Temple-Rosebrook
ISAT
Dr. Mary Thompson
English, WGSS Minor Coordinator
Dr. Kristin Wylie
Political Science

M. Louise Whitman Scholarship
Rising Junior and Senior WGSS minors are eligible to apply for this monetary award. This scholarship was established in memory of M. Louise Whitman by the Virginia Business and Professional Women’s Foundation. The award recognizes students who intend to carry their study of gender equity into the professional fields. The 2015 award amount was for $6,900. Visit our website for more information.
What is Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies?

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies offers a unique and empowering interpretive framework for studying and understanding our world. WGS is an interdisciplinary program that examines the research on gender, women, and sexuality in society, culture, and history. It emphasizes the fundamental intersection of gender and sexuality with other vital categories of human identity and experience, including race, ethnicity, (dis)ability and class. It studies the impact of globalization and technologies on relationships of power and gendered identities. WGS courses equip students with the necessary skills in critical analysis, advocacy, and communication that enable creative solutions to issues of equity, diversity, and social justice.

Dr. Kristin Wylie and students from her Women and Politics course pictured with Zerlina Maxwell, national speaker on domestic violence, sexual assault and gender inequality. Maxwell visited JMU in Fall 2014 to give a talk titled “From Catcalling to Sexual Assault: How We Can All Work to End Gender-Based Violence.”

Contact Information

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Website and Facebook

www.jmu.edu/womenstudies
www.facebook.com/jmuwmst

*Cover photo courtesy of Sister Speak, Spring 2006.

The Minor

Required Credit Hours
WGSS 200. Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 3

Choose five of the following core courses: 15
ANTH 360. Medical Anthropology
ANTH 370. Topics in the Anthropology of Gender
ANTH/WGSS 376. Anthropology of Reproduction
ENG 327. Gothic Literature
ENG/WGSS 368. Women’s Literature
ENG/WGSS 369. Feminist Literary Theory
ENG/WGSS 370. Queer Literature
ENG 423. Advanced Studies in Gender and Sexuality in Literature
ENG/WGSS 466. Advanced Studies in Women’s Literature
HIST 320. Women in U.S. History
HIST 321. European Women’s History
HIST 326. The Automobile in 20th Century America1
HIST 327. Technology in America2
HIST 448. Gender in Latin America and the Iberian World
HIST 449. Women and Fascism
HIST 466. The Family, 1400-1800
ISAT/WGSS 485. Gender Issues in Science
JUST/WGSS 341. Gender and Justice
MSCI/WGSS 355. American Women at War
PHIL/WGSS 350. The Philosophy of Feminism
POSC/WGSS 383. Women and Politics in Comparative Perspective
PSYC 310. The Psychology of Women and Gender
REL 300. Women and Gender in Islam
REL 315. Women and Religion
SCOM/WGSS 302. Third Wave Ecofeminism
SCOM/WGSS 348. Communication and Gender
SOCI 336. Race and Ethnicity
SOCI 337. Sociology of Gender
SOCI/WGSS 347. Queer Theories of Gender and Inequality
SOCI 354. Social Inequality
SCOM/WRTC/WGSS 420. Feminist Rhetorics
SPAN 455. Women in Hispanic Literatures
WGSS 300. Special Topics in WGSS
WGSS 325. Gender and Violence
WGSS 400. Issues and Research in WGSS
WGSS 490. Special Studies in WGSS
WGSS 492. Internship in WGSS
WGSS 495. Special Topics in WGSS

Total 18

1 Final project must take gender as its topic.
2 If research project addresses issue of gender.
3 May be repeated as topic varies.

The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies minor is an 18 credit hour interdisciplinary program that examines the research on gender, women, and sexuality in society, culture, and history. This minor includes one required course, WGSS 200.

Core courses in the minor reflect the interdisciplinary knowledge and methodologies of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Each semester additional special topics courses are approved for credit. For a complete listing of the upcoming semester’s offerings, visit the program website or check with the coordinator.

WGSS 200 Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

An interdisciplinary introduction to theories and scholarship in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, WGSS 200 examines the scholarship on gender, women, and sexuality with emphasis on intersections with other vital categories of human identity and experience, including race, ethnicity, (dis)ability and class. The course considers the experiences and contributions of women throughout history, the social construction of gender, feminist theories of equity, and activism. It provides a foundation for subsequent work in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies minor.

WGSS 490 Independent Study in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Students who are ready for advance study and who have identified a subject and faculty advisor may pursue an independent study for WGSS credit. For more information on independent studies, contact the program coordinator.

WGSS 492 Internship in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Many students have found personal and professional benefit in completing an internship as part of the minor. Past internships have included working with on and off-campus organizations and events such as ShoutOut! JMU (weblog), Take Back the Night, National Abortion Rights Action League, Blue Ridge Legal Services, and women’s shelters. For more information on internships, contact the program coordinator.