

January 26, 2009

TO: Scott Coltrane, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

FROM: 2008-9 College of Arts and Science Curriculum Committee

Chair: John Halliwill, Human Physiology
Karen McPherson, Romance Languages
Ben Saunders, English
Josh Roering, Geology
Trudy Cameron, Economics
Caleb Southworth, Sociology

SUBJECT: Women's and Gender Studies' proposal to revise requirements for their major

Upon request of the CAS Dean's Office, the CAS Curriculum Committee has reviewed the Women's and Gender Studies program's proposal and finds their rationale for reducing the number of credits required to satisfy their major to be convincing.

The Committee unanimously approved these changes, which are well summarized in the first page of the 4 page request from WGSt. The proposal includes a reduction from 68 to 48 total credits required for the major. At first glance, this may appear a severe change, but in reality it reflects the growth and acceptance of the field of women's and gender studies. When first developed, students pursuing this major were required to also complete another major or minor, to provide broader opportunities for students earning what was not yet a widely recognized degree. As this field of study is now widely recognized, it seems a reasonable step to no longer require the additional major/minor. These changes lead to a major that is more comparable in terms of course load to other majors in the college.

Key CAS Dean's office personnel have preliminarily reviewed the budgetary impact of the proposed changes and have determined that they are unlikely to require additional financial resources.

The Women's and Gender Studies Program hopes to implement these changes as early as Fall 2009. Following your approval, this proposal will be forwarded to Gwen Steigelman in Academic Affairs, who will shepherd it through whatever further review is deemed appropriate.

cc: Ellen Scott, Women's and Gender Studies Program Director
Scott Pratt, CAS Associate Dean overseeing curricular issues
Marianne Nicols, Sr. Associate Dean

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Coltrane', written over a horizontal line.

CAS Endorsement

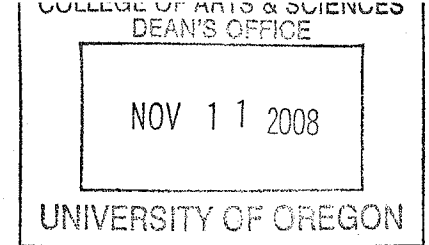
1-29-09

Date

JH:lw



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



To: CAS Curriculum Committee
From: Ellen Scott, Director Women's and Gender Studies
Date: November 10, 2008
RE: Curriculum Change for WGS Major

WGS would like to change the credit hour requirements for the WGS major.

In reviewing our requirements relative to other major requirements, we realized that WGS has an exceedingly large number of credits required to graduate (68, recently reduced from 72). We have historically required students to EITHER double major OR do a WGS major (44 credits) with a minor or concentration in another field (24 credits). This was initially intended to help assure that students who wanted to go to graduate school had the appropriate foundation in a more traditional discipline, because there are few PhD programs in Women and Gender Studies (although this is changing). Few of our students tend to go to graduate school and those that do get the advising they need to guide them and assure they will be adequately prepared to apply to schools. Therefore, the original rationale for this extraordinary load seems irrelevant. Further, WGS has come to be seen as a legitimate discipline in which one could major, although when the major was founded this was still a point of contention, hence the required additional concentration/minor in a traditional field. Thus, we feel there are no longer any compelling reasons to require students to do extra course work to graduate with a WGS major and indeed we fear this may be an obstacle to our attracting more majors.

Therefore, we propose that the WGS major entail 48 credits, outlined in the attached proposed catalogue copy. We added 4 credits to the 24 elective credits currently required. Those 4 credits have been designated as any level course with either a WGS subject code or an approved cross-listed course. In the future, we may design either a required 200 level course or a required 400 level capstone course to replace the open 4 additional credits. For now, the most expeditious way to add four credits to create a 48 credit major is to keep it open.

Finally, this change would not unduly burden our majors and thus we can implement the change immediately, effective next year. Because we are merely eliminating a requirement and not substituting it with something else, students planning to graduate next year can do so easily.

