Critical Gender Studies

(Formerly Women's Studies)

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Critical Gender Studies

The UCSD Critical Gender Studies Program, formerly Women's Studies, is an interdisciplinary academic program, offering students the opportunity to study gender, race, class, sexuality, and nationalism as intersecting categories of analysis and experience. Some basic questions that anchor the program's core curriculum include asking how these categories become institutionalized and yet change over time? How do they work together to shape individual identity? Contribute to the organization of social life? Become essential to the production of many different kinds of knowledge about that life?

The program's core curriculum builds upon feminist scholarship of the last decade, incorporating the new interdisciplinary agendas, intellectual debates, changing methodological practices, and major scholarly shifts that have reshaped the field of women's studies. Informed by the insights of critical race feminism, feminist critiques of conventional domains of knowledge, and gay and lesbian inquisitions challenging traditional understandings and assumptions about sexuality, this new core curriculum is designed to move students beyond simple binary descriptions and contemporary, popularized accounts of gender. Instead, gender is analyzed in the full complexity of its construction over time and in a variety of cultural, scholarly, and global arenas.

Students can expect to encounter a rich spectrum of approaches in studying these complex constructions—the majority of a student's advanced work in the program consists of upper division courses from history, communication, literature, ethnic studies, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and political science. However, despite their important differences, what these approaches share is a critical stance with respect to the subject of gender. This stance, reflected in the program's name "Critical Gender Studies," refutes easy answers when exploring the social relations of gender and reaches, instead, for detailed accounts of the intricacies and paradoxes of power through which these relations are and have been made and maintained.

Critical gender studies prepares undergraduates for a variety of careers through the study of social, political, economic, historical, and cultural contexts. For example, the interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary course work that students complete as part of a major in critical gender studies provides an excellent foundation for those students with career aspirations in law, medicine and health sciences, public administration, and social services. Students wishing to pursue doctoral work will also find that interdisciplinary training in critical gender studies equips them with theoretical and methodological strengths in most disciplines and applied research fields. Specialists in gender studies are increasingly being used as consultants in industry, higher education, insurance companies, and personnel firms. State and federal government agencies require people who have special training in analyzing gender relations. Finally, educational institutions need specialists to develop and administer women's centers and gay and lesbian centers as well as other institutional structures and programs.

The Critical Gender Studies Program offers two options of study: an undergraduate major and an undergraduate minor (or program of concentration). To declare a major, a department stamp is required. Because critical gender studies is an interdisciplinary major, it is important to work closely with a faculty adviser in the planning of your program.
Preparation for the Major and Minor

All critical gender studies majors and minors are required to take the Introduction to Critical Gender Studies sequence: Critical Gender Studies 2A-8, 100, and 101.

Major Program

Students are required to concentrate in one of five cluster areas: culture and representation; sexualities; work, migration, and globalization; science, technology, and medicine; history, society, and inequalities. Concentrating in a cluster area entails taking five upper-division courses (twenty units) in that area. To complete the major, students are required to complete five additional upper-division courses (twenty units) in cluster areas outside their chosen area of concentration. At least one of the five upper-division courses a student takes outside their chosen area of concentration must be selected from the program’s upper-division course list.

CONCENTRATION IN CULTURE AND REPRESENTATION

Group A. Five upper-division courses (twenty units) in the culture and representation cluster area from the critical gender studies approved course list.

Group B. Five upper-division courses (twenty units) in cluster areas other than culture and representation to be selected from the critical gender studies approved and petitionable course list. At least one of these courses must be chosen from Critical Gender Studies 102-103-104. All five courses may be chosen from Critical Gender Studies 102-103-104 (i.e., each course may be repeated once, provided the course content is different). A maximum of three courses (twelve units) may be selected in any one cluster area.

CONCENTRATION IN SEXUALITIES

Group A. Five upper-division courses (twenty units) in the sexualities cluster area, from the critical gender studies approved course list.

Group B. Five upper-division courses (twenty units) in cluster areas other than sexualities to be selected from the critical gender studies approved and petitionable course list. At least one of these courses must be chosen from Critical Gender Studies 102-103-104. All five courses may be chosen from Critical Gender Studies 102-103-104 (i.e., each course may be repeated once, provided the course content is different). A maximum of three courses (twelve units) may be selected in any one cluster area.

CONCENTRATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MEDICINE

Group A. Five upper-division courses (twenty units) in the science, technology, and medicine cluster area, from the critical gender studies approved course list.

Group B. Five upper-division courses (twenty units) in cluster areas other than science, technology, and medicine to be selected from the critical gender studies approved and petitionable course list. At least one of these courses must be chosen from Critical Gender Studies 102-103-104. All five courses may be chosen from Critical Gender Studies 102-103-104 (i.e., each course may be repeated once, provided the course content is different). A maximum of three courses (twelve units) may be selected in any one cluster area.

CONCENTRATION IN HISTORY, SOCIETY, AND INEQUALITIES

Group A. Five upper-division courses (twenty units) in the history, society, and inequalities cluster area, from the critical gender studies approved course list.

Group B. Five upper-division courses (twenty units) in cluster areas other than history, society, and inequalities to be selected from the critical gender studies approved and petitionable course list. At least one of these courses must be chosen from Critical Gender Studies 102-103-104. All five courses may be chosen from Critical Gender Studies 102-103-104 (i.e., each course may be repeated once, provided the course content is different). A maximum of three courses (twelve units) may be selected in any one cluster area.

Honors Program

The Critical Gender Studies Honors Program allows advanced critical gender studies majors to pursue individual projects in the context of collective intellectual exchange with their peers and advising faculty. Students are eligible if they a) have senior standing at the time they begin the program, b) are approved by the critical gender studies faculty director and steering committee. Normally, students eligible for honors will have a 3.5 grade-point average in upper-division courses taken for the major, but highly motivated students who do not meet this criterion may be admitted to the program at the discretion of the director and the critical gender studies steering committee.

In the fall quarter of their senior year, students take the Honors Seminar (CGS 190), taught by a member of the critical gender studies faculty. The first half of the quarter is devoted to intensive analysis and discussion of recent publications in the fields of gender and sexuality. During the second half of the quarter, each student develops a short thesis proposal and presents it for group discussion. While taking the Honors Seminar, each student also registers for CGS 196A: The Honors Thesis, 4 units of independent study with a faculty member associated with critical gender studies. With the guidance of this adviser, the student carries out background research for the thesis prospectus and selects a thesis director. In the winter quarter, students complete the thesis under the supervision of their thesis director in the Honors Thesis course, CGS 196B.

In the spring quarter, each student who has successfully completed a thesis will present it in the CGS 90 undergraduate seminar. Students who complete the Honors Seminar and the thesis with a combined grade of B+ or above and make the required oral presentation of the thesis in CGS 90 have the words “with distinction” added to the notation of the major on their diplomas and transcripts.
Double Major in Critical Gender Studies and Another Department or Program

Students who wish to major both in critical gender studies and in another department or program must fulfill all requirements for the critical gender studies major as described above. Students must submit a double major petition for approval by the participating departments and the student’s provost. Critical gender studies will accept up to two upper-division courses which overlap requirements for the two majors.

Minor Program (and Program of Concentration)

Critical gender studies minors are required to complete the Introduction to Critical Gender Studies sequence: Critical Gender Studies 2A-B, 100, and 101 and three additional upper-division courses (twelve units) applicable to the critical gender studies major and minor. Students may take all three required upper-division courses in the same cluster area or three upper-division courses in three different cluster areas. Students who petition the critical gender studies minor (or program of concentration) with junior or senior standing may petition to substitute two comparable upper-division critical gender studies courses for Critical Gender Studies 2A or 2B. Critical gender studies permits one lower-division course and one upper-division course to be taken P/NP. College grading options vary. Please see college academic advisers and critical gender studies advisers.

Special Studies, Internships, and Grade Options

Many critical gender studies majors and minors elect to do gender research under the rubrics of Directed Group Study (198), Independent Study (199), internships, and mentor programs. Because these courses can be taken only with a P/NP grade option, the number of such courses to be applied to the major should be carefully discussed with a critical gender studies adviser. Some graduate and professional schools will consider it easier to evaluate a student’s transcript if there are more letter grades. College guidelines and requirements for grade options also vary. Please see college academic advisers and critical gender studies advisers.

