Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Boca Raton Campus:
Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies
FAU / 777 Glades Road
Social Science Building (SO 210)
Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991
Tel: 561-297-3865/Fax: 561-297-2127

www.fau.edu/WomensStudies

“Obtaining a master’s degree at FAU allowed me to pursue my dream career in women’s non-profit organizations that work on a transnational scale. I currently work at an international women’s human rights organization near Washington D.C., where I am able to make a difference in the lives of thousands of women and girls in the Third World.” – Layali Eshqaidef (MA ’07)
Mission
In keeping with the mission of Florida Atlantic University, our goal is to provide students with both academic and personal development, discovery, lifelong learning, and public engagement. Our program prepares students to think critically about the ways that gender interacts with politics, culture, ideologies, social structures, and economics, historically and globally to shape the lives of women and men. Our courses explore gender through experiences and standpoints rooted in a diversity of intersecting factors, including class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, ability, religion, and age.

Vision
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at FAU developed out of the concerted activism of faculty, students, and members of the wider community and we continue to support this tradition. We encourage students to see themselves as being able to make a difference for social justice in their own lives and in the lives of others around the world.
Our graduate program prepares students for careers in agencies and institutions that serve women, gender, and sexuality issues, for Ph.D. work in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies or a traditional discipline with a focus on women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, or for advanced professional training in such fields as law, social work, public policy, and non-profit management.

Some career options for our graduates include:
Researcher for a feminist lobby / Director of a college or university women in science program / Director of a rape crisis center / Archivist/librarian for data sources on women and gender / Women’s health clinic administrator / Title IX compliance specialist / Planned parenthood counselor, lobbyist, director / Coordinator of education and outreach of a battered women’s shelter / Writer/editor for a magazine/newsletter on women, gender and sexuality related issues / Family development specialist / Director of a career development agency for women / Attorney in family law / Coordinator for an international women’s human rights organization / Coordinator for a gender, science, and technology network / University Professor

In addition to their formal academic training, students enjoy opportunities to work on faculty members’ research, assist in teaching and curriculum development, contribute to the Center’s Newsletter, participate in the Women’s Studies Graduate Student Association, and take part in feminist activities on campus and in the community.

The Center’s interdisciplinary curriculum includes the perspectives of a variety of academic disciplines such as English, sociology, languages, linguistics, and comparative literature, communication and multimedia studies, philosophy, nursing, education, anthropology, history, music, and the visual and performing arts.

The Women’s Studies Center at Florida Atlantic University was founded in 1986, with approval for a change of name to the Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in 2009. During the past two decades, we have grown in numbers, visibility, and influence on campus. The Center offers the following graduate programs of study:

**Graduate Certificate**
This option is available to students who have completed an undergraduate degree and either want a graduate certificate while working toward an M.A. in another area, or who want a graduate certificate independent of other graduate work. Successful students will complete four graduate courses (i.e., twelve graduate credits), including one required course.

**M. A. in Women’s Studies**
This option is the core of the Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and is explained in greater detail throughout this Handbook.

**Elective Graduate Courses**
This option is open to graduate students throughout the university.

"The Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at FAU aided in my academic and professional development and helped me become the woman I am today. The professors cared deeply about the students and helped us combine theory and praxis to prepare for careers both in academia and in corporate America. As a result of their support, I now work at a leading health care nonprofit, teach women’s studies classes as an adjunct instructor at the university, and founded a local foundation that helps women and girls." – Judith Selzer (MA ‘05)
Core Faculty and Staff

Josephine Beoku-Betts, Professor and Interim Director, Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Sociology / beokubet@fau.edu
561-297-2057 / SO208
Dr. Beoku-Betts arrived at Florida Atlantic University in 1997 as one of two faculty members in Women’s Studies. Prior to coming to FAU, she was on the faculty in the Departments of Women’s Studies and Sociology at the University of Georgia. Her primary research is on postcolonial and feminist standpoint discourses on science with emphasis on the educational and career experiences of African women scientists. Her current research is on Women’s Peace Movements and Post-War Reconstruction in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Jane Caputi, Professor, Ph.D. Bowling Green State University, American Studies / jcaputi@fau.edu
561-297-2056 / SO211
Dr. Caputi arrived at Florida Atlantic University in 1997 as one of two faculty in Women’s Studies. Prior to coming to FAU, she was Professor of American Studies at the University of New Mexico. Her primary research is in contemporary cultural studies, including popular culture, gender and violence, and environmental feminism. She is the author of three books and made an educational documentary, The Pornography of Everyday Life.

