

Gender and Women's Studies

Gender and Women's Studies (GAWS) at Oberlin College is a dynamic interdisciplinary program that explores the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality, as well as the workings of nationalism and transnationalism. Course work examines the lives of women and men with attention to cultural, social, historical, psychological, and political factors, institutions, and processes. Informed by feminist theories and scholarship, courses also explore revisions in the content, methods, and assumptions of particular disciplines. Noted feminist scholars who have been associated with the program include bell hooks, Chandra Mohanty, and Karen Sacks. Current faculty members include Wendy Kozol, Frances Hasso, and Sonia Kruks.

The Gender and Women's Studies Program offers several core program courses, including Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies; Gender & Sexuality in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA); Visible Bodies and the Politics of Sexuality; Gender, Social Change, Social Movements; Living with the Bomb; Feminist Research Methodologies; Global Feminisms; Gender & the State in MENA (seminar); and Picturing War (seminar). The program also offers interdisciplinary courses focusing on women, gender, and/or sexuality taught by faculty members in Anthropology, Art, African American Studies, Comparative American Studies, East Asian Studies, English, History, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Religion, Sociology, and Theatre and Dance.

Students interested in pursuing Gender and Women's Studies in depth may do so through a GAWS major. With assistance from a faculty advisor, a student may design a degree plan that builds depth in a particular area of interest or expertise. Many students create a program of study that complements their GAWS major with a second major, or a minor, in the sciences, humanities, or social sciences. The Gender and Women's Studies Program also offers a minor that requires fifteen credit hours of course work.

Gender and Women's Studies majors and minors are able to incorporate many of Oberlin's other resources into their course of study. Faculty members in almost every department or program of the College have expressed an interest in working with GAWS students. These faculty

members may be consulted for private readings to supplement the regular academic offerings and often become involved in cross-disciplinary GAWS honors projects. In addition, the Experimental College offers relevant courses such as "Issues in Women's Health" and the "SexCo." Gender and Women's Studies students frequently design and teach ExCo courses relating to GAWS and include this work as part of their major.

A range of off-campus, study away, and study abroad options and internships offer excellent opportunities to GAWS students. These possibilities allow intensive study and/or experience in foreign languages; social change and social justice organizing; reproductive politics and rights; community service; healthcare provision for women and underserved communities; medicine and medical research; environmental studies; public policy; foreign policy; international studies; politics; and non-profit work. These opportunities are possible during a Winter Term, summer, or semester, and may occur parallel with Oberlin coursework in the city of Oberlin, Lorain County, and the Cleveland metropolitan area.

The Gender and Women's Studies Program, often in co-sponsorship with other programs, departments, and offices on campus, organizes a range of lively speaker and film events annually, as well as a Feminist Brownbag series that showcases the work of Oberlin faculty. In addition, other Oberlin departments, programs, and offices bring many visitors to campus each year for lectures, performances, forums, and residencies that often supplement work within Gender and Women's Studies.

Prizes for outstanding student papers or artistic projects are given annually through two awards administered by the Gender and Women's Studies Program: the Leah Deborah Freed Award and the Phyllis Jones Award.

Students also serve as elected representatives to the GAWS Program Committee, the Program's decision-making body, and actively participate in many of the committee's activities.

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