The Ohio State University Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) is an evolving interdisciplinary field that examines how systems of oppression, resistance and privilege operate. The department is designed to provide students with an understanding of the importance of gender and sexuality as categories of analysis and their intersections of race, ethnicity, class, age, nationality and (dis)ability.

AT A GLANCE

Ohio State’s WGSS is one of the largest undergraduate women’s, gender and sexuality studies programs in the country
Undergraduates: 86 majors and 214 minors
Graduate students: 26
Faculty: 17 tenure-track

DEGREE PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE
- BA, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Minor, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

GRADUATE
- MA, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
- PhD, Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Graduate Minor, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGIES

WGSS advances the field through interdisciplinary research and innovative pedagogies, inspiring a new generation of gender and sexuality scholars and feminist leaders committed to social justice. The above photograph shows WGSS Professor Jennifer Suchand (front row, left) and graduate students attending a (dis)ability pedagogy workshop with visiting professor Alison Kafer (front row, right).
CONCENTRATION AREAS

- Race, Sexualities and Social Justice
- Narrative, Culture and Representation
- Global and Transnational Feminisms
- Power, Institutions and Economies

FACULTY RESEARCH TO FOLLOW


Linda Mizejewski, professor with research interests in popular culture, feminist film theory and women in comedy. Professor Mizejewski published Pretty/Funny: Women Comedians and Body Politics (University of Texas Press, 2014).

Treva Lindsey, assistant professor specializing in black feminist theory, women’s history and popular culture studies. Professor Lindsey is building a strong online presence as a guest contributor to online forums such as HuffPost Live, The Feminist Wire and The Left of Black Web Series.

Mary Thomas, associate professor specializing in girlhood studies; geographies of race, gender, sexuality and age; prison studies and U.S. carceral society and research methodology. Professor Thomas’ current research explores girls’ peer relationships in an Ohio juvenile detention facility.

2015 marks the 40th anniversary of WGSS programming at Ohio State. Since its inception, faculty and students in WGSS have raised awareness and introduced new modes of thinking about gender and sexuality and contributed to social change.

The department hosted an anniversary celebration on May 1, 2015, to commemorate its past, honor those who helped the department grow and inspire a new generation of gender and sexuality scholars and feminist leaders committed to social justice.

Lisa Lopez (’76), WGSS’ first-ever graduate, returned to campus to meet with undergraduates and faculty to record a historical narrative of her experiences.