

Women's and Gender Studies



What is the Women's and Gender Studies Major?

The Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) Major offers courses and activities that provide a better understanding of gender issues relevant to daily life in the 21st century. Students are given the opportunity to critically analyze the role of gender and the position of women in society and research contemporary issues related to gender and sexuality. Courses included in the Major also give students the opportunity to explore related issues such as race and racism and LGBTQ+ rights and discrimination.



The Major runs a resource room, celebrates International Women's Day with a week-long festival of speakers, films, and events, and sponsors many extra-curricular activities throughout the year.

VANIER
CÉGEP / COLLEGE

What Can I Do with the Certificate?

Anything you want! Our diverse world demands that we become more informed and sensitive to issues of gender and sexual discrimination, and equality. The Women's and Gender Studies Major diploma shows future academic institutions and employers that you have acquired the ability to think critically about some of the most pressing social justice issues society faced by institutions today.

Students who complete the Major say that they have gained valuable critical thinking skills and are better able to understand and navigate the world around them.

Who Can Enroll in the Major?

WGS Major students come from every program, both pre-University and Career, and benefit from gaining an essential perspective from which to pursue further studies and careers.

- **Pre-university students** in Women's and Gender Studies go on to earn degrees in the sciences, health care, law, public policy, international relations, commerce, communications, marketing, the arts and much more.
- **Career students**, such as those in Early Childhood Education, Special Care Counselling, Nursing, and Business Administration, gain invaluable insights into a core aspect of the human experience and can apply these to enhance their professions' key practices.

How Do I Earn a Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies?

Students do not need to take extra courses and students can enroll at any time before they graduate.

To earn a major, students complete a maximum of six (6) courses, many of which can come from their general education courses (English, French and Humanities), complementary courses, and program courses.

The Major consists of completing 3 kinds of courses:

- "A" courses, which have most of their content related to women's issues and/or gender issues.
- "B" courses, which have a significant amount of content dealing with women's issues and/or gender issues.
- "C" courses, which can be any course offered at Vanier where you completed work on a women's or gender issue. The work must be worth 15% or more of the final grade in the course.

Students must complete two (2) "A" courses, and three (3) "B" or "C" courses. You may replace one (1) "A" course with two (2) "B" courses.

Please see [Women's and Gender Studies Courses](#) for a complete list of eligible "A" and "B" courses.

Who Do I Contact for More Information?

For more information about the Women's and Gender Studies Major, please contact the coordinator, Maggie Kathwaroon at kathwarm@vaniercollege.qc.ca or via MIO.

Women's and Gender Studies Courses

Please note that not all courses are given every semester.
Please check course listings during registration.



Group A Courses

COLLEGE WIDE COMPLEMENTARIES

305-HTA-03 ALTERNATIVES FOR WOMEN

This complementary course is designed to present a wide range of information on women in society: the contemporary situation and its possible alternatives. The approach is interdisciplinary and students will be taught by a variety of teachers who have expertise in Sociology, Psychology, English, Humanities, Creative Arts and many other disciplines. Topics include sexuality, ideology, socialization, women's work, women's organizations, self-defence, etc. This is a team-taught course. MAGGIE KATHWAROON

NEW! 550-HSG-VA WOMEN AND MUSIC FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE PRESENT

This course aims to develop the student's knowledge of women composers and performers from the Middle Ages to the present, and to provide opportunities for students to express opinions about this music in its social and cultural context, while using some basic musical terminology. The composers and performers covered in class will include art-music composers such as Hildegard of Bingen and Clara Schumann, mainstream artists like Rihanna, and non-mainstream musicians like Aphasia. We will also discuss music by women in non-Western cultures (for example, from Egypt and Bulgaria), and by women who worked in adverse circumstances, such as Nazi concentration camps. CATRINA FLINT

INTERGRATIVE PROJECTS: SOCIAL SCIENCE, COMMERCE AND LIBERAL ARTS

300-301 INTEGRATIVE PROJECT

Social Science, Commerce and Liberal Arts students will take this course during their final semester. It encourages students to explore and reflect on the social science knowledge they have acquired and to assess its relevance to understanding self and society. All students are required to produce a term paper based on library research (worth 50% to 75% of the grade depending on the teacher). The course qualifies as a Women's and Gender Studies credit when students select a research topic relevant to the Major.