COURSES

LOWER-DIVISION

CGS 2A. Introduction to Critical Gender Studies: Social Movements (4)
This course will examine the role of social movements in constructing rights and representation in comparative and historical contexts. Historical examples may include: civil rights, men’s movements, anti-racist feminism, women’s movements, AIDS activism, transgenderism, immigrant rights, and the labor movement.

CGS 2B. Introduction to Critical Gender Studies: Gender and Institutions (4)
This course examines how gender organizing and is organized by institutions. Domains of inquiry may include family, education, medicine, technology, law, media, the workplace, immigration, and citizenship.

CGS 90. Undergraduate Seminar (1)
This seminar will introduce students to current interdisciplinary research topics and methods in the study of gender and sexuality. UCSD Faculty members, as well as distinguished outside visitors, will be invited to present their work.

UPPER-DIVISION

CGS 100: Conceptualizing Gender: Theories and Methods (4)
This course will compare the uses of gender as a category of analysis across academic disciplines in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences with particular attention to research methodologies.

CGS 101: Gender, Modernity, and Globalization (4)
Considers how men and women around the globe are affected differently by modernity, modernization, and globalization. Possible topics: international consumer culture; international divisions of labor; construction of masculinity and femininity in context of global movements and migrations of people, capital, culture. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 102: Selected Topics in Critical Gender Studies (4)
An interdisciplinary course focusing on one of a variety of topics in gender studies, such as gender and science, the body, reproductive technologies, public policy. May be taken for credit three times when topics vary. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 103: Feminist Theory (4)
An interdisciplinary course in feminist theory. Topics may range from a general survey of feminist theory in a variety of disciplines to a more focused interdisciplinary theoretical topic such as postmodernism and feminism. May be taken for credit three times when topics vary. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 104: Advanced Topics in Comparative Perspectives (4)
Focuses on the relationship between gender and culture from a multiplicity of perspectives. Possible topics could include gender and ethnicity, gender across class, and other topics to be examined in a cross cultural framework. May be taken for credit two times when topics vary. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 105: Queer Theory (4)
Examines the different methodologies and disciplinary histories that together constitute the interdisciplinary project called queer studies. Of particular interest will be how these different methodologies and history construe and construct the relations between gender, race, class, and nation. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 106: Gender Equality and the Law (4)
Explores the legal treatment of discrimination on the basis of gender, including equal protection doctrine and some statutory law such as Title VII. Topics include the meaning of gender equality in such areas as single-sex education, military service, sexual harassment, discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, and other current issues. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 107: Gender and Reproductive Rights (4)
Explores the legal treatment of gender, reproductive rights, and the family, particularly as evolving law has created conflicting rights, roles, and responsibilities. Topics may include abortion, fetal rights, surrogacy, marriage, and child custody issues. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 109A: Gender, Science, Technology (4)
Examines impact of gender and racialized gender on the production and uses of science and technology. Issues include (but are not limited to): racism and biotechnology, biological determinism, eugenics, plagiariism and invisible work, information technologies and access, and the politics of museums. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 109B: Gender and Information Technology (4)
Examines how gender and racialized gender affect and are affected by information technology. Through the use of feminist and race-critical approaches, the course examines the impact of information technology on workplaces, the family, gender identity, and the environment. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 110A: Women and Sport (4)
Explores the history of women's sport and changes that have taken place since the passage of Title IX (federal equity legislation) in 1972. Will explore evolution of women in sport from historical, social, racial, psychological, political, and legal perspectives. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 110B: Title IX and Gender Equity in Sports and Education (4)
Provides a comprehensive review of Title IX (1972 federal equity legislation) and its impact on gender equity in sports and education. Will explore policy interpretations, changes in educational opportunities and sports programs resulting from legislation and related court cases. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 111: Gender and the Body (4)
Various approaches to the study of gendered bodies. Possible topics to include masculinities/feminities; life cycles; biology, culture, and identity; medical discourses and health issues. May be taken for credit three times when topics vary. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

CGS 190. Honors Seminar (4)
Interdisciplinary readings in feminist theory and research methodology to prepare students for writing
an honors thesis. Open to Critical Gender Studies majors who have been admitted to Critical Gender Studies Honors Program. May be applied toward primary concentration in Critical Gender Studies major. Prerequisites: admission to Critical Gender Studies Honors Program and department stamp required.

