INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The Interdisciplinary Studies Department houses the Bachelor of Applied Studies and Bachelor of Individualized Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies Bachelor of Arts degree, Undergraduate Minor, and Graduate Minor; and the International Studies Undergraduate Minor.

Undergraduate Program Information
Bachelor of Applied/Individualized Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies Department extends New Mexico State University's reach beyond traditional academic programs to provide educational opportunities for students to meet their academic, professional, and personal learning goals. The Interdisciplinary Studies Department offers flexible degree programs in the Bachelor of Applied Studies (BAS) and the Bachelor of Individualized Studies (BIS), giving students the opportunity to work with an advisor to develop their own interdisciplinary program, appropriate to their unique educational and career goals.

The Bachelor of Applied Studies is a program designed for those students who have procured an Associates of Applied Studies (AAS) at a community or two-year college. This major allows students to transfer credits and build from their Associates degree toward a university-level degree. The aim is to equip students to effectively build from their applied backgrounds and knowledge to shift careers or to advance in their chosen career.

The Bachelor of Individualized Studies is a flexible degree program serving multiple needs. It can be designed to serve students desiring an academic degree not offered at NMSU, particularly students with broad or diverse academic and career interests. It can also allow students to complete a college degree when an initial major does not fit as well as planned. Its flexibility in accepting course credits also serves as a completion program for students who left college and now want to return to earn a Bachelor degree. A well-designed interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes the value of approaching complex issues from multiple perspectives, equipping students with the requisite critical and analytical skills to become effective problem solvers in a chosen career.

The Interdisciplinary Studies Department offers an Undergraduate Minor in International Studies, an interdisciplinary program enabling students, regardless of their major area of study, to develop a broad understanding of the rapidly changing global environment by proving a curriculum that encompasses the social, political, cultural and economic forces at work in an increasingly interdependent world.

Though not a requirement, students working toward the Undergraduate Minor in International Studies can also take part in the Peace Corps Prep Program at NMSU, a program that fits well with aims of the minor. This program is designed to be a component of an undergraduate curriculum that includes experiential-based community service and selected courses to help prepare students for volunteer service in international development.

Degrees for the Department

Applied Studies - Bachelor of Applied Studies (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-studies/applied-studies-bachelor-applied-studies)

Gender & Sexuality Studies - Bachelor of Arts (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-studies/gender-sexuality-studies-bachelor-arts)

Individualized Studies - Bachelor of Individualized Studies (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-studies/individualized-studies-bachelor-individualized-studies)

Minor for the Department

Gender & Sexuality Studies - Undergraduate Minor (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-studies/gender-sexuality-studies-undergraduate-minor)

Gender & Sexuality Studies - Graduate Minor (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-studies/gender-sexuality-studies-graduate-minor)

International Studies - Undergraduate Minor (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/interdisciplinary-studies/international-studies-undergraduate-minor)

Professor, Patti Wojahn, Department Head
Professor, Laura A. Williams, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program Director
Professors C. Bejarano, J. Maupin, P. Wojahn; Associate Professors M. Hamzeh, M.C. Jonet; Assistant Professor L. Williams

Gender and Sexuality Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies Department offers a Bachelor of Arts in Gender & Sexuality Studies, an Undergraduate Minor in Gender & Sexuality Studies, and a Graduate Minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Gender and Sexuality Studies specializes in the examination of gender;
Applied and Individualized Studies Courses

INTR 300. Foundations of Interdisciplinary Studies
3 Credits
Introduction to Bachelor of Individualized Studies (BIS) and Bachelor of Applied Studies (BAS) degree programs. Explores roles of interdisciplinary studies in contemporary world and how emerging and perennial problems and issues can be comprehended utilizing multiple theoretical and analytic methods. Students design or update their course of study for earning the BIS or BAS degree. Consent of Instructor required. Restricted to Las Cruces campus only.

INTR 301. Interdisciplinary Research: Theory & Practice
3 Credits
Focuses on knowledge gained through interdisciplinary research. Students develop comprehensive understanding of steps of systematic inquiry into interdisciplinary research questions. Includes active learning through design and implementation of an interdisciplinary research project. For BIS and BAS majors only. Consent of Instructor required.

