GENDER STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Program Director: Jennifer Kramer

Our Gender Studies program envisions a world where gender equity and social justice are not just ideals, but lived realities. We equip students with the tools to 1) analyze and challenge hierarchies of power and oppression, and 2) foster inclusive, equitable communities that value diverse perspectives and lived experiences. Rooted in the connection between theory and practice, our program encourages students to actively engage with these issues through social action projects, applied research, creative expression, internships, and community engaged learning.

Through this hands-on experience, students not only contribute to the common good, but also develop the knowledge, adaptability, and ethical leadership skills to excel in diverse workplaces. A Gender Studies minor fosters the critical thinking, cultural agility, and collaborative skills essential for success in today's rapidly evolving professional landscape. Graduates of our program emerge as engaged scholars, thoughtful advocates, and transformative leaders committed to building a more just and inclusive world

Majors

(None)

Minors

- Gender Studies Minor (https://catalog.csbsju.edu/catalog/academic-departments/gender-studies/gender-studies-minor/)

GEND 101 Introduction to Gender Studies (4 Credits)
Introduces students to a broad range of concepts and issues in the discipline of Gender Studies. It also serves as a practical and theoretical foundation for further courses in Gender Studies. It uses gender as an analytical method and explores how race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation influence the construction of gender identity. Although containing these common elements, this course's main focus will vary according to the particular instructor's design.
Prerequisites: None
Equivalent courses: HONR 101K
Attributes: CSD: Identity (CI)

GEND 180A Gender and Culture in Japan (2 Credits)
This course will explore the intersectional relationship between gender and culture with specific attention to gender and culture as experienced in Japan
Prerequisites: None

GEND 180C Gender & Culture in South Korea (2 Credits)
This class is designed to teach students the ways in which gender and culture mutually inform one another and is based on South Korea's society and economy. The course is designed to understand the social construction of gender in South Korea, analyze the implications of that construction for the South Korean society and evaluate those constructions and implications in the context of the United States. The course is housed within the Gender Studies department and counts as part of the Gender Studies major and minor requirements. The course involves pre departure classes held during Spring and onsite visit and learning in South Korea.
Prerequisites: None

GEND 180D Contemporary Japanese Women Writers (4 Credits)
This course introduces novels, short stories, manga, and films written by Japanese and Japanese-American woman writers and filmmakers since the 1970s. We read texts that explore questions of identity related to gender, race, and ethnicity in a comparative context, from the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II to the rethinking of female icons of Japanese mythology and folklore, as well as what it means to be alienated in what is supposed to one's "homeland" and being insufficiently fluent in one's "mother tongue." With texts set in the United States, Japan, and Europe, this course aims to demonstrate the relevance of great literature and film by Japanese women to questions at the heart of an intersectional analysis of gender, race, and ethnicity.
Prerequisites: None
Equivalent courses: GEND 360E, JAPN 121A, JAPN 321A
Attributes: CSD: Identity (CI)

GEND 271 Individualized Learning Project (1-4 Credits)
Supervised reading or research at the lower-division level. Permission of program director required.
Prerequisites: None

GEND 278A Movements and Change (4 Credits)
This course will survey the various social movements of gender and sexual rights and equality in the United States. Students will learn about the social conditions that spawned the movements, the reaction that these movements have produced, and the different strategies that were used both within and between these movements.
Prerequisites: FYS 101 or FYS 201 or HONR 101 or INTG 100 or INTG 200
Equivalent courses: GEND 201
Attributes: Human Experience (HE), Thematic Focus - Movement

GEND 351 Gender and Peace (4 Credits)
This course will explore the connections between gender and peace in theory and practice, from micro-level gender violence to macro-level international conflicts. We will study theories relating gendered notions of human nature to violence and peace, to militarism and other forms of institutionalized violence, and to violence against women. Other topics may include the relationships between motherhood, fatherhood, and peace, along with theoretical and practical connections between feminism and nonviolence.
Prerequisites: None
Equivalent courses: PCST 351
Attributes: CSD: Systems (CS)

GEND 360B Leadership, Social Change, and the Workplace (4 Credits)
This course explores the application of gender theory and intersectionality in understanding, analyzing, and addressing inequities in contemporary workplaces. Students will critically examine how power, privilege, and oppression operate within organizational structures and workplace cultures. The course analyzes the interconnected nature of social identities, such as race, gender, class, sexuality, disability, and their impact on how people experience the workplace differently. Students will leave the course with the knowledge and skills needed to foster equitable and empowering work environments.
Prerequisites: None
Attributes: CSD: Systems (CS)

