WOMEN’S STUDIES

About Women’s Studies

The Women’s Studies Program at the University of Akron engages students in critical inquiry on women's oppression in the U.S. and globally; the socially constructed nature of gender and sexuality; the intersection of women's oppression with race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and other forms of inequality; and importantly, histories and modes of feminist resistance. Through a wide variety of classes, Women’s Studies encourages students to debate assumptions, explore divergent viewpoints, and investigate the social, economic, and cultural practices that have shaped the lives of women around the world.

With an emphasis on critical thinking, the program integrates intellectual scholarship and research to explore how women have been represented in literature, history, society, sociology, and the media. The course, Introduction to Women’s Studies, leads students in studies on systemic privilege/oppression, media and gender, sexuality, family studies, reproductive justice, work, gender violence, social policy, and feminist resistance. This course provides a foundation upon which to build a deeper knowledge of issues surrounding feminism, gender, and sexuality. Other courses in the Women’s Studies Program, as well as cross listed classes in Anthropology, English, Family and Consumer Sciences, History, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology, provide an eye opening and often life-altering college curriculum that prepares students to challenge power disparities found in society’s most powerful institutions--family, church, academia, media, business, and government--and to work for a world founded on equality and dignity for all.

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Women’s Studies (3001)

3001:100 Social & Cultural Diversity in the United States (3 Credits)
See department for course description.

3001:110 Multicultural Sensitivity Training (1 Credit)
See department for course description.

3001:200 Introduction to Women’s Studies (3 Credits)
Introduction to the interdisciplinary program in Women’s Studies.
Explores current scholarship in women’s issues and experiences from perspectives of psychology, history, sociology, anthropology, and literary criticism. Feminist orientation and methodology.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Domestic Diversity

3001:480 Feminist Theory (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3001:200. A summary of feminist theory to familiarize students with the main currents in contemporary feminist theory and the origins and evolution of that thought.

3001:485 Special Topics in Women’s Studies (1-3 Credits)
Special topics and current issues in Women’s Studies. Covers content not currently addressed in other courses. Fosters a critical approach to knowledge about women. (May not be repeated)