

California State University, Stanislaus
Department of Gender Studies
Assessment Report
2007-08

MISSION

The Gender Studies major provides students with an interdisciplinary, liberal arts education that will support them in a wide range of careers and enhance their ability to participate actively in diverse communities. The required courses in the major build understanding of the core concepts in the field, the theories and methods which guide gender studies inquiry, historical perspectives on gendered experiences, multi-ethnic and transnational contexts, and means to apply knowledge and theories in community settings. The required concentration offers more specialized understanding of gender in the areas of History, Society and Inequality; Culture, Ideology, and Representation; and Ethnicity, Nationality, and Sexuality.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Gender Studies program provides students with an interdisciplinary, liberal arts education that will support them in a wide range of careers and enhances their ability to actively participate in diverse communities. In general, the program aims to:

- Build understanding of sex, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression over time, across cultures and nations, and from a variety of theoretical and disciplinary perspectives.
- Explore and evaluate perspectives on the intersections of sex, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression with race/ethnicity, economic class and caste, national/regional origin, religion, age, ablebodiedness, and other identities and affiliations.
- Prepare students to recognize and respond to issues related to sex and gender in their academic, vocational, civic, and personal lives.
- Support success in work and community environments through the development of critical thinking skills, extensive experience with oral and written communication, experience applying their knowledge through community-based service and research projects, experience working as part of diverse teams, and an appreciation for civic engagement.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS/ OBJECTIVES

Students completing the Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies will be able to:

1. Identify major contemporary social, economic, political, and psychological issues facing the sexes.
2. Analyze major topics and approaches in the history of feminist theory, queer theory, and masculinity theory.
3. Describe how social constructions of gender, sex, and sexual identity intersect with institutions, society, cultural practices, careers, and work environments.
4. Identify how differences in sex, sexual identity and orientation, race/ethnicity, class, age, ablebodiedness, religion, geographic identification and other identities structure the nature of gender-based inequality, justice, and oppression.
5. Analyze the variations in gender systems across cultures and time.
6. Analyze strategies for transforming coercive and unequal gender systems and enhancing individual choice and our common humanity.
7. Connect scholarly inquiry to practical applications.
8. Engage in cultural critique of representations of sex, gender and sexuality as they intersect with other identity and cultural factors.

CURRICULUM MAP

See Attachment A: Assessment of Learning Outcomes – Core Courses

HOW WILL DATA BE COLLECTED?

The completion of the core courses ensures that each of the program's goals and student learning outcomes are addressed. The required courses in Historical Perspectives and Gender in Global and U.S. Ethnic Contexts further emphasize specific outcomes deemed vital to our Gender Studies program. Concentration and Elective courses allow students to obtain greater expertise in particular areas of the program. Assessment of learning outcomes in all Gender Studies courses (including cross-listed courses) occurs through the intentional design of course assignments as well as via an end-of-semester evaluation.

HOW WILL DATA BE EVALUATED AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE?

These evaluations and sample student assignments are reviewed by the program director every term, and outcomes are shared in summary form with program faculty for program planning purposes. Gender Studies also participates in the University's Academic Program Review process every seven years, and this will serve as the most comprehensive review of the achievement of program goals. Program goals will also be measured by periodic comprehensive review of course syllabi, and through exit interviews with students obtaining a Major or Minor in Gender Studies.

California State University, Stanislaus
Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies

Attachment A

Assessment of Learning Outcomes – Core Courses							
		GEND 3550	GEND 3000	GEND 4200	GEND 4920	GEND 4620	GEND 2020
Student Learning Outcomes	Identify major contemporary social, economic, political and psychological issues facing the sexes	Introduced Discussion, Essays, Exams	Reinforced Essays, Research Paper	Reinforced Essays, Book Evaluation	Practiced	Reinforced Exams, Papers	Introduced Exams, Quick Writes, Discussion
	Analyze major topics and approaches in the history of feminist thought, queer theory, and masculinity theory	Introduced Essays, Exams, Papers	Reinforced Essays, Discussion, Research Paper	Reinforced and Practiced Essays, Discussion, Evaluations	Practiced	Reinforced Exams, Discussion	Introduced Exams, Quick Writes, Discussion
	Describe how social constructions of gender, sex, and sexual identity intersect with institutions, society, cultural practices, careers, and work environments	Introduced and Practiced Exams, Discussions, Projects	Reinforced and Practiced Essays, Discussion, Projects	Reinforced Essays, Discussion	Practiced Journal, Final Project	Reinforced and Practiced Exams, Discussions, Papers	Introduced Exams, Quick Writes, Case Studies
	Identify how differences in sex, sexual identity and orientation, race/ethnicity, class, age, ablebodiedness, religion, geographic identification and other identities structure the nature of gender-based inequality, justice and oppression	Introduced and Practiced Essays, Quizzes, Exams, Papers	Reinforced and Practiced Essays, Research Paper	Reinforced and Practiced Essays, Discussion	Practiced Journal, Final Project	Reinforced Exams, Discussions	Introduced and Practiced Exams, Case Studies, Discussion
	Analyze the variations in gender systems across cultures and time	Introduced Essays, Exams, Papers	Reinforced Essays	Reinforced Essays, Discussion	Varies	Reinforced and Practiced Exams, Papers, Discussions	Introduced and Practiced Exams, Case Studies
	Analyze strategies for transforming coercive and unequal gender systems and enhancing individual choice and our common humanity	Introduced Essays, Discussion, Papers, Exams	Reinforced Essays, Research Paper	Practiced Essays, Discussion	Practiced Journal, Practicum activities, Final Project	Reinforced & Practiced Exams, Papers, Discussions	Introduced Exams, Case Studies, Service Project

Assessment of Learning Outcomes – Core Courses, continued

		GEND 3550	GEND 3000	GEND 4200	GEND 4920	GEND 4620	GEND 2020
Student Learning Outcomes	Connect scholarly inquiry to practical applications	Practiced Papers, Projects	Practiced Research Paper Discussions	Practiced Essays	Practiced Practicum Activities, Journal, Final Project	Practiced Discussion, Exams	Practiced Service Learning Project, Case Studies
	Engage in cultural critique of representations of sex, gender and sexuality as they intersect with other identity and cultural factors	Introduced and Practiced Essays, Exams, Papers	Reinforced Essays discussion	Reinforced Essays Discussion	Varies Journal, Final Project	Reinforced Discussion, Exams	Introduced and Practiced Case Studies, Exams