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 BAS degree helps minimize credits for associate degree graduates when pursuing a baccalaureate degree at NMSU by requiring a fewer number of upper-division credits: requiring 36 as opposed to the 48 upper-division courses required of other majors. 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.

Minors Recommended for BAS & BIS Majors

Students seeking a Bachelor of Applied Studies or the Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree are encouraged to complete one or more minors offered through various NMSU colleges. A minor is designated on a transcript and consists of a minimum of 18 credits, nine of which must be upper-division. Courses required to complete a minor may be in a single department or interdepartmental, are offered through various NMSU colleges, and are subject to availability. Students seeking to complete a minor must have the minor verified, prior to graduation, by the college academic department administering the minor. Specific requirements for minors may be obtained from the academic department administering a specific minor, the academic department’s college dean’s office, and in the college departmental listings of this catalog. Note: The NMSU College of Business allows a maximum of 30 business credit hours (excluding MATH 1350G) to count towards the BAS or BIS degrees. Also, the only College of Business minor allowed for these degrees is the Business Administration Minor.

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; gender identity; queer and transgender studies; feminisms; and social justice from interdisciplinary perspectives. This field of study equips students with analytical skills and knowledge to engage power structures critically and to transform lived and communities. Courses are offered both online and on campus, and this degree is one of a few at NMSU in which all major and minor requirements can be taken online.

International Studies

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

Gender & Sexuality Studies - Bachelor of Arts

Individualized Studies - Bachelor of Individualized Studies

Minor for the Department

Undergraduate

Gender & Sexuality Studies - Undergraduate Minor

International Studies - Undergraduate Minor

Graduate

Gender & Sexuality Studies - Graduate Minor

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

Interdisciplinary Courses

INTR 300. Foundations of Interdisciplinary Studies
3 Credits (3)
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 (3)
Focusses 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.

Gender & Sexuality Studies Courses

GNDR 2110G. Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
3 Credits (3)
This course introduces students to key concepts, debates, and analytical tools informing Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. As an interdisciplinary field of study, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies employs academic perspectives from a range of disciplines and theoretical approaches. It also incorporates lived experience and social location into its object of analysis. Though content will vary according to the expertise and focus of the instructor, this course will develop tools through readings and assignments that critically analyze how gender and sexuality are shaped by different networks of power and social relations and demonstrate how the intersections of race, class, disability, national status, and other categories identity and difference are central to their understanding and deployment. In addition to feminist thought, areas of focus might include gender and sexuality in relation to social, cultural, political, creative, economic, or scientific discourses. This class is recommended for those with a general interest in the topic area as well as for those seeking a foundational course for further study.

GNDR 2120G. Representing Women Across Cultures
3 Credits (3)
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.

GNDR 350. Special Topics
3 Credits (3)
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).

GNDR 352. Women's & Mass Media
3 Credits (3)
Portrayal and participation of women in mass media from colonial to contemporary times. Same as JOUR 380. May be repeated up to 3 credits.

GNDR 359. Psychology of Gender
3 Credits (3)
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: PSYC 359.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1110G.

GNDR 360. Masculinities Studies
3 Credits (3)
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.

GNDR 380V. Women Writers
3 Credits (3)
Introduction to multicultural women's traditions through intensive study of works by women writers. Same as ENGL 380V.

GNDR 381V. Women's Health Issues
3 Credits (3)
A focus on the unique issues and problems that confront women today and how they affect the health of women. Same as PHLS 380V.

GNDR 382. Women in Mass Media
3 Credits (3)
Portrayal and participation of women in mass media from colonial to contemporary times. Same as JOUR 380.

GNDR 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.

GNDR 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.

GNDR 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.

GNDR 405. Alternative Genders and Sexualities
3 Credits (3)
Examination of queer, transgender, non-binary, and intersex gender identities and queer/non-heterosexual sexualities through literature, film, and critical theory

GNDR 407. Gender and Graphic Narrative
3 Credits (3)
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.

GNDR 411. Gender and Migration
3 Credits (3)
Explores 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.
GNDR 412. Gender and Film Studies
3 Credits (3)
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.

