

New Graduate

Course and Curriculum Proposal from: The Women's Studies Program

**TITLE.** Creating a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

## **II. CONTENT OF PROPOSALS**

### **A. PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND CATALOG COPY.**

**SUMMARY.** The Women's Studies Program is proposing a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. This certificate will require students to complete 12 credit hours divided up as follows: 2 core courses and 2 elective courses.

#### **1. PROPOSED CATALOG COPY.**

### **GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**

#### **Women's Studies Program**

<http://womensstudies.UNC Charlotte.edu>

#### **Degree**

Graduate Certificate

#### **Coordinator:**

Coral Wayland, Director of Women's Studies

### **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**

The Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies can be earned in conjunction with master's or doctoral work in a wide variety of subjects. The certificate can also be earned through a freestanding course of study not linked to a graduate degree. The Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies will expose students from a variety of disciplines to the core theories and approaches used in studies of women, gender (which includes masculinity), feminism and sexuality.

The certificate program is open to all students who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited university and either:

- 1.) are enrolled and in good standing in a graduate degree program at UNC Charlotte, or
- 2.) have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75.

All students are admitted to the Graduate School in a special category for certificate programs. In addition to the general requirements for graduate certificate programs explained elsewhere in the catalog, students should submit a letter explaining the applicant's educational and work background, interests, and plans, with an emphasis on how this certificate will enhance, complement, or advance the applicant's work and/or education.

## **Certificate Requirements**

The Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies requires the completion of a minimum of 12 credit hours of graduate course work. This includes 2 core courses and 2 elective courses.

**Core Courses:** Students are required to complete 2 of the following courses. Students should select the courses that most closely reflect their interests.

- WMST 6601. Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality
- WMST 6602. Theoretical Approaches to Gender
- WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power
- WMST 6627. Feminist Theory and its Applications

**Electives:** Students are also required to complete 2 elective courses at the graduate level. Any graduate level course offered by the Women's Studies Program will count as an elective. Elective courses can also come from other disciplines. These courses may be seminars, directed readings or directed research courses as long as they focus on women, gender, feminism or sexuality. Students wishing to use a course offered in another department or program as an elective should have the Director of Women's Studies approve the course prior to enrolling in it.

## **Transfer Credit**

Transfer credit is not accepted in the certificate program.

### **B. JUSTIFICATION.**

1. Identify the need addressed by the proposal and explain how the proposed action meets the need.

We envision that most of the students enrolled in this certificate will concurrently be enrolled in a graduate program. The Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies will expose graduate students to major interdisciplinary research on women, gender, feminism and sexuality. As such, it will complement the training they receive in their discipline. For a student to plan quality research on any topic, she/he needs to transcend disciplinary boundaries and develop a thorough understanding of the interdisciplinary research on their topic. While there are opportunities for graduate students at UNC Charlotte to become familiar with the relevant literature in their discipline, there are few opportunities to learn about key theories, concepts and methods outside of a student's discipline. The Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies is designed to provide students with the intellectual foundation necessary for students to think, speak and write critically about these issues.

Others poised to benefit from this graduate certificate program are those already doing or planning to do work for or about women in an applied setting and those in business careers who seek to understand better our diverse workforce. The Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies will enable practicing professionals to expand the scope of their professional activity to include gender issues and debates. As such, some professionals may find it useful for expanding career opportunities.

Finally, this certificate will provide students with formal recognition for the specialized training they receive. A Graduate Certificate is a formal statement of the interdisciplinary coursework a student has completed and should prove useful—as it has at other universities—as a professional credential to those seeking employment after graduation. No Women’s Studies Graduate Certificate at any university in the U.S. is awarded by any outside certifying agency, nor has the National Women’s Studies Association set up any specific criteria for what must be included in a WS Graduate Certificate (see [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)). “Certificate” (and sometimes “Graduate Minor”) is the standard language being used across the country to designate this training.

Creating a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies is consistent with peer institutions and national trends. While fewer than a dozen U.S. universities offer Ph.D.s in Women’s Studies, some 75 offer Graduate Certificates in areas related to Women’s Studies. Clearly, the Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies will continue the Women’s Studies Program’s leadership and put us on par with several universities in the state.

