

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES THESIS PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

This form is for Students entering the college in fall 2017 and after.

Student name:

Thesis title (provisional):

Proposed term (check one):

- Fall One Semester
- Winter One Semester
- Two Semesters (non-honors)
- Two Semesters (honors)

For double majors proposing joint theses:

Other major:

Other major advisor:

Do you plan to enroll in GSS457, GSS458, or both?

Before submitting your proposal to your advisor for a signature, please check each box to confirm that you have included these five key elements:

- a clear statement of the specific research question to be investigated;
- a succinct discussion of relevant scholarly literature, and a description of how your research question fits into existing literature in Gender and Sexuality Studies;
- an explanation of methodology that notes the suitability of these methods to the research question at hand;
- a description of the specific materials to be used in the research (e.g. particular documents, interview subjects, data sets, *et cetera*);
- an additional, separate statement (one or two paragraphs), appended to this form, articulating how your proposed research meets the thesis guidelines (please sign the statement on the next page).

To the GSS thesis advisor:

I have agreed to advise the above named student's thesis in Gender and Sexuality Studies and am aware that this proposal is being submitted to the Gender and Sexuality Studies committee at this time.

_____ (signature) _____ (date)

_____ (printed name)

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES THESIS PROPOSAL STUDENT STATEMENT

Theses use gender and/or sexuality as intersectional categories of analysis.

This criterion is indispensable. Your research and analysis must be informed by an understanding of how gender and/or sexuality influence the topic you are examining. Furthermore, your GSS training has prepared you to consider questions through an intersectional framework, with the understanding that gender does not stand alone. Hence, the design and methodology you employ will need to indicate explicitly an understanding of your topic in intersectional terms. As our mission statement affirms, we are dedicated to analyzing “local and global entanglements of knowledge, power, pleasure, and resistance,” and believe that “To study gender and sexuality in these ways is to refute simple assertions about identity in favor of richly detailed accounts of the specific conditions through which particular social positions are maintained and transgressed.”

Theses are interdisciplinary in methodology.

Given that our majors take some of their courses in “traditional” disciplines, what exactly do we expect of you in the way of an interdisciplinary thesis? We expect that you will use your training in Women and Gender Studies / Gender and Sexuality Studies to enlarge or transform the perspective that a traditional discipline might bring to bear on a problem. Interdisciplinary methodology requires keen awareness of how approaches and methods used in traditional disciplines may be linked advantageously to conduct scholarly inquiry. Indispensable steps in designing an interdisciplinary methodology involve delineating the approach and methods drawn from each discipline; explaining how they related, complement and/or expand the other(s); and, discussing how their combination fosters inquiry into a particular topic. This interdisciplinary design, then, offers the researcher a strategy and tools that are appropriate to the topic and to the central question or idea which is being studied.

Theses may take multiple forms.

For students with appropriate expertise, from previous coursework or other experiences, the Program Committee welcomes research theses based on community-engaged research or public scholarship methodologies, as well as other formats such as the publication of a graphic novel, zine, magazine, or an online blog/website; the performance of a play, dance, performance art, public intervention(s), musical, music performance, album, spoken word performance; participatory projects like a set of workshops, socially engaged art, a public demonstration (such as a gathering or protest), a curated events (such as film screenings, a symposium, or an art show); or a cinematic project like a video (non fiction, fiction or both) or a TV/online episodic program.

I have read and acknowledge the Women and Gender Studies thesis guidelines above. I have attached a separate statement (one to two paragraphs) articulating how my proposed research meets each of the thesis guidelines.

_____ (signature) _____ (date)

_____ (printed name)