Department of Gender and Race Studies

The Department of Gender and Race Studies offers the bachelor of arts (BA) degree in African American Studies as well as minors in African American Studies and in Women’s Studies. The major and minor in African American Studies are interdisciplinary and address the history, politics and culture of the African American community, as an issue of democracy and in a transnational perspective. The courses in the major and minor encourage students to use a variety of approaches to study the complex issues that arise in connection to the lives of African Americans. The Women’s Studies minor is also interdisciplinary and is designed to provide knowledge of the roles and status of women in historical and contemporary society, to conduct research and writing by and about women and to offer skills and information for increasing employment opportunities for women.

African American Studies Major

Office: 104 Manly Hall
as.ua.edu/grs/programs/african-american-studies-program
grs@as.ua.edu

Degree Requirements

The University of Alabama and The University of Alabama at Birmingham offer a joint degree in African American studies. Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in African American studies must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

Admission into the Major

Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Major Courses

The major in African American studies requires the successful completion of the following 33 semester hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select 5 courses (15 credit hours) from the following:</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST 201 or Intro African Amer Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS 201 Intro African Amer Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST 302 The Black Church</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 303 Education Of Southern Blacks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 319 or 19th Century Black History</td>
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<td>HY 319 19th Century Black History</td>
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<td>AAST 320 or 20th Century Black History</td>
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<td>HY 320 20th Century Black History</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 352 Social Inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 401 Black Intellectual Thought</td>
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<td>AAST 435 Black Feminism</td>
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<td>AAST 436 Gender and Black Masculinity</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 340 Women in the South</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 395 Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 402 Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 490 AAST Independent Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 495 Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Select 6 courses (18 hours) of AAST electives or other approved electives</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>33</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Students may petition the Department of Gender and Race Studies to substitute any of the following courses when the focus and title is on African American or racial topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS 300 Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS 321 African American Folk Art</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in the major must be earned on The University of Alabama (UA) or The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) campuses.

Ancillary Courses

This major does not require ancillary courses.

Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

A minimum of 18 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in the major must be completed, nine hours of which must be at the 400 level. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, College and University requirements.

Prerequisites

Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300- and 400-level courses is junior standing or higher or permission of the instructor.

Special Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to complete internships in a variety of settings. Students should contact the program office for more information. Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in a research methods course and to take advantage of study abroad opportunities.

African American Studies Minor

Office: 104 Manly Hall
as.ua.edu/grs/programs/african-american-studies-program
grs@as.ua.edu

Admission into the Minor

Students are expected to formally declare a minor by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.
Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the minor is required. Please see the Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Minor Courses

The minor in African American studies requires the successful completion of the following 21 semester hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Select 4 courses (12 credit hours) from the following:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AAST 201 or Intro African Amer Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AMS 201 Intro African Amer Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AAST 249 or African American Literature</td>
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<td>EN 249 African American Literature</td>
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<td>AAST 302 The Black Church</td>
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<td>AAST 303 Education Of Southern Blacks</td>
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<td>AAST 319 or 19th Century Black History</td>
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<td>HY 319 19th Century Black History</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AAST 320 or 20th Century Black History</td>
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<td>HY 320 20th Century Black History</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AAST 352 Social Inequality</td>
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<td>AAST 401 Black Intellectual Thought</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AAST 435 Black Feminism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AAST 436 Gender and Black Masculinity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Select 3 courses (9 credit hours) of AAST electives or other approved electives: 9

Total Hours: 21

*Students may petition the Department of Gender and Race Studies to substitute any of the following courses when the focus and title is on African American or racial topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>AMS 300 Special Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMS 321 African American Folk Art</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AMS 340 Women in the South</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AMS 341 African American Art</td>
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<td>AMS 402 Special Topics</td>
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<td>AMS 405 Directed Study</td>
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<td>AMS 492 American Topic Seminar</td>
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<td>ARH 481 Topics 20th Century Art</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CJ 303 Minorities Crim Soc Just</td>
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<td></td>
<td>COM 395 Special Topics</td>
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<td>COM 413 Communication &amp; Diversity</td>
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<td>COM 467 Seminar Public Address</td>
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<td></td>
<td>COM 495 Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EN 311 Special Topics In Literature</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EN 488 Adv Stdy African American Lit</td>
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<td></td>
<td>GY 344 Geography Of Africa</td>
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<td>HY 200 Special Studies in Hy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HY 300 Special Studies in History</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HY 400 Special Studies in History</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSC 364 African Amer &amp; Polit Sys</td>
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<td>REL 237 Self Society &amp; Religions</td>
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<td>REL 480 Seminar Religion In Culture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SW 351 Oppression &amp; Soc Injustice</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of six hours of 300- or 400-level courses in the minor must be earned on this campus.

