

Graduate Studies Programs

Master of Arts in Gender/Cultural Studies (GCS)

About the Program

This interdisciplinary degree program across the humanities and social sciences emphasizes the constructions of gender, race, and nation in the United States as well as in international contexts. The program is designed to broaden women's studies theory and practice to include multiracial perspectives as well as national and post-colonial struggles, cultural studies, and race studies. With broad appeal for over 15 years, the GCS program has met the intellectual and educational needs of students with a variety of personal and professional experiences and goals. Students are prepared for professional careers in areas such as social work, public policy, creative writing, feminist research, publishing, counseling, business, and high school and community college teaching. Some students enroll to prepare academically for Ph.D. programs in many different fields, including women's studies, philosophy, history, anthropology, political science, sociology, English, and communications. Others seek intellectual enrichment to enhance existing careers or to change direction in their professions. Simmons has been successful in meeting this wide range of educational goals through a commitment to providing each student with the advising needed to develop an individualized program of study. This individual support is facilitated by the small size of the program, small classes, and the close mentoring relationships that students develop with faculty in the program.

Sequence of Courses

This program requires 32 semester hours, the equivalent of eight courses. All students take three required courses in interdisciplinary studies and cultural theory, design their own programs from advanced courses offered throughout the College, and finish with a capstone project that furthers their individual academic and professional interests. Students may enroll on either a full- or part-time basis. Although the program may be completed in one academic year, including summer study, most students choose to complete the program over three or four semesters in order to explore their interests more thoroughly. Students may take up to five years to complete the program. The GCS program faculty recommend a reduced load of two courses for at least the first term enrolled in the program. For a full description of courses, please check the course catalog, or visit our website at www.simmons.edu/gradstudies/liberal-arts.

“The GCS program was rewarding in so many ways: I was challenged and stimulated in my coursework, received thoughtful mentoring from the program director, and was consistently inspired by the intellect and enthusiasm of other students in the program. GCS helped me develop an academic foundation that supported my successful application to doctoral programs, and has provided me with intellectual and professional tools that I know will help me succeed at my new university.”

COLLEEN AMMERMAN '07GS
GENDER/CULTURAL STUDIES



SIMMONS
GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSION

Educational Promise

Simmons College is located in the heart of Boston, a world-class city renowned for unlimited educational, career, and social opportunities. The College of Arts and Sciences graduate programs provide opportunities to women and men pursuing master's and advanced degrees in education, liberal arts, and communications management. All programs provide a challenging educational experience in which every student develops an informed, critical, and committed voice, and learns to be a leader and collaborative member of the professional community.

Coursework

Required Courses:

GCS 403 Seminar in Gender/Cultural Studies
GCS 430 Cultural Theory

Choose one of the following:

GCS 406 Feminism and Literature
GCS 410 Issues in International Studies
GCS 412 Theoretical Approaches to Cultural Narratives
GCS 415 Feminism and Economic Difference

Elective Courses (partial list)*

GCS 405 Contemporary Critical Theory
AST 513 The Black Struggle for Schooling in America
AST 535 Race, Sex, and Class: Contemporary Film Images of Women of Color
ENGL 402 Seminar in the Teaching of Writing
ENGL 508 The Postcolonial Novel
ENGL 522 The Postmodern Novel
ENGL 527 Race and Gender in Psychoanalytic Discourse
ENGL 598 Feminist Film Studies
HIST 527 Archives, History, and Collective Memory
HIST 560 Seminar in the History of Women and Gender
INRL 590 Seminar in International Relations
PHIL 523 Law and Philosophy
SOC 511 Critical Race Legal Theory
SOC 542 Women, Work, and Mental Health
SOC 546 Society and Health
SOC 547 Antiracism and Justice Work
SOC 548 Re-envisioning the Third World
WST 500 Gender and Sexuality
WST 504 Feminist Theories
WST 533 Queer Theory

Capstone Course

**This coursework is subject to change. Other electives are available on a semester-by-semester basis. A list of current electives for each semester is available from the program director.*

Contact Us

Dr. Sarah Leonard
Program Director
T 617-521-2254
E sarah.leonard@simmons.edu

Storm Stoker
GCS Administrative Assistant
T 617-521-2224
E storm.stoker@simmons.edu

Graduate Studies Admission
T 617-521-2915
F 617-521-3058
E gsa@simmons.edu

Simmons College
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115
www.simmons.edu/gradstudies



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