

## Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies

Phone: (512) 245-2361

Office: Flowers Hall 336

Fax: (512) 245-1414

Web: <http://www.mcgs.txstate.edu>

### Minors Offered

- Diversity Studies
- Women's Studies

The Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies (MCGS) in the College of Liberal Arts administers both the Diversity Studies minor at the undergraduate level and the Women's Studies minor at the graduate and undergraduate levels. MCGS helps prepare students to work and live in a pluralistic society through curricular and co-curricular activities — symposia, workshops, exhibits, theater productions, diversity reading discussions, and research projects. In addition, it assists faculty with resources and professional development activities to encourage the infusion of multiculturalism in the curriculum through a Multicultural Curriculum Transformation and Research Institute. It houses a resource area with more than 300 books, articles, syllabi and tapes. The Center sponsors a Women and Gender Research Collaborative with its own online professional peer reviewed Journal of Research on Women and Gender. Through private donations, Multicultural and Gender Studies offers annual scholarships to students. The director of MCGS works in collaboration with an advisory council of faculty and staff representing several Texas State colleges and departments.

Key issues for prospective minors to consider:

- Tomorrow's graduates will be entering a work force dominated by technological, service, and communication industries with an increasingly diverse workplace and clientele.
- Employer demand is increasing for diversity knowledge and skills among today's college students.
- In 2005, the Hispanic and African American population in Texas grew to approximately 51%--or the majority in the state. Texas already has the second largest Hispanic population, the third largest African American population, and the fourth largest Asian population.
- Well-rounded graduates have included in their liberal arts education a greater-knowledge of their cultural history and traditions.

### Minor in Diversity Studies

The 18-hour minor provides for an interdisciplinary approach to Diversity Studies. It also provides conceptual frameworks for exploring new perspectives which recover the history and creative expressions previously excluded by the traditional approaches to higher education. The minor fosters students development of self, voice, and moral vision to prepare them to live and work effectively in a pluralistic society. Although not required, the minor currently offers students the option of a concentration in African American, Native American or Latino American Studies. Students may also explore issues related to religion, age, sexual orientation, and physical ability and disability.

The required core course, (3 hours) ETHS 3301, offers a general, multidisciplinary and comparative survey. It focuses on different contemporary and historical research methodologies currently being used by the various academic disciplines analyzing the diverse social, economic, political and cultural facets of ethnic groups in the United States. Students in this course gain a working understanding of the current issues and research techniques used by professional and academic researchers. Guest lecturers from various disciplines and departments offer students recent research in their fields regarding ethnic studies and their applied methodologies.

The general requirement block (9 hours) focuses on African American, Mexican American, and Native American/American Indian groups and/or link the studies of their

country of origin with current and historical research on race and ethnic relations in the U.S. Approved General Requirement Electives include: ANTH 3314, 3315, 3324, 3333, 3334, 3332, 3345, \*3375C; ENG 3331, 3344; HIST 3320, 3327, 3329, 3359, 4371, 3369Z, 4372; MU 3375; POSI 4331, 4331B, 4331C; SPAN 3305, 3306, 3371 and 4370.

The general concepts electives block (6 hours) deals more broadly with concepts of ethnicity and need not be limited to the specific groups listed above. These courses provide a theoretical framework for understanding comparative, interdisciplinary approaches to the study of race, ethnicity, and gender. Approved General Concepts Electives include: ANTH 1312, 3370; ARTH 4301; ASD 3310; COMM 3329, 4322; ENG 3345, 3346; FCD 4351; GEO 3306, 3308, 3329, 3353; HIST 3353, 4376, 3372, 3375A, 3380, 4337; HON 3392E; MC 4308; POSI 3319, 3395; PSY 3334; SOWK 4310, SOCI 3327, 3366, 3375; SPAN 4330.

\*Special topic courses (those offered on a selective basis) may count toward the minor with the permission of the U.S. Ethnic Studies Program Director.

### **Minor in Women's Studies**

The 18-hour minor offers an interdisciplinary program that concentrates on the images and realities of women. Drawing on recent scholarship on women and gender, it provides a flexible, coherent program that enables students to consider the significance of gender.

On a personal level, courses in this program enhance the human potential of both men and women. Knowledge about how societies construct gender relations can encourage students to examine their own attitudes and behavior. On an academic level, a minor in Women's Studies provides study of the ongoing scholarship about women and gender and offers students the opportunity for exciting intellectual growth. On a professional level, the minor provides a valuable specialty to prepare students for opportunities in a variety of fields, including business, counseling, education, government, health and medicine, human resources, law, politics, psychology, social work, and graduate studies. The Women's Studies minor helps students recognize their opportunities in a rapidly changing society and flexibly complements any major.

All courses within the minor focus principally (at least 60% of course content) on women and/or gender roles. They reflect recent research in the field and differences such as ethnicity, class, sexualities, age, cultures, and social context among women and women's experiences. Courses within the minor also include critical analyses of the construction of knowledge and gender, foster an understanding of the intersection of gender with politics, economics, culture and society and improves student's critical thinking skills related to gender. Finally, these courses connect knowledge about gender to women's lived experiences and behavior in personal and professional contexts.

The two required core courses (6 hours) are WS 3376: Images of Women and WS 3377: Realities of Women. Both of these courses are interdisciplinary and include lectures by faculty from several disciplines and academic departments.

The remaining four elective courses (12 hours) may be chosen from the following: ANTH 3324, 3350; CJ 4326; COMM 3328, 3334; ENG 3388, 3392; HIST 3369Y, 3373; HON 3392A, 3392G, 3392P; MC 4308; PHIL 3333; POSI 4330; PSY 3332; SOCI 3350, 3370. Topics courses, offered on a selective basis, may also count toward the minor with permission from the Women's Studies Program Director.

### **Course in U.S. Ethnic Studies (ETHS)**

\*Special topic courses (those offered on a selective basis) may count toward the minor with the permission of the Diversity Studies Program Director.

**3301 Introduction to U.S. Ethnic Studies.** (3-0) Students in this course will be given a multi-disciplinary survey of different contemporary and historical research methodologies currently used by the various academic disciplines analyzing the many diverse cultural facets of ethnic groups in the United States. Special attention will be given to current academic studies examining African-American, Native American/American Indian, and Mexican American ethnic groups and their cultures. Students should gain a working understanding of the current issues facing researchers of the various ethnic groups as well as of research

techniques currently used by professional and academic researchers. Students will also identify their own ethnicity in the American experience through researching the oral history of their own family. (MC)

### **Courses in Women's Studies (WS)**

(WI) **3376 Images of Women.** (3-0) This course, one of two multi-disciplinary team-taught women's studies courses, is a survey of the changing images of women in the United States since 1800 through the eyes of historians, writers, artists, orators, the media, and educators. (MC)

(WI) **3377 Realities of Women.** (3-0) This course, one of two multi-disciplinary team-taught women's studies courses, is a study of the realities faced by women in the United States today-including biological and psychological differences in males and females, politics and the law, the workforce, and the home. Gender roles in societies outside the U.S. will also be examined. (MC)