



WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

Beatrice Kachuck — Co-coordinators
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PERSPECTIVE

The Women's Studies Program at Brooklyn College was initiated at the grassroots level by students, faculty, and staff. It became an official part of the college structure in 1974.

Women's Studies is an academic discipline devoted to knowledge that is free from gender bias. The program provides a feminist perspective on the myths and realities of women's lives. Studies of individuals, institutions, and intellectual ideas are approached from historical, cross-cultural, and contemporary viewpoints. The feminist scholars who teach our courses come from various departments; individually and collectively, they provide an interdisciplinary framework to the program. The feminist perspective not only introduces enriched understanding of traditional studies but also bridges important areas of knowledge among other disciplines.

THE PROGRAM

The program is governed by a steering committee of faculty, students, and staff. Students participate in developing curriculum and learning how to deal with administrative, budget, and personnel problems.

Students become part of a lively and dynamic community that reflects feminist philosophy and interacts with all aspects of university life. We sponsor conferences, symposia, lecture series, a club, and festivals. Celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month has become an annual campus event. The office is a place to drop in, find out what's happening on and off campus--in addition to the usual academic conferences. We work cooperatively with the college's Women's Center and its diverse programs and services.

CAREER OPTIONS

Students in Women's Studies courses have a special advantage. They increase their understanding of options that are available in both traditional and non-traditional academic fields and in professional careers. Women's Studies majors are prepared for graduate work in any field for which liberal arts studies are a prerequisite. This includes political science, law, anthropology, business, psychology, medicine, economics, computer science, journalism, education, history and sociology.

Employment opportunities immediately after graduation are numerous and varied, in the public and private sector, and also in non-profit organizations and institutions. With the confidence gained from studies that break through gender stereotypes, students can consider new options, e.g., office and agency management, scientific research, communication media, computers, architecture and engineering. We are especially interested in helping students to expand their occupational and personal horizons.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

The program offers an interdisciplinary co-major. Students combine a concentration in Women's Studies with any one of 40 other fields. Courses for the major are drawn from the program's own offerings and from co-listed electives in various departments.

Students who are not majors are welcome to select courses in the program.

The Major

Students take 18 credits. Required:

Women's Studies 10.7 Introduction to Women's Studies: Social Science
3 hours; 3 credits.

General survey to introduce students to basic issues and scholarship dealing with women's role in society. Analyzing the sources of inequality, the role and position of women, psychological consequences for women's self-image and motivation, the women's movement in relation to other social movements, women's careers.

Women's Studies 10.8 Introduction to Women's Studies: Humanities
3 hours; 3 credits.

Images of women in cultures, as expressed in novels, diaries, poetry and visual arts, e.g., painting, film, sculpture, photo. Discussion of female and male writers and artists and how they see women.

Women's Studies 83 Senior Seminar.
3 hours; 3 credits.

Advanced seminar to study interdisciplinary theory and methodology applied to a selected theme. Students completing the course with distinction are recommended for honors.

Nine Credits Chosen From the Following:

Women's Studies 32 Women's Popular Culture: Creation in the Arts
Crafts and Music
3 hours; 3 credits.

Aspects of women's experience reclaimed from their own records in arts, crafts, letters, diaries, and folk songs. Social influence on criteria for defining "art."

Women's Studies 34 The Lesbian Experience.
3 hours; 3 credits.

Interdisciplinary study of lesbianism, focusing on but not limited to Western culture. The course materials include works from history, psychology, sociology, literature, and the arts.

Women's Studies 35 Women and Medicine: A Feminist Perspective.

3 hours; 3 credits.

A feminist analysis of modern medical systems and women's place in them as medical workers and consumers of medical services.

Women's Studies 36 Sex, Power, and Money: A Political Economy of Women.

3 hours; 3 credits.

Economic and political analysis of women's power in U.S. society. Women as paid workers in the formal economic structure and as unpaid workers in the parallel home economy.

Women's Studies 58 Special Topics in Humanities.

3 hours; 3 credits.