GENERAL STUDIES

HUMANITIES

345-101 IDEAS ABOUT WOMEN

Is a woman's place in the kitchen? Can a woman do anything a man can do? Are women more "naturally" maternal than men? Students in this class will have the opportunity to examine more

closely some of the social, political and economic considerations that contribute to the framing of gender-based roles and responsibilities. They will discuss and analyze some of the assumptions about men and women in order to gain a better understanding of how and why ideas on gender have evolved the way they have. LEILA BDEIR

345-101 HYPATIA'S LIBRARY

Hypatia was a mathematician, astronomer and philosopher who was born in Egypt at the end of the fourth century. The name of this course is inspired by Hypatia who used to put on her philosopher's cloak and walk through the middle of town, interpreting Plato and Aristotle among others. Hypatia is symbolic of what this course hopes to achieve: we will take a cosmopolitan look at what women have contributed to literature and ideas. LILI PETROVIC

345-101 KNOWING THE BODY

What does it mean to have a body? Are mind and body two separate entities? At times we feel as though we are trapped in our bodies, and at other times we are amazed by their abilities. The human body is often viewed as a source of beauty and a subject of art. It is often marvelled at as an object of scientific investigation. This course will examine the different ways that knowledge of the body has been generated over time and across cultures. Throughout the semester we will consider religious, scientific, and artistic forms of knowledge about the human body. GORDON ARONOFF

345-101 LOVERS AND FIGHTERS: WHAT MAKES A MAN?

In this course, students will analyze contemporary portrayals of masculine identity. Drawing examples from North American popular culture, such as films, games, and music, students will explore readings drawn from media studies, psychology, sociology, anthropology and biology to expand their knowledge of how masculine identity is understood, constructed, negotiated and "worn." What do our social and biological sciences say about what it is to "be a man" and do they allow men to explore their identity and create new spaces of opportunity and expression? What does our culture say about "manhood", and does it encourage or limit our ability to be what we aspire to be? MAGGIE KATHWAROON

345-102 GENDER AND WORLD VIEWS

Gender is created by both our biological nature and our environment. What is gender? What is the difference between gender and sex? How is gender constructed? What are the representations of women and men in our society? How does that translate into how we look at ourselves and at the world around us? The focus of this course is to discover and examine the factors that create a worldview about gender. Western society and media has a defined image of how men and women should behave in society and this translates into the way we perceive gender roles. CAROLINE CHWOJKA

345-102 THE F WORD: WORLD VIEWS AND FEMINISM

The word feminism is a near relative to the other famous 'f' word and one could argue, more dreaded and less used! But feminism is also a world view; that is to say a particular way of seeing the world. It is the set of ideas and values held by a group of people. This course will begin by attempting to demystify, untangle and clarify what this worldview means to us and others. This course is TOTALLY male-friendly and in fact some of our favourite feminists are men! JUDY INGERMAN

345-102-VA ON REVOLUTION

NEW! Initially linked with the scientific term for the movement of planets and stars, revolution implied more circular reform than outright transformation until the early part of the 17th century. The modern meaning of revolution, as in the attempt to replace a given social order with something entirely new, fully emerged with the American, French, and Haitian Revolutions of the 18th century. In response to the various upheavals of the previous three centuries – social, economic, political – these liberation movements inspired the revolutionary world views that would shape the centuries that followed. This course will consider the assumptions, claims, arguments, and concepts underpinning revolution as a model for thought and action under late capitalism. Students will be asked to situate revolutionary perspectives in a socio-historical context and to evaluate the implications of these perspectives for how an individual may interpret, represent, and act in the world. STEPHANIE BELMER

345-HSB-VA SEXUAL POLITICS

Are men and women different in important ways? Do the differences between the sexes affect ethics? In other words, is the good life, the kind(s) of life worth living, dependent on your sex and gender? In this class we will investigate these questions from the perspective of sexual politics. Just as every person lives within a social context, questions of individual ethics are always related to the political questions applying to the society as a whole. DAVID D'ANDREA



ENGLISH

603-102 FALLEN ANGELS

Britain, during Queen Victoria's long reign (1837-1901), experienced urbanization, imperial expansion, as well as an industrial, social and sexual revolution. It was a time when the role of women in society came under increasing scrutiny. This course considers the theory and practice of women's participation in British economic, social and political life. Key themes will include education, employment, citizenship and social reform as it pertains to women in the 19th century. The course aims to illustrate how the genre of Victorian writing brought forth the debates about gender. We will study a variety of sources to explore women's engagement in public life. MARIA BUCARO

