

WGS 400 AND WGS 498

GUIDELINES FOR PETITIONING WGSS CREDIT FOR 400-LEVEL ELECTIVES NOT IN GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

11.14.23

The WGSS Graduate Certificate requires that students take either WGS 490: Feminist Theories and Methodologies, or ENG 460: Feminist Literary Theories, plus three electives. A list of approved electives is updated every semester and posted on the [WGSS Graduate Certificate site](#).

Occasionally students request credit for special topics courses related to WGSS, new courses in their home departments, supervised independent research, and internships count as a electives for the WGSS certificate. *Students may petition to have these courses sub-waivered into their program of study. All requests must be approved by the WGSS director and assistant director with the consultation of the WGSS curriculum committee if needed.*

New Electives and Topical Seminars: Students may receive WGSS graduate credit toward the Certificate for electives not currently on our approved course list, if the following conditions apply.

- The class, research, or opportunity must have at least 50% content related to gender or sexuality and its intersections with race, class, sexual identity, etc.
- The elective must be taught by a WGSS core or affiliated faculty member. Courses not taught by WGSS faculty will be considered if the instructor has a demonstrated expertise in the field.
- Ideally students must request WGSS credit for the elective before they have completed the class. This way they can be sub-waivered into the student's plan of study.

Supervised Independent Research and Internships: Students may receive graduate credit for independent research and community internships if:

- Projects taken under WGS 400: Independent Study or WGS 498: Professional Practice Internship. In these cases, students must choose a WGSS core or affiliated faculty member to direct the project.
- Independent studies taken under non-WGS 400 numbers may count toward the certificate if they are supervised by a WGSS faculty member and contain significant gender/sex content.
- We strongly encourage students to meet with the WGSS faculty member directing the project and with the WGSS advisor before the beginning of the semester in which the course will be taken.
- Students must complete the graduate elective paperwork on the WGSS Program website for [WGS 400 or WGS 498](#) before they begin their project.