2. Discuss prerequisites/corequisites for course(s) including class-standing.

Students pursuing the certificate must have graduate standing. There are no pre-requisites for the core courses in the certificate.

3. Demonstrate that course numbering is consistent with the level of academic advancement of students for whom it is intended.

Core courses for the certificate are numbered at the 6000 level so both master’s and doctoral students can pursue the certificate. A separate course and curriculum proposal has been previously submitted for these courses.

4. In general, how will this proposal improve the scope, quality and/or efficiency of programs and/or instruction?

The graduate certificate will expand the Women’s Studies programming into graduate studies. Individually, the core courses for the certificate will expose graduate students to the major interdisciplinary research on gender, feminism and sexuality. As such, they will complement the training students receive in other disciplines.

Additionally, two of the core courses for the certificate WMST 6627. Feminist Philosophy and its Applications and WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power will be crosslisted with other programs (Philosophy and the Masters in Liberal Studies, respectively). This should provide WMST, PHIL and MALS with an opportunity to maximize enrollments at the graduate level.

### **C. IMPACT.**

1. What group(s) of students will be served by this proposal?

We anticipate that the majority of the students enrolled in this certificate will be master's and doctoral students who are concurrently enrolled in other graduate programs. Preliminary emails were sent to directors of graduate programs to assess potential interest in the graduate certificate and many (including a few from the College of Health and Human Services) responded that they thought some of their students would pursue the certificate. We also anticipate that some graduate students who do not pursue the certificate will enroll in one or more of the core classes for the certificate. This is plausible because many graduate programs accept some credit from other departments and programs. Finally, there may be a few students who enroll solely in the graduate certificate program.

2. What effect will this proposal have on existing courses and curricula?
  - a. When and how often will added course(s) be taught?

We will schedule one core course per semester, for a two year rotation of classes. For example:

**Year 1**

*Fall:* WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power

*Spring:* WMST 6601. Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality

**Year 2**

*Fall:* WMST 6627. Feminist Theory and its Applications

*Spring:* WMST 6602. Theoretical Approaches to Gender

Electives will be independently scheduled by departments and crosslisted with WMST if they are interested in doing so.

- b. How will the content and/or frequency of offering of other courses be affected?

Neither the content nor the frequency of offering of other courses will be affected.

- c. What is the anticipated enrollment in course(s) added (for credit and auditors)?

At this point it is difficult to determine the number of students who will pursue the certificate. If we anticipate that an average of 1 student per year will enroll from departments who have expressed support for the proposal, then approximately 13 students will enroll per year.

- d. How will enrollment in other courses be affected? How did you determine this?

We do not anticipate that enrollments in other courses will be substantially altered. The only possible effect is that graduate students will take fewer courses in their own departments (because they take core courses in WMST). This will not, however, appreciably decrease enrollments in any single department or program. Graduate programs limit the number of courses students may take in other programs. These classes may also help departments with limited graduate faculty meet the needs of their graduate students.

- e. If course(s) has been offered previously under special topics numbers, give details of experience including number of times taught and enrollment figures.

Not applicable. No previous graduate certificate in this area exists at UNC Charlotte.

f. Identify other areas of catalog copy that would be affected, e.g., curriculum outlines, requirements for the degree, etc.

None.

#### **D. RESOURCES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL.**

When added resources are not required, indicate “none”. For items which require “none” explain how this determination was made.

##### **1. Personnel**

- a. Specify requirements for new faculty, part-time teaching, student assistant and/or increased load on present faculty.

We have adequate faculty to teach each of the core courses. Women’s Studies will use funds from its part-time faculty allocation to buy out instructors for WMST 6601 and WMST 6602. The primary instructor for WMST 6603, Katherine Stephenson, is already released from her department to teach this course once every two years. In the event that Dr. Stephenson could not teach this course, Women’s Studies would provide a course buy-out for the alternate instructor. WMST 6627 is taught by Philosophy as a regular part of its graduate offerings. Since this course will be crosslisted, Philosophy will not need a course buy-out. In the event that a Philosophy faculty member cannot teach the course at the scheduled time, Women’s Studies will buy-out a faculty member from another department to teach the course. Women’s Studies receives a substantial part-time allocation every semester so this should not pose a problem.