CGS 196A. Critical Gender Studies Honors Research (4)
A program of independent study providing candidates for Critical Gender Studies honors to develop, in consultation with an advisor, a preliminary proposal for the honors thesis. An IP grade will be awarded at the end of this quarter. A final grade for both quarters will be given upon completion of Critical Gender Studies 196B. Prerequisites: consent of instructor and department stamp required.

CGS 196B. Honors Thesis (4)
Honors thesis research and writing for students who have completed Critical Gender Studies 190 and 196A. A letter grade for both Critical Gender Studies 196A and 196B will be given at the completion of this quarter. Prerequisites: consent of instructor and department stamp required.

CGS 198. Directed Group Study (4)
Directed group study on a topic not generally included in the Critical Gender Studies curriculum. Prerequisites: consent of instructor and director of Critical Gender Studies Program and department stamp required.

CGS 199. Independent Study (4)
Tutorial; independent study on a topic not generally included in the curriculum. Prerequisites: consent of instructor and director of Critical Gender Studies Program and department stamp required.

CGS 500. Apprentice Teaching in Critical Gender Studies (4)
Consideration of pedagogical methods appropriate to undergraduate teaching in Critical Gender Studies courses under supervision of instructor of course. Instructor will define apprentice's responsibilities in preparing class presentations, directing student discussions, evaluating and grading students' work, and maintaining productive association with students.

CRITICAL GENDER STUDIES CLUSTER AREAS

In relation to the Critical Gender Studies Program, departmental courses fall into two categories, Applicable or Petitionable. The courses noted below are applicable: those which always apply to the CGS major and minor, whenever they are taught and under any instructor.

The second category denotes petitionable courses: either new courses not yet approved as applicable to the major/minor or courses which focus on gender only in a specific quarter and at the discretion of the instructor.

Petitionable courses can be approved by petition to the major/minor for the quarter in which they appear on the CGS quarterly list. The quarterly list—available each quarter in the CGS office and at the CGS Web site—identifies (by cluster areas) both applicable and petitionable courses offered that quarter. For reference, the office and the Web site maintain a compilation of quarterly lists.

1. Culture and Representation:
   - ANRG 117. Gender Across Cultures
   - COCU 132. Gender and Media
   - COCU 137. Politics of Bodies
   - COCU 138. Feminist Theory
   - COMT 106. Feminist Video Workshop
   - ETHN 165. Sex and Gender in African American Communities
   - ETHN 183. Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Class
   - HIEU 133. Gender in Antiquity and the Early Medieval Mediterranean
   - HIEU 147. The History of Women in Europe: Middle Ages to the Early Modern Era
   - HIEU 148. European Women: The Enlightenment to the Victorian Era
   - HIEU 149. History of Women in Europe: 1870 to Present
   - HIEU 180. Topics in European Women's History
   - HILA 117. Indians, Blacks, and Whites: Family Relations in Latin America
   - HIUS 130. Cultural History from 1607 to the Civil War
   - HIUS 131. Cultural History from the Civil War to the Present
   - HIUS 156. American Women, American Womanhood
   - HIUS 157. American Women, American Womanhood 1870 to Present
   - HIUS 172. Feminist Tradition in America
   - HIUS 176. Race and Sexual Politics
   - LTS 130. Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Class and Culture
   - LTS 135. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Studies
   - LTEN 120E. Women in the Eighteenth Century
   - LTEN 146. Women and English/American Literature
   - LTEN 150. Gender, Text, and Culture
   - LTEN 185. Themes in African American Literature
   - LTEU 102. Women in Antiquity (was LTGN 101)
   - LTEU 147. Women in Italy
   - LTTH 101. Issues in Feminist Theory
   - LTWL 155. Gender Studies (was LTGN 189)
   - LTWL 160. Women and Language (was LTGN 187)
   - MUSIC 115. Women in Music
   - PHIL 169. Feminism and Philosophy
   - POLI 116A. Feminist Theory
   - SOC/B 118. Sociology of Gender and Roles
   - SOC/B 118A. (Crosslisted with LIGN 174) Gender and Language in Society
   - SOC/B 119. Sociology of Sexuality and Sexual Identities
   - SOC/B 130. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Studies
   - SOC/C 129. The Family
   - VIS 123C. Art and Gender