Ancillary Courses

This minor does not require ancillary courses.

Additional Minor Requirements

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, college, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, college and University requirements.

Prerequisites

Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300- and 400-level courses is junior standing or higher or permission of the instructor.

Special Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to complete internships in a variety of settings. Students should contact the program office for more information. The program also offers occasional study abroad opportunities.

Women’s Studies Minor

Office: 104 Manly Hall
as.ua.edu/grs/programs/womens-studies-program
womenstudies@as.ua.edu

Admission into the Minor

Students are expected to formally declare a minor by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the minor is required. Please see the Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Minor Courses

The minor in women’s studies requires the successful completion of the following 18 semester hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>WS 200 Intro To Women Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WS 430 or Contemporary Issues: Feminist Theory</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WS 470 Gender, Race, and Class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WS elective 300 or 400 level</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WS elective or approved elective *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 18

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of six hours of 300- or 400-level courses in the minor must be earned on this campus.

Additional Minor Requirements

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, college, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, college and University requirements.

Faculty

Chair
McKnight, Utz

Associate professor
Purvis, Jennifer

Assistant professor
Shoaff, Jennifer
Green, Hilary
Jones, Jennifer

Instructor
Franklin, Dot
Foster, Bill
Black, Juan
McKnight, Elizabeth
African American Studies (AAST) Courses

AAST 100. "Call and Response". 1 sem. hr.
This course is designed to generate student interest and excitement in African American Studies by giving students opportunities to explore facets of African American cultural experiences. Following an interdisciplinary approach, this course will allow students to discover the rich diversity of African American cultural practices such as music, visual arts, literature, storytelling, dance, and religious practice. This course allows students at UA and UAB to experience the expertise of faculty from both institutions. It is also web-enhanced and has components on both UA’s and UAB’s BlackBoard systems for which UA and UAB students will access.

AAST 201. Intro African Amer Study. 3 sem. hrs.
A basic outline of the diversity and complexity of the African-American experience in the United States: the early academic and social concerns of Black Studies advocates; changes in the field's objectives that arise from its connections to contemporary social movements for Black Power, women's liberation and multiculturalism; and its major theoretical and critical debates.

A cultural approach to African American lives, exploring the role of the individual, biography, and narrative in African American history and culture.

AAST 226. Themes from Africa to America. 3 sem. hrs.
An examination of the spread of religious life in the African America’ emphasizing present institutions and practices; its African roots, its shape and function during slavery and its development from Emancipation to the present.

AAST 249. African American Literature. 3 sem. hrs.
Survey of African American literature from its earliest expressions to the present. In order to identify the aesthetics of the African American literary tradition, the course material includes spirituals, slave narratives, poetry, drama, autobiography, fiction, and nonfiction.
Prerequisite(s): Undergraduate level EN 101 with minimum Grade of C- and Undergraduate level EN 102 with minimum Grade of C- OR (Undergraduate level EN 103 with minimum Grade of C- or Undergraduate level EN 104 with minimum Grade of C-) OR (Undergraduate level EN 120 with minimum Grade of C- and Undergraduate level EN 121 with minimum Grade of C-).

AAST 302. The Black Church. 3 sem. hrs.
A survey of mainstream Christian expressions of black spirituality as well as other forms of sacred collective consciousness. Study of local churches and theology is encouraged.

AAST 303. Education Of Southern Blacks. 3 sem. hrs.
A study of the "miseducation" of Africans in America. The course explores education for blacks from West Africa at the middle of the second millennium and early American society to the emergence of the separate school system of the 19th and 20th centuries.

AAST 319. 19th Century Black History. 3 sem. hrs.
Role of black Americans in American life from the 17th century to the beginning of the 20th century, with emphasis on the institutions and events of the 1800s.

