

Gender Studies -- Academic Learning Compact

The Program in Gender Studies at New College of Florida offers a joint-disciplinary area of concentration, which means that students combine their work in GS with work in another established discipline (Art History, Anthropology, Biology, etc). The requirements for the GS program are designed so that students are: exposed to the ways in which disciplines across the Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences employ gender analysis; introduced to interdisciplinary scholarship and encouraged to make concrete connections between academic work and social engagement; and supported in their application of gender analysis in their work in their home discipline.

Expected Outcomes of a Joint-Disciplinary AOC in Gender Studies:

Content Knowledge

- A grounding in the theories of gender in a global context (e.g., social and cultural) and across disciplines.
- Familiarity with the practice of interdisciplinary scholarship.
- An understanding of diversity: how gender intersects with race, class, ethnicity and regional origin.
- Familiarity with the historical development of theories of sex and gender, including Women's and minority rights.
- The ability to apply gender theory to material in other disciplines.

Communication Skills:

- The ability to express one's ideas clearly and with nuance in writing and speech.
- The ability to write analytic and research papers following standard academic conventions (MLA, Chicago, etc).
- The ability to articulate in writing and speech the points of intersection among disciplines.

Critical Thinking Skills:

- The ability to use theoretical frameworks to analyze gender and related social issues.
- The ability to synthesize information from multiple disciplines as it relates to gender and/or sexualities for individuals, groups, and cultures.
- The ability to analyze primary materials (texts, data) in a variety of disciplines through the lens of gender theory.
- The ability to accurately situate the theoretical stance of secondary (theoretical/critical) material and to evaluate its claims.
- The ability to critically analyze works and ideas in their historical, cultural or disciplinary context.
- The ability to make concrete connections between academic work and social engagement.
- The ability to participate in an informed and coherent manner in debate on controversial topics.

Course mapping: (a project = a full-term course or tutorial, or an ISP)

	<u>Content</u>	<u>Critical Thinking</u>	<u>Communication</u>
Two or more projects in the Humanities	X	X	X
Two or more projects in the Social Sciences	X	X	X
One or more projects in the Natural Sciences .	X	X	X
One project on gender or feminist theory	X	X	X
One project (among those listed above) must be cross-cultural or deal with gender as it intersects with race, ethnicity, and/or social class.	X	X	X
Senior thesis that focuses on or raises gender-related issues.	X	X	X
Internship or volunteer experience with an agency or non-profit organization working in a gender studies related field [*this is strongly encouraged but not required for the AOC].	X	X	X

Measures for Tracking Student progress:

- Evaluations for projects in GS and Contract Certifications
- Gender Studies Worksheet
- The Provisional Area of Concentration form and the Thesis Prospectus.

Before filing the Provisional Area of Concentration form (in the 5th semester), students complete the Gender Studies Worksheet in consultation with a faculty member affiliated with GS; this provides students with a clear overview of the work they have completed and what needs to be done to fulfill the AOC. Evaluations received for projects in GS (cross-listed courses, tutorials, ISPs) provide students and their advisors with information about student progress and achievement in the field, which may be included on Contract Certification forms. Plans for the completion of remaining requirements are clearly spelled out in the Provisional AOC form and/or on the Thesis Prospectus.

Specific Measures to Demonstrate each Graduate's Competencies:

- Thesis Evaluation
- Baccalaureate Evaluation

The thesis advisor and baccalaureate exam committee, which will include at least one faculty member affiliated with GS, will evaluate the senior thesis for mastery of content, use of appropriate gender theory and research techniques, critical analysis, and clarity of written expression. The baccalaureate exam will evaluate the student's ability to express their ideas clearly, and his/her critical thinking as they respond to questions from the committee on the thesis, the student's overall academic record and, where appropriate, their internship/volunteer experience. These assessments will be recorded on the Baccalaureate Evaluation form.