Attached please find the current catalogue copy and the proposed catalogue copy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

315 Hendricks Hall, 1298 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1298

T (541) 346-5529 F (541) 346-0652 <http://www.uoregon.edu/~wgs>

Scott Pratt

PROPOSED CATALOGUE COPY

Major Requirements

The Women's and Gender Studies Program offers an undergraduate major leading to a bachelor of arts (B.A.) or bachelor of science (B.S.) degree. Majors must construct their programs in consultation with women's and gender studies advisers.

48 credits are required, distributed as follows:

Specific Courses 20 credits

Women, Difference, and Power (WGS 101)	4
History and Development of Feminist Theory (WGS 315)	4
Feminist Perspectives: Identity, Race, and Culture (WGS 321)	4
Feminist Praxis (WGS 411)	4
Advanced Feminist Theory (WGS 415)	4

Electives 28 credits

Approved courses with the WGS subject code	8
Approved courses that deal with the history of women	8
Upper-division courses with the WGS subject code or approved upper-division courses with subject codes other than WGS	8
Lower- or Upper-division course with the WGS subject code or approved course with subject codes other than WGS at upper or lower division	4

Courses used to satisfy major requirements must be taken for letter grades except for Thesis (WGS 403), Reading and Conference (WGS 405), Field Studies (WGS 406), Practicum (WGS 409), and Feminist Pedagogy (WGS 413); no more than 13 credits taken pass/no pass in these courses may be counted toward the major. At least 32 credits must be in upper-division courses.

At least 24 upper-division credits must be taken at the University of Oregon. Women's and gender studies majors must attain a grade point average of 2.50 or higher in courses applied to the major; graded courses in the major must be completed with grades of C or higher.

There will be budgetary implications if additional courses need to be offered 11-14-08

Counts as a major change.

Refer to Curriculum committee.

M. S. Nichols

11/18/2008

CURRENT CATALOGUE COPY

Major Requirements

The Women's and Gender Studies Program offers an undergraduate major leading to a bachelor of arts (B.A.) or bachelor of science (B.S.) degree. Students may major in women's and gender studies alone or as one of two or more majors. Majors must construct their programs in consultation with women's and gender studies advisers.

For double majors, a total of 44 credits are required, distributed as follows:

Specific Courses 20 credits

Women, Difference, and Power (WGS 101)	4
History and Development of Feminist Theory (WGS 315)	4
Feminist Perspectives: Identity, Race, and Culture (WGS 321)	4
Feminist Praxis (WGS 411)	4
Advanced Feminist Theory (WGS 415)	4

Electives 24 credits

Approved courses with the WGS subject code	8
Approved courses that deal with the history of women	8
Upper-division courses with the WGS subject code or approved upper-division courses with subject codes other than WGS	8

Students whose sole major is women's and gender studies must complete the following additional requirement for a total of **72 credits**: **[THIS IS INCORRECT, SHOULD BE 68 CREDITS. I'VE ASKED THAT THIS BE CORRECTED MANY TIMES AND HAVE ASKED AGAIN.]**

24 credits

Courses that make up a coherent course of study, either by fulfilling the requirements of an existing minor program or by pursuing a disciplinary emphasis if there is no minor in that field of study. Courses proposed for the emphasis must have the written approval of a women's and gender studies adviser from the designated department or program 24

Courses used to satisfy major requirements must be taken for letter grades except for Thesis (WGS 403), Reading and Conference (WGS 405), Field Studies (WGS 406), Practicum (WGS 409), and Feminist Pedagogy (WGS 413); no more than 13 credits taken pass/no pass in these courses may be counted toward the major. At least 32 credits must be in upper-division courses.

At least 24 upper-division credits must be taken at the University of Oregon. Women's and gender studies majors must attain a grade point average of 2.50 or higher in courses

applied to the major; graded courses in the major must be completed with grades of C or higher.