603-103 ALTERNATIVE TRADITIONS

What happens when we remove the biases of gender, race and social class which have always been used to define excellence in literature? This course reconsiders the tradition in English, highlighting the writings of women and racial minorities, and inviting students to explore their own cultural traditions as well. Students will be guided toward reading, writing and talking about unfamiliar literature with increased ease and understanding. (This course is the designated third semester Liberal Arts Core English, with any additional available student

spaces reserved for Women's Studies Majors. It is offered in the Fall semester only.) MAGGIE McDONNELL

603-103 SEXUAL ANARCHY

The prime focus of this course will be the themes of gender identity and class conflict as represented in the literature of the period known as the fin de siècle at the end of the 19th century in England. Particular focus will be placed on the New Woman, the Decadent and the Dandy. These so-called rebels or deviants in society were seen as challenging the classic Victorian definitions of femininity and masculinity contributing to the evolution of a more "effeminate" society and culture. BEVERLY FRASER

603-103 RACE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

This course examines how nineteenth and twentieth-century writers such as Harriet Jacobs, Harriet Wilson, and LeRoi Jones broach the themes of gender, race and sexuality in their respective works. We will look at how these writers attempt to subvert their own marginal status in society through their writing to reflect their beliefs in racial and/or gender equality. To this end, we will observe how two nineteenth-century black women writers depict and challenge slavery (i.e., that patriarchal institution) in their narratives and how one twentieth-century black male playwright critiques racism while inadvertently reinforcing certain sexist stereotypes. JESSICA MURPHY

603-103 INTERSECTIONS: RACE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN LITERATURE

In this course, we will explore themes and issues related to the different ways racial, gendered, and sexual identities encounter each other and intersect. Topics include: intersectional theory; sexuality and the immigrant experience; sexuality and colonialism; social exclusion, isolation, and oppression as well as resilience and resistance; the politics of racialization and queerness; experiencing and dealing with multiple identities; new ways of being; and approaches to sexual and gender differences across cultures. Through close analysis of these various works, students will be able to recognize features of the themes studied as well as the literary, cinematic, and theoretical techniques and devices used by the writers, filmmakers, and artists. The comprehension gained will assist us in our analysis of intersecting identities. ALAN WONG

NEW! 603-103 ALIENATION AND SELF-CULTIVATION

For some individuals, creating a positive identity is often *made* difficult by the intolerance they encounter in society. They must regularly confront external (and internal) obstacles due to their race, gender, sexual orientation, class, religion, country of birth, and/or outlook. Yet, despite these conflicts, many have fought stigmatization by cultivating themselves, developing strong, beneficial identities, and building significant relationships with those around them. We will read a selection of work about individuals who were alienated by society yet still were able to create constructive, meaningful identities and relationships for themselves. Along with reading a selection of literature, we will also explore historical and cultural backgrounds, theories on identity construction, and multicultural issues in depth in order to help foster a deeper understanding of the works we will study in class. SUSANA OLSSON MORENO

FRENCH

602-102 REPENSER LE FÉMININ ET LE MASCULIN

Le féminisme a bouleversé la société occidentale et il a amené dans son sillon la réflexion sur la masculinité. Par conséquent, on reconnaît aujourd'hui que les identités sexuées sont en grande partie construites par différents discours sociaux. Le mouvement a perdu de sa ferveur du début, mais est-il pour autant dépassé? Comment le sexe biologique conditionne-t-il le parcours des jeunes adultes aujourd'hui? Afin de répondre à ces questions, nous réfléchissons sur les notions de féminin et de masculin dans leur sens social. KATRI SUHONEN

602-103 ROMAN QUÉBÉCOIS AU FÉMININ

Comment les femmes ont-elles contribué à l'évolution de la littérature au Québec? Ce cours offrira aux étudiants une présentation des grands courants du roman québécois (la littérature du terroir, le réalisme urbain, la modernité et la postmodernité) dans la perspective de l'écriture au féminin. KATRI SUHONEN

