

# Gender Studies (Minor)

For further information contact

Professor Carole Ferrier: [c.ferrier@uq.edu.au](mailto:c.ferrier@uq.edu.au)

Interested in social justice or looking toward a career in business, government, professional or creative industries? Gender Studies is lively, thought-provoking and relevant to the issues and debates in contemporary society. Combining a Gender Studies minor with major/s in the humanities, arts or social sciences (including literature, media/communication, cultural studies, politics, history, philosophy, journalism or sociology) extends understanding of the role gender plays in these disciplines, enabling the development of specific skills necessary for gender-focused research projects in honours and beyond.

Further, Gender Studies graduates often find satisfying employment in areas as diverse as communications; teaching; librarianship; law; publishing; the public service (State and Federal); NGOs and development agencies; diplomacy and business; as well as specialist gender-related fields such as equity and diversity, policy development, social justice and women's services.

Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry exploring how sex and gender are lived in Australia and various cultures around the world. The Gender Studies minor offers study of contemporary feminist theory in relation to gender roles and their impacts on women and men; hegemonic masculinity and femininity; gender's intersections with race, class and sexuality, and how social power operates. Issues discussed in the minor include: gender in film, literature, popular culture, online and in the media; feminism and politics; women and work; pornography and raunch culture; feminist and gender theory; feminism and indigeneity; cross-cultural feminisms; and feminist research methodologies.

The minor is a valuable complement to other majors offered in the now merged Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS). It enhances and extends programs of study through introductory and advanced "gender literacy," offering a lens for observing and interpreting the world in which we live, and deploying an extensive feminist and sexuality studies critical and theoretical heritage. Although Gender Studies draws on distinct disciplinary areas in the humanities and arts, the courses are unified by their focus on interpretation within a *gendered* framework. For those who plan to go on to honours/postgraduate study, this program builds research capacity by providing a firm foundation in feminist theory and develops methodological skills essential for gender-focused research projects in fields across the humanities, social sciences and arts. Gender Studies also fosters transferable professional skills. Employers value Gender Studies graduates for their exceptional abilities in creative and critical thinking, textual and visual analysis, critical interpretation, their excellence in writing and communication, and their understanding and empathy.

The minor is structured around two compulsory courses. First, GEND1010 introduces terms, key debates and theories of gender (GEND1000 provides an alternate gateway for pre-2014 students). Then, GEND2001. Which deals with intersectionality, especially that of gender with race and ethnicity. The minor is completed with the selection of two further subjects from SOCY1060, ENGL2500, PHIL2190, POLS2603, ABTS2010, ENGL3020, ENGL3012/3013, GEND3001, (See over for details of all courses).

The University of Queensland pioneered the study of gender in Australian universities and has been at the forefront of research and leadership in Women's and Gender Studies in Australia for over 40 years. The Gender Studies minor draws upon the extensive expertise available at UQ to enhance and extend the study experience, preparing students to specialise in feminist and gender-centred research, as well as providing training in equity and diversity issues important to employers.



## Courses in the Gender Studies minor:

**GEND1010: GENDER MATTERS** introduces foundational concepts in the study of gender, engages critically with issues of identity formation, sexuality, the female body, hegemonic notions of masculinity and femininity, cultural practices and gender norms informed by contemporary gender theories and methodologies. It draws upon material from popular culture (film, magazines, newspapers) as well as some high cultural texts to investigate why gender is a central part of how we identify ourselves and others. [1/2017. Gateway]

**SOCY1060: GENDER, SEXUALITY AND SOCIETY: AN INTRODUCTION** introduces key concepts and perspectives in sociology through a focus on sexuality and gender. The social construction of gender and sexuality over time and across cultures and places are discussed in relation to topics such as gendered emotion and use of space, sport, body work (tattoo and bodybuilding), fat and work/family. [2/2017]

**GEND2001: GENDERS AND CULTURES: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON RACE AND ETHNICITY** focuses centrally on notions of gender and sexuality, and their interpretation and associated practices across various cultures in relation to race and ethnicity. It considers current debates in gender studies around the complexities of identity, ethnicity and race and the issues these raise. Integral to this course is discussion of the multiple ways in which identity and gender interact and impact upon research methodologies, processes and results. Of particular interest are issues of Indigeneity and whiteness, and women in Islamic majority countries, or as minorities in others. the course includes in-depth reflection on the politics of race and ethnicity; relationships; and modes of representation in gender research. [2/2017. Cornerstone]

**POLS2603: GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS** explores the position of women within an international context. The course considers issues around four themes: women and development; women, human rights and difference; women and the work of production and reproduction; women and violence at home and in international contexts. [1/2017]

**ENGL2500: WOMEN WRITERS** examines the literature produced by a range of women writers in various countries including France, Britain, US, New Zealand, Nigeria and Australia. Key themes are the emergence of feminist literary theory; the intersection of gender, class, race and ethnicity and sexualities; the specific situation of women writers across the twentieth and into the twenty-first century; women and colonisation; the erosion of compulsory heterosexuality; feminine articulations of 'madness.' [2/2017]

**PHIL2190: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY** explores the relations between feminism and the tradition of Western philosophy through a critical discussion of reason, identity, the other and desire. The work of Simone de Beauvoir, Michele Le Doeuff, Luce Irigaray, Hélène Cixous, Monique Wittig and Marguerite Duras is considered. [2/2017]

**ABTS2010: INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND MEN** promotes, through academic research and discussion, recognition and critical understanding of the social, political and cultural roles of Aboriginal women in contemporary Aboriginal and mainstream societies. Areas of inquiry within the course include the history of early contact; Aboriginal women as carers, leaders and elders; TSI women; Indigenous women and the law; Indigenous women's health; Indigenous women and feminism; and representations of Aboriginal women. [2/2017]

**GEND3001: GENDER RESEARCH: APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES** questions what gender-based, feminist, anti-racist, and queer research look like. What counts as "history", "method" and "evidence" in feminist scholarship? Because gender, sexuality, and the lives of marginalized peoples have historically been obscured, colonised, and condescended to by traditional research practices, a key project of gender studies has been to develop new methods of research. In this course you will imagine and create your identity as a feminist researcher, whether you currently work or plan to work as an academic, activist, artist, citizen critic, or independent scholar. [1/2017]

**ENGL3020 : JOURNALS, REPOSITORIES AND CONFERENCES INTERNSHIP** [1 or 2/2017] is done through study with selected supervisors. Consult the GS Convenor if you would like to do this subject.

**ENGL3012 and ENGL3013** [1 or 2/2017] are private study subjects, done with a supervisor and deploying GS theories and methodologies. Consult the GS Convenor if you would like to do one of these subjects.

Staff convening and teaching in the Minor include Carole Ferrier, Liz Mackinlay, Chelsea Bond, Marg Henderson, Michelle Boulous Walker, Marguerite La Caze, Mair Underwood, Jessica White, Annie Pohlmann, Nicole George.

The convenor for GEND1010 1/2017 and the convenor for GEND1010 1/2017 is Associate Professor Liz Mackinlay e.mackinlay@uq.edu.au. Professor Carole Ferrier c.ferrier@uq.edu.au is the GS convenor until March 2017.