

UMBC UGC New Course Request: GWST 300 Methodologies of Gender and Women's Studies (3)

Date Submitted: 3/26/07

Proposed Effective Date: immediately for Fall 2007

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COURSE INFORMATION:

course number(s)	GWST 300
formal title	Methodologies of Gender and Women's Studies (3)
transcript title (≤24c)	Methodologies of GWST
prerequisite	GWST 100 or 310 & 200
credits	3
max. repeat credits	2
grading method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail
GFR designation*	<input type="checkbox"/> AH <input type="checkbox"/> SS <input type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> C

*a request for GFR designation requires the submission of separate GFR form.

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This seminar introduces students to the theory and practice of research in gender and women's studies. The course examines the distinguishing qualities of feminist methodologies in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. By reading and discussing examples of excellent and innovative gender and women's studies research, students will acquaint themselves with both the practical details and the ethical issues involved. The course gives particular attention to the interdisciplinary focus of feminist research as well as questions of what distinguishes gender and women's studies from other disciplines; how feminist research and community/political activism are related; how feminist research is changing the traditional disciplines and the methods used in research; and future directions of feminist methods.

(NB: This description was included in the recently approved BA proposal and discussed by the UGC as part of its review of that proposal.)

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

This course is needed at this time to serve students enrolled in the newly approved undergraduate major in GWST. As discussed when the UGC reviewed the BA proposal, this course one of five core courses in the major. As such it is essential to the program's overall objective of providing students with an understanding of gender in cultural discourse and contemporary social organizations and behaviors, a knowledge base in contemporary scholarship on gender and women's studies, and strong writing, reading and oral communication skills. This course, which will be taken by junior level students in the major, will focus on specific skills in research and critical analysis in Gender and Women's Studies. It is designed to introduce students to the key methodological and analytical techniques used by gender and women's studies scholars as well as the topics and debates in feminist theories of knowledge which undergird those methodologies/techniques. The course syllabus is being developed by an interdisciplinary committee of GWST faculty representing a wide range of disciplines to insure that the course materials represent the current standards of excellence in GWST and its related disciplines.

ATTACH COURSE OUTLINE (optional, see instructions):