GEND 360E Contemporary Japanese Women Writers (4 Credits)
This course introduces entertainment novels, comics, and films created by Japanese female writers and directors since the 1970's. Postwar economic development made it possible for young talented women to go into a variety of cultural fields and become successful. We examine how these contemporary female creators have come to terms with issues of gender, sexuality, race, class, and nation as well as how their products have intersected the changing phases of economic conditions. Their works have created new businesses, not only in Japan but also in the broader Asian market, by being combined with thriving local entertainment industries. We also consider what these phenomena signify, especially when the images of the West, Asia, the US and Japan are diversely reflected in these works. Prerequisite Sophomore standing. Will count as an elective for both GEND major/minor and ASIA minor. Cross-listed with JAPN 321A.
Prerequisites: None
Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students with a class of Junior, Sophomore or Senior.
Equivalent courses: JAPN 321A, MCLT 316A

GEND 360J Sex and Gender (4 Credits)
A survey of sociological knowledge about sex and gender as fundamental organizing principles of our social world. Examines the interplay of sex, gender, and sexual orientation as they change over time and across cultures. Critical analysis of what it means to live as a gendered, sexual being in today's society.
Prerequisites: None
Equivalent courses: SOCI 319

GEND 371 Individualized Learning Project (1-4 Credits)
Supervised reading and/or research at the upper-division level. Permission of Chair required. Not open to first-year students.
Prerequisites: None

GEND 377A Disability Justice (4 Credits)
Ableism is a system of discrimination and oppression targeting those who identify as being disabled, or those who society has labeled disabled. Globally over 1 billion people live with some form of disability (WHO, 2014). This course will focus on the human experience of disability using a “Disability Justice Framework.” This framework was created by disability activists in the mid-2000’s who were queer, poor, and people of color trying to make sense of their experiences and create a movement that did not exclude others with multiple experiences of marginalization and oppression. This framework challenges our ideas of “independence” as being central to those who identify as being disabled, to that of “inter-dependent” with the whole community being involved. This framework also challenges our norms of what constitute “whole” bodies versus “broken” bodies and that “brokenness” must be fixed for people to live “whole” lives. In this course we deconstruct false and limited narratives on what it means to be disabled, and at the same time, act in solidarity for the liberation of every “body.”
Prerequisites: FYS 101 or FYS 201 or HONR 101 or INTG 100 or INTG 200
Attributes: Human Experience (HE), Thematic Focus - Justice

GEND 377B Indigenous and LBGTQ+ Allyship (4 Credits)
What roles do Two-Spirit and other Indigenous gender identities play in Native American communities? How did colonialism impact these identities and what steps are being taken to reclaim them? As we explore the similarities and distinctions between Indigenous and Western gender constructions, students in this course will understand the roots of Indigenous and LGBTQ+ allyships and the tools necessary for develop successful coalitions.
Prerequisites: None
Equivalent courses: SOCI 377A
Attributes: Social World (SW), Thematic Focus - Justice

GEND 380 Approaches to Gender Theory (4 Credits)
Builds on and further develops the understanding of gender studies introduced in GEND 101 by critically examining theoretical approaches to Gender Studies and analyzing key issues and disputes within the field. This course develops a framework that allows students to identify and examine the relations among the diverse theoretical approaches used in Gender Studies. This course may include aspects of feminist, gender, GLBTQ, and men’s studies theories.
Prerequisites: GEND 101
Attributes: Human Experience (HE), Thematic Encounter3 - Justice

GEND 385 Senior Capstone in Gender Studies (4 Credits)
A seminar in which students develop and complete an independent research project. The project should provide in-depth analysis of gender dynamics in areas such as contemporary social issues, history, the arts, theory or the biological-physical world and should integrate a variety of resources and learning from across the disciplines that compromise Gender Studies. This project will include not only a written component, but an oral presentation of research to faculty and students. Offered only in the spring.
Prerequisites: GEND 101

GEND 397 Internship (1-4 Credits)
Practical on- or off-campus experience in gender-related work with a strong academic component. Individually arranged by the student with the approval of the college’s director of internships, a faculty moderator, and the GEND Chair. Prerequisites include GEND 101 and at least two other GEND courses. See Chair for further information.
Prerequisites: None
Attributes: Experiential Engagement (EX)