602-HSF FEMMES ET ÉCONOMIE

Les femmes accaparent désormais la plus grande part de la masse salariale aux États-Unis. Depuis l'adoption de lois sur la parité homme- femme dans la haute administration des entreprises, plusieurs pays constatent que leur économie s'en porte mieux. Tous s'entendent sur la nécessité de briser le plafond de verre qui ralentit à la fois l'avancement des femmes et des sociétés, mais comment y arriver? À l'aide d'un essai et de documents journalistiques, ce cours proposera une réflexion sur l'égalité des sexes dans l'économie. KATRI SUHONEN

SOCIAL SCIENCE

HISTORY

330-212-VA / 330-HTJ-VA HISTORY THROUGH FILM: WOMEN

This course uses the study and discussion of selected films to aid in the understanding of specific issues in the history of civilizations. In this class, we will discuss the history of women in pre-contemporary Europe (before 19th century). We will look at 11 archetypal roles played by (or imposed upon) women throughout three time periods: Antiquity, the middle Ages and the Early Modern period. This course will allow students to understand the evolution of each archetype through time. Targeted readings, class discussions and lectures will provide students with a basic understanding of women's history, whereas movies will allow us to discover specific historical figures. LAURENCE MESSIER

NEW! 330-HTL-VA TOPICS IN LOCAL HISTORY : MONTREAL THEN AND NOW

This course draws students into the fascinating story behind the evolution of Montreal. Starting with the Indigenous Peoples who first settled there, students will be exposed to primary documents, artifacts and monuments, which tell that story. Members of several cultures, ethnicities, languages and faiths landed in Montreal at different periods of its history. What impact did they have on its development? Who were the major players in the history of Montreal, and how did they change the city? What elements have remained unchanged over time? And what trends and events in the world have influenced Montreal's development? This course uncovers the 'real' story. Frédérique DENIS

ANTHROPOLOGY

NEW! 381-204 CULTURE AND SEXUALITY

This course is interested in studying sexualities as the results of cultural constructions and constraints. By examining sexual practices and beliefs in a cross-cultural perspective, our aim is to understand how a phenomenon such as sexuality is given meanings in different cultures and how these sexual practices, taboos, concepts, etc. are the result and reflection of larger social, cultural, economic, religious, cosmological beliefs. In a word, we will study sexuality as a social phenomenon.

COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA AND STUDIO ARTS

530-122-VA/530-HSH WOMEN IN CINEMA

This course addresses the contemporary issues of gender, sexuality, and diversity in representations on screen, as well as film authorship. Narrative, documentary, animation and experimental films will be screened, with an emphasis on films written and directed by women. Students will examine films analytically using select film theories and explore how filmmakers employ or subvert the language, codes and conventions of filmmaking to convey meaning. CHERYL DONISON



SCIENCE

BIOLOGY

NEW! 101-HSC-VA, THE BIOLOGY OF SEX

This course is about one of the fundamental characteristics of life – sex. In the first half of this course, we will explore the evolution of sexual reproduction. We will contrast the risks and rewards of asexual vs sexual reproduction and understand the importance of sexual reproduction to the evolution of life. A sex course would not be complete without an examination of our own species. In the second half of this course, we will discuss reproduction in humans. We will build upon current knowledge and dispel myths and misconceptions. We will discuss health-related issues such as sexually transmitted infections and infertility. We also will explore advances in contraception and reproductive technology and debate the ethics of them. In this complementary science course, concepts will be presented using examples from the natural world. Scientific thinking and practice will be promoted through selected readings, group discussion, and lab activities. STEPHANIE FELKAI

Group B Courses

UNIVERSAL COMPLEMENTARY

365-HSC-VA NEVER BEEN IDLE: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN CANADA Judy Ingerman and Jacky Vallée

RESEARCH METHODS: SOCIAL SCIENCE AND COMMERCE

All Research Methods and Current Issues courses in the Social Science Program are 'B' courses for the Women's and Gender Studies Certificate when you do the paper on a woman's and/or a gender issue. Please check with your professor to see if this is possible.