The Director of Women’s Studies will supervise the administration of the graduate certificate.

- b. List by name qualified faculty members interested in teaching the course(s).

*WMST 6601. Theoretical Approaches to Sexuality*

Ann Burlein, Religious Studies

Robin James, Philosophy

Katherine Stephenson, Languages and Culture Studies

Jennifer Munroe, English

Coral Wayland, Anthropology

*WMST 6602. Theoretical Approaches to Gender*

Judy Aulette, Sociology

Chantal Tetreault, Anthropology

Lori Van Wallendael, Psychology

Beth Gargano, English

Melissa Feinberg, History

Coral Wayland, Anthropology

Lisa Rashotte, Sociology

*WMST 6603. Language, Gender and Power*

Katherine Stephenson, Languages and Culture Studies  
Elizabeth Miller, English  
Chantal Tetreault, Anthropology  
*WMST 6672. Feminist Theory and its Applications*  
Robin James, Philosophy  
Rosie Tong, Philosophy  
Judy Aulette, Sociology  
Beth Gargano, English  
Melissa Feinberg, History  
Katherine Stephenson, Languages and Culture Studies

## 2. Physical Facility

None. Core courses are taught as seminars so existing classrooms on campus are adequate.

## 3. Equipment and Supplies

Equipment needs for the core courses are the standard ones associated with all classes (e.g., paper, course evaluations, etc). The costs of these supplies will be covered by the Women's Studies operating budget.

## 4. Computer

None. The core courses are reading intensive seminars. As such, they require no special computing facilities. The computing labs available on campus will be adequate to meet students' needs for conducting research and writing papers.

## 5. Audio-Visual

None. The core courses are reading intensive seminars that have no special audio or visual requirements.

## 6. Other Resources

We will print promotional/information flyers for the certificate. Funds for this will come from the WMST operating budget.

## 7. Indicate source(s) of funding for new/additional resources required to support this proposal.

All expenses will be paid out of Women's Studies budgets or the Women's Studies part-time allocation.

## **E. CONSULTATION WITH THE LIBRARY AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR UNITS**

### 1. Library Consultation

Indicate written consultation with the Library Reference Staff at the departmental level to insure that library holdings are adequate to support the proposal prior to its leaving the department. (Attach copy of *Consultation on Library Holdings*).

A consultation with the library was initiated on October 20, 2006 about the four courses that form the core of this certificate. Copies of these consultations are attached.

## 2. Consultation with other departments or units

Directors of graduate programs in the social sciences, humanities, and college of health and human services were contacted on October 13, 2006. Letters of support were solicited and are attached.

## F. INITIATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL

### 1. Originating Unit

This proposal was discussed and unanimously approved by the Women's Studies Steering Committee on 10/20/06

### 2. Other Considering Units

Health Psychology (Ph.D.)  
Anthropology (proposed M.A.)  
Communication (M.A.)  
Criminal Justice (M.A.)  
English (M.A.)  
Gerontology (M.A.)  
History (M.A.)  
Liberal Studies (M.A.)  
Philosophy (M.A.)  
Religious Studies (M.A.)  
Sociology (M.A.)  
Social Work (M.S.W.)  
Nursing (multiple degrees)

## ATTACHMENTS

### 3. Attach relevant documentation of consultations with other units.

Library Consultation

Letters of support from:

- Health Psychology (Ph.D.)
- Anthropology (proposed M.A.)
- Communication (M.A.)
- Criminal Justice (M.A.)
- English (M.A.)
- Gerontology (M.A.)

- History (M.A.)
- Liberal Studies (M.A.)
- Philosophy (M.A.)
- Religious Studies (M.A.)
- Sociology (M.A.)
- Social Work (M.S.W.)
- Nursing (multiple graduate degrees)

**4. For Graduate Courses attach a course syllabus.**

Not applicable. Core courses have been submitted in a separate course and curriculum proposal.