Donna Bryan, Office Administrator
dbryan@fau.edu/wsc@fau.edu
561-297-3865 / SO210

I entered the Center for WGSS to understand who I am as a man and what is my understanding of others. My goal is to learn new perspectives of looking at society and the world at large through feminist theories and try to apply them in my practical life. I think that the epistemological and ontological effort of knowing myself and being is important to myself as a human being, as is teaching others to learn to know themselves in the same way. As also a student of writing, I hope this program will immensely help me deal with social, cultural, and religious problems related to gender issues, sex, and sexualities.”

– Tulsil Acharya

“Coming from Germany and entering FAU presents me with the unique opportunity to engage in Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) in an interdisciplinary environment. As these opportunities are limited in my home country, I am looking forward to broadening my perspective of the world we all live in and experiencing this life changing program.”

– Sarah Reinhard
Provost Fellowship recipient 2010/11

More than 35 faculty from departments and colleges across the university are affiliated with the Center, offering courses, advising students, serving on committees and outreach programs, and supporting the research and scholarship of our graduate students.

Our faculty associates maintain active research agendas that address an ever evolving range of topics related to women, feminism, gender, and sexuality, both nationally and globally.
We take pride in encouraging mentoring relationships between students and faculty in research and study and have created a community of women’s gender, and sexuality studies scholars on the FAU campus.

ASSOCIATE FACULTY

Lynn Appleton, Ph.D.,
(University of Chicago)
FAU Department of Sociology

Farshad A. Araghi, Ph.D.,
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Marina Banchetti, Ph.D.,
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Naihua Zhang, Ph.D.,
(Michigan State University)
FAU Department of Sociology
Admission to the Master’s degree in Women’s Studies requires the following:

A baccalaureate or equivalent degree from an accredited institution.

A minimum GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 undergraduate credits and a combined score of 1000 on the Graduate Record Exam in the verbal and quantitative section is preferred.

All students must take the GRE, although those who already have an M.A. at an accredited university according to university policy, may choose to petition for a waiver of this requirement.

A two-page double-spaced, typed essay addressing your interest and/or experience/creative talent in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies graduate work; and your educational and professional goals.

Three letters of recommendation using the form that accompanies this application (at least two letters should be from professors).

The completed application form for a graduate assistantship—should you wish to apply.

The Curriculum
The M.A. degree program provides three options for students: Completion of a thesis and 24 hours of coursework, completion of an internship and 24 hours of coursework, or completion of the degree based upon 36 hours of coursework. Regardless of which option the student selects, the following courses are required: (6 credits)

Feminist Theory and Praxis – WST 6564 – 3 credits
The course is designed to provide a broad overview of some of the current and major debates in contemporary feminist theory and practices and to explore some of the ways that these necessarily intersect.

Global Perspectives on Gender – WST 6936 - 3 credits
This course examines the application and relevance of various conceptual and theoretical approaches to analyzing gender relations in the global South. The impact of internal and globalization processes on gender are explored, locating their manifestations in a historical, cultural, social, economic, and political context.

Options in the M.A. Program

**THESIS OPTION:**
Required Courses: 6 credits
Graduate Seminars in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies: 15 credits
Elective: 3 credits
Thesis Credit: 6 credits
TOTAL THESIS OPTION: 30 CREDITS. The thesis is a formal written work that advances an original point of view through extensive, in-depth research under the guidance of an advisory committee. You should consult with the Director and choose an Advisor as early as possible in your graduate studies if you intend to write a thesis.

**INTERNSHIP OPTION:**
Required Courses: 6 credits
Graduate Seminars in Women Gender and Sexuality Studies: 15 credits
Elective: 3 credits
Internship Credit: 6 credits
TOTAL INTERNSHIP OPTION: 30 CREDITS: The internship involves an extensive apprenticeship at an approved organization under the guidance of the Director or someone approved by the Director. This option is designed to integrate professional work experience with scholarly research.

**NON-THESIS OPTION:**
Required Courses: 9 credits
Graduate Seminars in Women’s Studies: 24 credits
Elective: 3 credits
TOTAL NON-THESIS OPTION: 36 CREDITS: The non-thesis option is particularly useful for students attending part-time.

Note: Only up to 6 hours of Directed Independent Study can be applied to the M.A. degree.
Applications for graduate study must be submitted online and are available on the Graduate College homepage: [www.fau.edu/graduate](http://www.fau.edu/graduate).

**APPLICATIONS DEADLINES**

Applications for graduate study must be submitted online and are available on the Graduate College homepage: [www.fau.edu/graduate](http://www.fau.edu/graduate).

