Minor in Gender Studies

Program Mission Statement
The purpose of the Gender Studies minor is to provide interested students with an opportunity to focus a portion of their college studies on issues related to women's lives, culture and history, men's studies, and to the impact of gender on human experience and behavior across a variety of disciplines. In particular, the minor explores gender issues and experiences, and fosters educational equity. It provides an opportunity for faculty and students alike to explore women's changing social roles, experiences, problems, and contributions to society, which often have been omitted in the traditional academic disciplines. Also included in the gender studies minor is the growing new area of men's studies which focus on men as a sex and how gender impacts men's lives. In addition, the minor examines how gender identities about men and women are created by a variety of societal forces that change over time and from culture to culture, the wider ramifications of these changes for all genders, and for the general perception of gender in society. Courses in the Gender Studies minor investigate the full diversity of women's and men's experiences and gender issues. The minor provides opportunities for true interdisciplinary learning, since the program requires students to take courses from across college and University offerings.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills
- Utilize and apply gender as a category of analysis from a diversity of perspectives (e.g., historical, sociological, philosophical, anthropological, literary)
- Explain the role of gender in social structure and organization, including its role in inequality and oppression, social norms, and social institutions both in the U.S. and international contexts

Communication Skills
- Express ideas about gender clearly, coherently, and in a well-organized fashion in writing and/or speech.

Critical Thinking Skills
- Critically analyze different perceptions and views of gender by identifying normative ideas about and practices concerning gender, including the connections between gender and other forms of social difference including race, socio-economic class, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, culture, and nationality
- Critically reflect on their own experience of gender

Assessment Approaches
In courses in the Gender Studies minor, students will explain the role of gender in a society, use gender as a category to analyze issues, critically analyze views about gender, reflect on their own experiences of gender, and express themselves clearly and coherently. Approaches used to assess these aims may include:
1) expository, analytical, argumentative, and/or research-based thesis papers,
2) short written analyses of social, cultural, and historical artifacts,
3) short written reflections on both theoretical accounts studied and students' experience of gender,
4) oral presentations about central texts, events, and phenomena.