AAST 320. 20th Century Black History. 3 sem. hrs.
The interrelationship of blacks and the industrial-urban environment of the United States.

AAST 321. African American Folk Art. 3 sem. hrs.
This course will focus on analysis of object, created by African Americans variously classified as folk, self-taught, outsider artists. Material will address African origins. American transformations of traditional arts and crafts.

AAST 340. Women in the South. 3 sem. hrs.
Examination of the cultural concepts, myths, and experiences of black and white Southern women from a variety of economic and social backgrounds. Special attention is given to the interaction of race, class, and gender in Southern women’s lives. Texts include historical studies, autobiographies, biographies, oral histories, and novels written by and about women in the 19th- and 20th-century South.

AAST 341. African American Art. 3 sem. hrs.
An examination of the work of formally trained 20th century African American painters, sculptors, and photographers in relation to broader currents in the social and cultural history of the United States. Examines ways in which African American art has alternately reflected, shaped, and challenged such important historical events and currents as the Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, the women’s movement, and contemporary identity politics. Also evaluates the contributions of selected artists in relation to such key art movements as Modernism, Social Realism, and Postmodernism.

AAST 350. Topics African American Lit. 3 sem. hrs.
A cross-genre survey of African American literature, historical events, and critical movements. Authors may include Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Richard Wright, Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larson, Langston Hughes, and Toni Morrison.

AAST 352. Social Inequality. 3 sem. hrs.
Analysis of inequities of wealth, power, and prestige; major theories of racial and cultural minorities; behavioral correlates of stratification; social mobility.

AAST 395. Special Topics. 3 sem. hrs.
An examination of selected African American topics. May be repeated for a maximum of 18 hours.

AAST 400. . 3 sem. hrs.
This course will examine the socio-historical perceptions and constructions of Black masculinities in various regions and periods. We will also examine the social, political, and economic conditions of Black male life in the contemporary period and interrogate representations of Black men and boys in U.S. culture and society in relation to the broader politics of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the post-civil rights era. Specific attention will be paid to the history of ideas and approaches that have shaped and defined our understanding of Black males. You will be introduced to historical and socio-cultural circumstances that affect Black males and the diverse nature of Black culture. This course will also attempt to heighten awareness and sensitivity to the contemporary problems affecting Black males and thus help discover and evaluate social policies and programs geared towards Black males.

AAST 401. Black Intellectual Thought. 3 sem. hrs.
An upper level seminar designed to provide students with an in-depth study of major intellectual debates and movements that have shaped the politics, history and identities of the people of African descent in the United States and the African diaspora. The course will combine methodologies and concepts from multiple disciplines including, history, political theory, literature, women’s studies, sociology, psychology and philosophy. Prerequisite(s): AAST 201 and AMS 201.

AAST 402. Special Topics. 3-9 sem. hrs.
An examination of selected African American topics. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours.

AAST 413. Communication & Diversity. 3 sem. hrs.
Study and analysis of issues of diversity as they relate to groups in society and in communication fields. Emphasis is on the media’s treatment of various groups in society. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

AAST 415. African American Rhetoric. 3 sem. hrs.
A historical-critical investigation of African American public discourse from the Revolutionary era to the present, exploring rhetorical strategies for social change and building community. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

AAST 435. Black Feminism. 3 sem. hrs.
This upper level undergraduate and graduate course exposes students to the key figures, texts and concepts that constitute black feminist thought. Prerequisite(s): AAST 201 or WS 200.

AAST 436. Gender and Black Masculinity. 3 sem. hrs.
This course will examine the socio-historical perceptions and constructions of Black masculinities in various regions and periods. We will also examine the social, political, and economic conditions of Black male life in the contemporary period and interrogate representations of Black men and boys in U.S. culture and society in relation to the broader politics of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the post-civil rights era. Specific attention will be paid to the history of ideas and approaches that have shaped and defined our understanding of Black males. You will be introduced to historical and socio-cultural circumstances that affect Black males and the diverse nature of Black culture. This course will also attempt to heighten awareness and sensitivity to the contemporary problems affecting Black males and thus help discover and evaluate social policies and programs geared towards Black males.