Women's Studies Courses

W S 201G. Introduction to Women's Studies
3 Credits
Analysis of the status of women in society today and history and consequences of gender stratification and inequality from the perspectives of sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science, and other sciences.

W S 202G. Representing Women Across Cultures
3 Credits
Historical and critical examination of women's contributions to the humanities, with emphasis on the issues of representation that have contributed to exclusion and marginalization of women and their achievements. Crosslisted with: HON 218

W S 316. History of Women in the American West
3 Credits
Experiences and interactions among Native American, Spanish/Mexican, immigrant, and Anglo-American women in the American West from 1500 to the present. Same as HIST 316.

W S 345. Victimization
3 Credits
Same as C J 345.

W S 350. Special Topics
3 Credits
The topic of course will vary and will be indicated by subtitle. May be cross-listed with relevant courses at the 300-level from any specific department. May be repeated under different subtitle(s).

W S 359. Psychology of Gender
3 Credits
Examines theories and research on the psychological functioning of women and men in North American society, including influential theories of gender in psychology and current controversies in the psychological literature. Topics include those unique to women and unique to men in development across the lifespan, work, physical and mental health, sexuality, victimization, gender stereotypes, gender comparisons in abilities and personality, and biological, social, and cultural influences on behavior. Crosslisted with: PSY 359.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 201G.

W S 360. Masculinities Studies
3 Credits
Explores how contemporary American culture constructs manhood and masculinity. Interrogates ideas and enactments of masculinity, especially as they intersect with race/ethnicity, class, and sexuality. The class asks how sexuality, gender construction, and sex roles inform our understanding of masculinity, as well as how masculinity relates to social power.

W S 380V. Women Writers
3 Credits
Same as ENGL 380V.

W S 381V. Women's Health Issues
3 Credits
Same as HL S 380V.

W S 382. Women in Mass Media
3 Credits
Same as JOUR 380.

W S 401. Women & Immigration
3 Credits (3)
Explores historical and contemporary immigration processes in/to the U.S. that are shaped by gendered dynamics, societal structures, and the socio-economic conditions that impact immigrant women. Examines how immigrant women use their agency and resistance to overcome exploitative circumstances, and the restraints of immigration laws and policies that impact individual, communal and societal change.

W S 402. Transnational Feminisms
3 Credits (3)
Explores dimensions of gender, race, class, and sexuality in conjunction with nationalisms, anti-capitalist struggles, religious fundamentalism, militarism, globalization, eco-critique, and the politics of resistance and social movements.

W S 403. Gender & Horror
3 Credits (3)
Explores cultural anxieties and crises through the genre of horror as they relate to issues of gender, sexuality, feminism, and race. Traces ways horror films represent and reconfigure notions of sexuality and gender and ways they reinforce and/or challenge social norms.

W S 404. Arab-Muslim Feminisms
3 Credits
Develops a historical understanding of arab-muslim feminisms and homosexuality in Islam. Explores and uses critical feminist theories, language, and methods to counter interlocking discourses of Islamophobia, gendering, and homophobia affecting arab-muslim women.

W S 405. Alternative Genders and Sexualities
3 Credits
Introduces students to cultural study in the academic fields of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) and Queer Studies. Examines academic texts as well as literature and film from different historical moments and social/global sites.

W S 406. Women and Human Rights
3 Credits
Analysis of human rights violations and injustices as they relate to the lives of girls and women. Examines international political, legal, economic and socio-cultural implications of violence that target women and girls. Focusing on different countries, discusses social, political, economic, and human rights.
W S 407. Gender and Graphic Narrative  
3 Credits  
Examines graphic novels that disrupt stereotypical ideas about genre, gender, race, class sexuality, as well as common notions about comics. Considers texts that address underrepresented experiences.

W S 408. Food and Representation  
3 Credits  
Examines contemporary food writing as a way to study identity, social structures, and notions of acceptability. Explores how constructions of food shape bodies, desires, and notions of belonging.