GENERAL STUDIES

HUMANITIES

- 345-101 CHALLENGING THE OBVIOUS Ingrid Mittmannsgruber
- 345-101 HAPPINESS AND KNOWLEDGE Maureen Jones
- 345-101 KNOW THY SELFIE Caroline Chwojka
- 345-101 MEDICINE AND KNOWLEDGE Martha Bernstein
- 345-101 THINKING THROUGH FILM Lisa Jorgensen
- 345-101 ISN'T THAT WEIRD? WHO DECIDES WHAT IS NORMAL? Kim Matthews
- 345-101 SAY WHAT? Judy Ingerman
- 345-102 BEING CANADIAN Kim Matthews
- 345-102 HEROES + HEROINES Maureen Jones
- 345-102 YOUTH CULTURE Sophie Jacmin
- 345-102 REBELS & REFORMERS SalwaGhaly
- 345-102 THE SKIN I'M IN Judy Ingerman
- NEW!** 345-102 CAN WE ALL GET ALONG? Joliane Allaire
- NEW!** 345-102 UTOPIE/DYSTOPIA Katie Rose
- 345-HSB JET SETTING Judy Ingerman

ENGLISH

- 603-102 SCIENCE FICTION: REFLECTIONS OF THE INNER LANDSCAPE John Stavrianos
- 603-102 FALLEN ANGELS: SEX & GENDER Maria Bucaro
- 603-102 THE AMERICAN SHORT STORY Andrea Rohland-Lé
- 603-102 LITERARY GENRES - FORMULA FICTION Maggie McDonnell
- 603-102 HEADS UP! SPORTS LITERATURE Mariopi Spanos
- 603-102 TRUE DAT?: SONGS AND STORIES FROM THE CARIBBEAN Robyn Diner
- 603-102 CANADIAN MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE Alan Wong
- 603-102-SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE Susana Olsson Moreno
- 603-102-RAVENS AND SHADOWS: EXPLORING GOTHIC LITERATURE Patra Dounoukos Reiser
- 603-103-ALIENATION AND SELF-CULTIVATION Susana Olsson Moreno
- 603-103 THE FATE OF THE TRAGIC HERO Maria Chiras
- 603-103 LOVE IN LITERATURE John Stavrianos
- 603-103 CRIME AND PREJUDICE Aurora Flewwelling-Skup
- 603-103 ISSUES OF IDENTITY - WOMEN WRITING IN CANADA Maggie McDonnell
- 603-103 THE BRITISH IMAGINATION Andrea Rohland-Lé
- 603-103 THE VAMPIRE MYTH Maria Bucaro
- 603-103 WAR, PEACE AND PROPAGANDA Martine Leprince
- 603-103 GENDER AND CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE Robyn Diner
- NEW!** 603-103 MADNESS AND OBSESSION IN LITERATURE Katherine Collin
- NEW!** 603-103 VERY SCARY FAIRY TALES Patra Dounoukos Reiser

603-HSB "ANYWHERE WITHOUT A PORPOISE": THE STRANGE, MARVELOUS, AND ABSURD IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE Jessica Murphy

603-HSD THE HUMAN(E) SCIENTIST: STORYTELLING, SOCIAL JUSTICE, & SCIENCE Alan Wong

NEW! 603-HSD TAKING THE RED PILL: ENGLISH FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Patra Dounoukos Reiser

603-HSE ORAL HISTORY: METHOD, PRACTICE, AND ANALYSIS Alan Wong

FRENCH

602-HSK SOMMES-NOUS SOUS INFLUENCE? Carole Fontaine

NEW! 602-HSL-MOUVEMENTS POUR LA JUSTICE SOCIALE Mélanie Gauthier

CINEMA AND VIDEO STUDIES

530-951 Video II

Please check with your professor to see if you can do your video project on a women's and/or gender issue.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

GEOGRAPHY

320-301-VA GEOGRAPHY OF TOURISM Myriam Mansour

NEW! 320-100-VA WORLD: LAND AND PEOPLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY Lourdes Meana

HISTORY (LIBERAL ARTS)

NEW! 332-101-VA THE ANCIENT WORLD Frédérique Danis

PSYCHOLOGY

350-203 PSYCHOLOGY OF SEXUALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

ANTHROPOLOGY

NEW! 381-100 THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE: An Introduction to Anthropology

SOCIOLOGY

387-100 INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

387-200 SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

387-203 SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH

387-204 SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITY

387-207 CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

NEW! 387-208-VA / 387-HTB-VA SOCIOLOGY OF YOUTH CULTURE

387-964 SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Please note that these Sociology courses are "A" courses when taught by Natalie Carlino.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (410.BO and 410.DO only)

NEW! 410-322-VA HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT & SUPERVISION Toby Moneit and Marc-André René