GNDR 433V. Sex, Gender & Culture
3 Credits (3)
This seminar course introduces students to the anthropological study of gender. We take an integrated approach to the subject, considering the ways that different kinds of anthropological research, including archaeology, biological anthropology, ethnography, etc., expand our understanding of the various ways gender is defined across space and time, how it is lived, and what it means to us and others. Students will review the historical context and development of this subject within the field, and will explore such topics as sex versus gender, embodiment and gendered performance, gender hierarchies, the politics of reproduction, and globalization. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: ANTH 433V.

GNDR 450. Special Topics
3 Credits (3)
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).

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

GNDR 453. Women and Politics
3 Credits (3)
An examination of women's participation in U.S. electoral politics as voters, candidates, and officeholders; political activism in issue-based movements and strategies for affecting public policy; leadership as administrators and managers in public service agencies. Also explores the influence of feminism in changing women's roles socially, legally, and politically. Crosslisted with: POLS 353

GNDR 454. Women Crossing Borders
3 Credits (3)
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.

GNDR 455. Feminist Research Methodologies
3 Credits (3)
Study of feminist methodologies, covering transnational decolonizing Indigenous, Chicana feminist approaches to research, such as storytelling, narrative, testimonio, platifica, research-based art, performed ethnography and participatory action research.

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

GNDR 465. Sex, Gender and the Body
3 Credits (3)
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.

GNDR 468. Global Sexualities
3 Credits (3)
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 GNDR 568.

GNDR 471. Seminar in Feminist Theory
3 Credits (3)
Contemporary feminist inquiry and knowledge production concerning social structures and systems, lived realities, and the ways these impact each other.

GNDR 474. Gender in East Asian History
3 Credits (3)
Examines the position of women and the social roles of both sexes in traditional China and Japan, and traces the changes taking place in those societies in the course of modernization in the last century and a half. Scholarly literature and works of Chinese and Japanese literature in translation and cinema used. Same as HIST 474.

GNDR 482. Gender and Popular Culture
3 Credits (3)
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 6 credits.

GNDR 484. Women's Literature
3 Credits (3)
Intensive study of literature by women, in particular historical, aesthetic, cultural, or intellectual contexts. Repeatable under different subtitles. May be repeated up to 12 credits. Crosslisted with: ENGL 481.

GNDR 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.

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

GNDR 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.

GNDR 505. Advanced Alternative Genders and Sexualities
3 Credits (3)
Intensive exploration of queer, transgender, non-binary, and intersex gender identities and queer/non-heterosexual sexualities through literature, film, and critical theory.
GNDR 507. Advanced Gender and Graphic Narrative  
3 Credits (3)  
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.

GNDR 511. Advanced Gender and Migration  
3 Credits (3)  
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.

GNDR 512. Advanced Gender and Film Studies  
3 Credits (3)  
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.

GNDR 533. Advanced Issues in Women, Gender, and Culture  
3 Credits (3)  
Survey of the history of anthropological ideas about gender and women, and a comparison of gender roles, relations, and ideologies across a range of cultures.

GNDR 550. Special Topics  
3 Credits (3)  
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).

GNDR 554. Advanced Issues in Women Crossing Borders  
3 Credits (3)  
Experiences of women who cross class, race, cultural, national, or sexual borders including theories regarding women's interactions across borders. Consent of instructor required.

GNDR 555. Advanced Feminist Research Methodologies  
3 Credits (3)  
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.

GNDR 561. Independent Graduate Research in Women's Studies  
3 Credits (3)  
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.

GNDR 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.

GNDR 567. Global Sexualities  
3 Credits (3)  
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 GNDR 468.

GNDR 571. Advanced Seminar in Feminist Theory  
3 Credits (3)  
Intensive study of contemporary feminist inquiry and knowledge production concerning social structures and systems, lived realities, and the ways these impact each other.

GNDR 582. Gender and Popular Culture  
3 Credits (3)  
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 6 credits. Crosslisted with: ENGL 582.

GNDR 584. Women's Literature  
3 Credits (3)  
Intensive study of literature by women, in particular historical, aesthetic, cultural, or intellectual contexts. Repeatable under different subtitles. May be repeated up to 6 credits. Crosslisted with: ENGL 581.

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

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