W S 411. Gender and Migration  
3 Credits  
Examines multiple experiences of forced migration and displacement. Examines violence, structural dislocation, neoliberalism, globalization, economic collapse and civil war. Discusses local, regional and global responses to creating meaningful change in communities most affected by migration.

W S 412. Gender and Film Studies  
3 Credits  
Examines the shifting cultural and theoretical meanings of gender and sexuality across a variety of film genres while also analyzing the role of formal film elements in shaping representation and reception.

W S 420. Girls, Women and Crime  
3 Credits (3)  
Critical social science analysis of concepts of violence and justice as experienced by women impacted by the criminal justice system. Restricted to C J, W S majors. Crosslisted with: C J 420

W S 433. Women, Gender, and Culture  
3 Credits  
Same as ANTH 433.

W S 450. Special Topics  
3 Credits  
The topic of course will vary and will be indicated by subtitle. May be cross-listed with relevant courses at the 400-level from any specific department. May be repeated under different subtitle(s).

W S 451. Women's Studies Practicum  
3 Credits  
Supervised field work in community setting relating to women. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.  
Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

W S 453. Women and Politics  
3 Credits  
Crosslisted with: GOVT 353

W S 454. Women Crossing Borders  
3 Credits  
Experiences of women who cross class, race, cultural, national, or sexual borders including theories regarding women's Interactions across borders. Emphasis will vary with professor and discipline.

W S 455. Feminist Research Methodologies  
3 Credits  
Study of feminist methodologies, covering transnational decolonizing Indigenous, Chicana feminist approaches to research, such as storytelling, narrative, testimonio, platica, research-based art, performed ethnography and participatory action research. May be repeated up to 3 credits.

W S 461. Women's Studies: Independent Study  
3 Credits  
Individual study of selected topic and writing of research paper. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.  
Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

W S 465. Sex, Gender and the Body  
3 Credits  
Examines forces at work in defining and differentiating gender, race, sexuality. How ideas about what is 'natural' and 'normal' for men and women shifted over time. Considers different discourses shaping embodied experiences and categories of identity.  
Prerequisite(s): None.

W S 468. Global Sexualities  
3 Credits  
Generates a global context to focus on sexual identity and orientation, sexual identity politics, romantic relationships, patterns of sexual behavior, sexual regulation and the impact of different cultures on individual sexualities. Taught with W S 568. Crosslisted with: SOC 468

W S 471. Seminar in Feminist Theory  
3 Credits  
Current feminist theory. Topic changes by semester. Course subtitled in the Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite: None

W S 474. Gender in East Asian History  
3 Credits  
Same as HIST 474.

W S 482. Gender and Popular Culture  
3 Credits  
Intensive study of the representations of gender in popular culture. Examines the historical, aesthetic, and cultural contexts of these representation and the various critical and theoretical lenses we use to understand them. Repeatable under different subtitles. May be repeated up to 99 credits.

W S 484. Women's Literature  
3 Credits  
Intensive study of literature by women, in particular historical, aesthetic, cultural, or intellectual contexts. Repeatable under different subtitles. Crosslisted with: ENGL 481

W S 501. Advanced Women & Immigration  
3 Credits (3)  
Advanced exploration of historical and contemporary immigration processes in/to the U.S. that are shaped by gendered dynamics, societal structures, and the socio-economic conditions that impact immigrant women. Examines how immigrant women use their agency and resistance to overcome exploitative circumstances, and the restraints of immigration laws and policies that impact individual, communal and societal change.

W S 502. Advanced Transnational Feminisms  
3 Credits (3)  
Advanced analysis of dimensions of gender, race, class, and sexuality in conjunction with nationalisms, anti-capitalist struggles, religious fundamentalism, militarism, globalization, eco-critique, and the politics of resistance and social movements.

W S 503. Advanced Gender & Horror  
3 Credits (3)  
Advanced analysis of anxieties and crises through the genre of horror as they relate to issues of gender, sexuality, feminism, and race. Traces ways horror films represent and reconfigure notions of sexuality and gender and ways they reinforce and/or challenge social norms.
W S 504. Advanced Arab-Muslim Feminisms
3 Credits
Advanced study of historical and contemporary arab-muslim feminisms and homosexuality in Islam. Explores and uses critical feminist theories, language, and methods to counter interlocking discourses of Islamophobia, gendering, and homophobia affecting arab-muslim women.