**Deadlines for submitting completed applications:**

For Fall admission: **July 1**

For International applicants: **April 1**

For all applicants interested in obtaining a teaching assistantship: **March 1**

*Note: We do not admit students to the graduate program in the summer.*

**Graduate Teaching Assistantships**

The Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies offers a limited number of Graduate Teaching Assistantship positions to qualified students on a competitive basis. These assistantships include a stipend and a partial tuition and fee waiver and are available for the fall and spring semesters for degree-seeking graduate students whose G.P.A. is at least 3.0.

Graduate Assistantships are sometimes also available through the Graduate Studies Office. These positions include a stipend and partial tuition waiver. A summer deadline is in place for applications for these positions. Interested students should contact the Graduate Studies Office at (561) 297-3624. For more information on these and other financial assistance opportunities, please check the financial opportunities section of the Graduate Catalog.

**Graduate Student Association**

The Women's Studies Graduate Student Association (WSGSA) provides a forum for graduate students, and participation is encouraged. Please contact the WSGSA officers for more information. The WSGSA organizes and holds an annual Women's Studies Graduate Conference, and they organize and participate in campus and community events.

There is also an FAU Graduate Student Association that addresses the needs of all graduate students on the Boca Raton Campus. For more information contact the Graduate Studies Office at (561) 297-3624.

“As a new graduate student at Florida Atlantic University, I have found the Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Center to be very warm and welcoming. Coming to a new school is always difficult, but this program has gone out of its way to make the transition easier. Women’s Studies at FAU has many exciting opportunities to offer, including a graduate teaching assistantship, which will help me accomplish my goal of becoming a professor. I am very excited to be a part of this program. And, of course, the fact that this beautiful campus is located minutes from the beach doesn’t hurt either.”

– Michaela Ten Cate
The Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies offers a variety of graduate seminars. Below is a sampling of courses:

**Women, Violence, and Resistance (WST 6327):** This course considers rape, violence, incest, battery and murder of women as a form of social control.

**Sex/Violence/Hollywood (WST 6339):** This course examines why sex and violence are the two main ingredients of Hollywood cinema and how the two interact to create meanings.

**Women, Environment, Ecofeminism, Environmental Justice (WST 6348):** This course examines the history and evolution of ecofeminist and environmental justice, thought and practice through its major womanist/feminist activists, theorists, and core issues.

**Women of Color in the U.S. (WST 6405):** This course examines how issues of gender, race, ethnicity, and class shape the lives of women of color in the U.S., such as Native American, African American, Latina American, Asian American and Arab American Women.

**Feminist Theory and Praxis (WST 6564):** This course is a survey of major statements in modern and contemporary feminist theory.

**Gender, Health, and Power (WST 6615):** This course assesses the role of power relations, particularly gender, ethnicity, social class, religion, and globalization in shaping health status, the illness experiences and outcomes, and the form and substance of medical options available in local communities around the world.

**Global Perspectives on Gender (WST 6936):** This course is an interdisciplinary study of women and gender issues in global perspective. It explores theoretical and thematic issues impacting women and gender across race, class, sexuality and nation.

**Feminization of Poverty (WST 6938):** This course examines issues pertaining to the feminization of poverty from a feminist and comparative perspective.

**Women, War, and Peace Building (WST 6185):** This course examines the gendered nature of armed conflicts in civil and across international spaces, with emphasis on the distinctive ways in which women and girls are affected and strategies they employ to attain peace and reconfigure gender roles in post-armed conflict societies.

**Directed Independent Study (WST 6909):** 1-3 credits. Reading and Research in women, gender, and sexuality studies interdisciplinary topics.

**Graduate Research Seminar in Women’s Studies (WST 6919):** Graduate project in research related to internship.

**Special Topics (WST 6934):** Reading and research in interdisciplinary women’s studies topics.

**Graduate Internship in Women’s Studies (WST 6941):** Internship with an agency or office pertaining to women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. Must be taken simultaneously with WST 6919.

**Master’s Thesis (WST 6971):** 1-6 credits.

*The following courses are now offered to build non-profit management skills:*

**PAD6233 Seminar in Grants Writing**

**PAD6142 Management of Non-Profit Organizations**

The Women’s Studies program has opened my eyes to new perspectives and has dramatically influenced the work I do as a graduate student. I am inspired to continue in the program and then move on to get a Ph.D in which I can research and educate in an area that is not only important to the well being of women but society as a whole. Being a part of this program has dramatically changed who I am. The way I think, the way I write, the way I interact with the world around me have all been profoundly altered in such a positive way. – Megan Tomei

**Find us on Facebook, search for FAU Women’s Studies**

www.fau.edu/WomensStudies