AAST 488. Adv Study African American Lit. 3 sem. hrs.
A special topics course that focuses on issues in African American literature.

AAST 490. AAST Independent Study. 1-6 sem. hr.
An examination of selected African American topics. May be repeated for a maximum of 18 hours.

Women’s Studies (WS) Courses

WS 200. Intro To Women Studies. 3 sem. hrs.
An interdisciplinary course examining the roles of women in patriarchal society, with emphasis on how factors such as race, class, gender, and sexuality contribute to the oppression of women and ways they can be challenged through feminist critical practices.
WS 205. Women’s Autobiographies. 3 sem. hrs.
Through an examination of women’s autobiographical writings, the roles women
have assumed in different cultures and periods are considered. Analytical techniques
from the study of art, literature and psychology are used to discover issues inherent
in women’s experiences.

WS 220. Mothers And Daughters. 3 sem. hrs.
Investigation of the institution of motherhood, the forces shaping it, and the
significance of mother-daughter relationships.

WS 240. Culture Sou Blik Women. 3 sem. hrs.
The history and culture of black women in the South are examined through essays,
creative writing, film, music, first-person narrative, and field research.

WS 310. Special Topics. 3 sem. hrs.
Changing topics: for example, women and work, women in the world, social
inequality.

WS 340. Women And Law. 3 sem. hrs.
This seminar’s major focus is the impact of law on the status and lives of women.

WS 342. Women in the South. 3 sem. hrs.
Examination of the cultural concepts, myths, and experiences of black and white
Southern women from a variety of economic and social backgrounds. Special
attention is given to the interaction of race, class, and gender in Southern women’s
lives. Texts include historical studies, autobiographies, biographies, oral histories
and novels written by and about women in the 19th and 20th -century South. Writing
proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

WS 352. Social Inequality. 3 sem. hrs.
Analysis of inequities of wealth, power, and prestige; major theories of racial and
cultural minorities; behavioral correlates of stratification; social mobility.

WS 410. Essential Readings & Writings in Women’s Studies. 3 sem. hrs.
This course explores texts and themes central to the interdisciplinary field of
Women’s and Gender Studies. Course texts may include theoretical, expository,
autobiographical, and fictional writings from early feminism as well as contemporary
selections. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in
this course.

Through the study of key feminist political and theoretical texts on an issue
central to contemporary feminism, students in this seminar will develop advanced
undergraduate research skills and gain a substantial foundation for further study,
including graduate work in this area. Writing proficiency is required for completing
this course. 
Prerequisite(s): WS 200 or permission from the instructor.

WS 435. Black Feminism. 3 sem. hrs.
This upper level undergraduate and graduate course exposes students to the key
figures, texts and concepts that constitute black feminist thought.
Prerequisite(s): AAST 201 or WS 200.

WS 440. Seminar in Women’s Studies. 3-9 sem. hrs.
Courses under this rubric are designed to investigate a particular subject
supplemental to regular course offerings. Students in this senior seminar will develop
advanced undergraduate research skills and gain a substantial foundation for further
study, including graduate work in this area.
Prerequisite(s): WS 200 or permission of the instructor.

WS 442. Writings in Women’s Studies. 3 sem. hrs.
This course will provide students with a writing course in topics important to
contemporary feminist theory. Among the topics will be a study of classical texts,
such as Antigone, for gender politics, the development of student training in areas of
feminist analysis from within the fields of natural science, political science, english,
anthropology, rhetoric, art, economics, and American Studies. Demonstrated writing
proficiency is a requirement for successful completion of the course. Students will
complete a minimum of 5 short papers of from 1-3 pages each, essays derived
from course readings and topical assignments, as well as a longer paper of from
7-10 pages. Instructor assessment of student writing and constant feedback is an
important part of the course, and students will be asked to develop their own writing
through in class assignments as well. Students will read a considerable amount of
material in feminist analysis, comment upon this, and engage in classroom
discussions on a regular basis.
Prerequisite(s): None.

WS 450. Independent Study in Women’s Studies. 1-6 sem. hr.
Independent study on any subject pertaining to Women’s and Gender Studies
conducted under the supervision of a professor in the chosen field.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the supervisor and arrangement in advance of the
semester in which enrollment is planned.