2. Sexualities
   - COCU 137. Politics of Bodies
   - COCU 138. Feminist Theory
   - ETHN 165. Sex and Gender in African American Communities
   - HIUS 176. Race and Sexual Politics
   - LTS 135. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Studies
   - LTEN 120E. Women in the Eighteenth Century
   - LTEN 150. Gender, Text, and Culture
   - LTEU 102. Women in Antiquity (was LTGN 101)
   - LTWL 155. Gender Studies (was LTGN 189)
   - LTH 101. Issues in Feminist Theory
   - POLI 107A. Gay and Lesbian Politics
   - POLI 116A. Feminist Theory
   - PSYCH 147. Gender
   - SOC/B 119. Sociology of Sexuality and Sexual Identities
   - SOC/B 130. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Studies

3. Work, Migration, and Globalization
   - ANRG 117. Gender Across Cultures
   - COCU 138. Feminist Theory
   - HIEA 137. Women and Family in Chinese History
   - HILA 161. History of Women in Latin America
   - HIUS 130. Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Class and Culture
   - HIUS 176. Race and Sexual Politics
   - HIUS 177. Family, Work, and Gender
   - LTTH 101. Issues in Feminist Theory
   - POLI 134F. Organizing Women in Latin America
   - SOC/A 103F. Feminist Criticism and Social Theory
   - SOC/C 132. Gender and Work
   - SOC/D 120W. Gender and Development

4. Science, Technology, Medicine
   - COCU 137. Politics of Bodies
   - COCU 138. Feminist Theory
   - HIES 137. Women and Science in Historical Perspective
   - PSYCH 147. Gender

5. History, Society, and Inequalities
   - COCU 137. Politics of Bodies
   - COCU 138. Feminist Theory
   - ETHN 165. Sex and Gender in African American Communities
   - HIUS 183. Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Class
   - HIEA 137. Women and Family in Chinese History
   - HIEU 133. Gender in Antiquity and the Early Medieval Mediterranean
   - HIEU 147. History of Women in Europe: Middle Ages to the Early Modern Era
   - HIEU 148. History of Women in Europe: Early Enlightenment to Victorian Era
HIEU 149. History of Women in Europe: 1870 to the Present
HIEU 180. Topics in European Women's History
HILA 117. Indians, Blacks, and Whites: Family Relations in Latin America
HILA 161. History of Women in Latin America
HITO 164. Gender Differences in Historical Perspective
HIUS 130. Cultural History from 1607 to the Civil War
HIUS 131. Cultural History from the Civil War to the Present
HIUS 156. American Women, American Womanhood
HIUS 157. American Women, American Womanhood: 1870 to Present
HIUS 172. Feminist Traditions in America
HIUS 173. Topics in American Women's History
HIUS 176. Race and Sexual Politics
LTCS 130. Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Class, and Culture
LTCS 135. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Studies
LTEN 185. Themes in African American Literature
LTEU 102. Women in Antiquity
LTH 101. Issues in Feminist Theory
LTWL 155. Gender Studies (was LTGN 189)
POLI 107A. Gay and Lesbian Politics
POLI 115A. Gender and Politics
POLI 116A. Feminist Theory
POLI 116B. Advanced Feminist Theory
POLI 166F. The American Welfare State
SOC/A 103F. Feminist Criticism and Social Theory
SOC/B 118. Sociology of Gender
SOC/B 118A. (Crosslisted with LIGN 174) Gender and Language in Society
SOC/B 130. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Studies
SOC/D 133. Comparative Sex Stratification