W S 505. Advanced Alternative Genders and Sexualities
3 Credits
Advanced study of the academic fields of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) and Queer Studies. Examines academic texts as well as literature and film from different historical moments and social/ global sites.

W S 506. Advanced Women and Human Rights
3 Credits
Advanced analysis of human rights violations and injustices as they relate to the lives of girls and women. Intensive examination of international political, legal, economic and socio-cultural implications of violence that target women and girls. Focusing on different countries, explores social, political, economic, and human rights.

W S 507. Advanced Gender and Graphic Narrative
3 Credits
Advanced examination of graphic novels that disrupt stereotypical ideas about genre, gender, race, class sexuality, as well as common notions about comics. Considers texts that address underrepresented experiences.

W S 508. Advanced Food Presentation
3 Credits
Advanced examination of contemporary food writing as a way to study identity, social structures, and notions of acceptability. Intensive exploration of how constructions of food shape bodies, desires, and notions of belonging.

W S 511. Advanced Gender and Migration
3 Credits
Advanced exploration of multiple experiences of forced migration and displacement. Intensive examination of violence, structural dislocation, neoliberalism, globalization, economic collapse and civil war. Discusses local, regional and global responses to creating meaningful change in communities most affected by migration.

W S 512. Advanced Gender and Film Studies
3 Credits
Advanced study of the shifting cultural and theoretical meanings of gender and sexuality across a variety of film genres while also analyzing the role of formal film elements in shaping representation and reception.

W S 520. Advanced Girls, Women & Crime
3 Credits (3)
Advanced critical social science analysis of concepts of violence and justice as experienced by women impacted by the criminal justice system. Crosslisted with: C J 520

W S 533. Advanced Issues in Women, Gender, and Culture
3 Credits
Same as ANTH 533.

W S 550. Special Topics
3 Credits
The topic of course will vary and will be indicated by subtitle. May be cross-listed with relevant courses at the 500-level from any specific department. May be repeated under different subtitle(s).

W S 554. Advanced Issues in Women Crossing Borders
3 Credits
Experiences of women who cross class, race, cultural, national, or sexual borders including theories regarding women's interactions across borders.

W S 555. Advanced Feminist Research Methodologies
3 Credits
Advanced study of feminist methodologies, covering transnational decolonizing Indigenous, Chicana feminist approaches to research, such as storytelling, narrative, testimonio, plática, research-based art, performed ethnography and participatory action research. May be repeated up to 3 credits.

W S 561. Independent Graduate Research in Women's Studies
3 Credits
Individual study of selected topics and writing of a research paper. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

W S 565. Advanced Sex, Gender & the Body
3 Credits (3)
Advanced examination of forces at work in defining and differentiating gender, race, sexuality. How ideas about what is 'natural' and 'normal' for men and women shifted over time. Considers different discourses shaping embodied experiences and categories of identity.

W S 571. Advanced Seminar in Feminist Theory
3 Credits
Current feminist theory. Topic changes by semester. Course subtitled in the Schedule of Classes.

W S 574. Gender in East Asian History
3 Credits
Same as HIST 474 with differentiated assignments for graduate students. Required for graduate credit.

W S 582. Gender and Popular Culture
3 Credits
Intensive study of the representations of gender in popular culture. Examines the historical, aesthetic, and cultural contexts of these representation and the various critical and theoretical lenses we use to understand them. Repeatable under different subtitles. Crosslisted with: ENGL 582

W S 584. Women's Literature
3 Credits
Intensive study of literature by women, in particular historical, aesthetic, cultural, or intellectual contexts. Repeatable under different subtitles. Crosslisted with: ENGL 581

Name: Patti Wojahn, IDS Department Head
Office Location: Breland Hall 259A
Phone: (575) 646-4396
IDS Website: http://idsas.nmsu.edu/
Gender & Sexuality Studies Website: http://genders.nmsu.edu/