Selected topics vary from term to term. May be taken for credit twice but may not repeat topics.

Women's Studies 59 Special Topics in Social Science.

3 hours; 3 credits.

Selected topics vary from term to term. May be taken for credit twice but may not repeat topics. Offerings: Education and Career Choices; Reproductive Rights; Feminist Issues and World Peace.

Women's Studies 81.1 Interdisciplinary Project: Humanities.

Minimum of 9 hours conference and independent work; 3 credits.

Independent or group project in the humanities approved by a faculty committee. The project must involve more than one department in the college.

Women's Studies 81.2 Interdisciplinary Project: Social Science.

Same as Women's Studies 81.1, in Social Science.

CO-LISTED COURSES:

- Africana Studies 44.6: The Black Woman in America
- Anthropology 31: Women: Anthropological Perspectives
- Art 15.6: Women in Modern Art
- Classics 54: Women in Classical Antiquity
- Comparative Literature 46: European Literature by Women
Writers
- Economics 40.4: Economics of Welfare and Social Security
- English 11.1: the section, "Creative Writing from a Feminist
Perspective"
- English 50.4: Women and Literature
- Film 22: Women in Film
- Health Science 35: Human Sexuality
- History 27.8: Women in Modern Europe
- History 43.14: Daughters of the Promised Land: Women in
American History
- Home Economics and Consumer Studies 62: Women and their Roles:
Changing Perspectives
- Home Economics and Consumer Studies 64: Human Sexuality
- Judaic Studies 17: The Jewish Woman
- Philosophy 6: Ethics and Society
- Political Science 53: Contemporary Political Thought
- Political Science 77.6: Women in Comparative Political Perspective
- Psychology 34: Psychological Study of Women
- Puerto Rican Studies 19: Women in Puerto Rican Society
- Sociology 51.5: Female and Male: The Sociology of Gender

FACULTY

Our faculty members are stimulating teachers. They are also feminist scholars, researchers, authors, lecturers, political activists, and performers. The teaching faculty includes the following professors and instructors.

Harriet Alonso (Women's Center)	Judith Lorber (Sociology)
Bonnie Anderson (History)	Doris Meyer (Modern Languages)
Rachel Brownstein (English)	Lilia Melani (English)
Renate Bridenthal (History)	Marguerite F. Olmos (Modern Languages)
Pamella Farley (English)	Karel Rose (Education)
Renee Feinberg (Library)	Nancy Romer (Psychology)
Beatrice Kachuck (Education)	Roberta Satow (Sociology)
Patricia Lander (Anthropology)	Catherine Silver (Sociology)
Carole Livingston (English)	Mary Wiseman (Philosophy)

The Steering Committee includes current teaching faculty in Women's Studies and also Professors Ruth Allen (Home Economics), Gertrude Berger (Education), Jackie Eubanks (Library), Lucille Goodman (Music), Regine Latortue (Africana Studies), Sally Lipsey (Math), Suki Nishi (Sociology), Philippa Strum (Political Science), Vera Tarr (Education), Judy Tick (Music), Fredrica Wachsberger (Art), Patricia Quercia, Office Administrator, and representatives of the Women's Studies Club.

Members of our faculty do research and write on issues such as re-thinking the family, patriarchy, sexuality, educational equity, and comparable worth; they challenge ideas and values regarding women's roles, images, sexuality, and education--in a variety of contexts ranging from writing scholarly books and articles to making speeches at conventions, doing legislative lobbying, organizing teach-in demonstrations, and performing in the arts; they sponsor events stressing women's contribution to the arts and culture; they organize workshops and seminars to introduce women's concerns in the curriculum and they are part of a national network of women's studies

keeping abreast of social, political and legislative changes.

LIBRARY

The Brooklyn College Library houses an unusually large and distinctive collection of published work on and by women. The Women's Studies Program Archives include unpublished material for enriched and original research by students and faculty.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Call the Women's Studies Program at 780-5476 and ask to speak to Patricia Quercia, Office Administrator, or either Catherine Silver or Beatrice Kachuck, Co-coordinators.