

# Graduate Studies Programs

## *Master of Arts in Gender/Cultural Studies (GCS)*

### About the Program

This interdisciplinary degree program across the humanities and social sciences emphasizes the constructions of gender, race, and nation in the United States as well as in international contexts. The program is designed to broaden women's studies theory and practice to include multiracial perspectives as well as national and post-colonial struggles, cultural studies, and race studies. With broad appeal for over 15 years, the GCS program has met the intellectual and educational needs of students with a variety of personal and professional experiences and goals. Students are prepared for professional careers in areas such as social work, public policy, creative writing, feminist research, publishing, counseling, business, and high school and community college teaching. Some students enroll to prepare academically for Ph.D. programs in many different fields, including women's studies, philosophy, history, anthropology, political science, sociology, English, and communications. Others seek intellectual enrichment to enhance existing careers or to change direction in their professions. Simmons has been successful in meeting this wide range of educational goals through a commitment to providing each student with the advising needed to develop an individualized program of study. This individual support is facilitated by the small size of the program, small classes, and the close mentoring relationships that students develop with faculty in the program.

### Sequence of Courses

This program requires 32 semester hours, the equivalent of eight courses. All students take three required courses in interdisciplinary studies and cultural theory, design their own programs from advanced courses offered throughout the College, and finish with a capstone project that furthers their individual academic and professional interests.

### The Simmons Difference

For more than 100 years, Simmons has put the needs of our students first. Through an education that combines intellectual leadership with professional preparation, we help students lead meaningful lives and build successful careers for the 21st Century. The College's commitment can be seen in our state-of-the-art facilities for teaching, learning, living, and working at Simmons, as well as through our exceptional faculty and staff. Simmons College is located in the heart of Boston, a world-class city renowned for unlimited educational, career, and social opportunities. All programs provide a challenging educational experience in which every student develops an informed, critical, and committed voice, and learns to be a leader and collaborative member of the professional community. Simmons College was named a "Best College" in its category in the 2010 US News & World Report. Simmons was also included in the 2010 Princeton Review "Best 351 Colleges," and was named among the "Best in New England" in the first-ever edition of Princeton Review's Best Northeastern Colleges.

*"The GCS program was rewarding in so many ways: I was challenged and stimulated in my coursework, received thoughtful mentoring from the program director, and was consistently inspired by the intellect and enthusiasm of other students in the program. GCS helped me develop an academic foundation that supported my successful application to doctoral programs, and has provided me with intellectual and professional tools that I know will help me succeed at my new university."*

COLLEEN AMMERMAN '07GS  
GENDER/CULTURAL STUDIES

**SIMMONS**  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
GRADUATE STUDIES

## Coursework

Students may enroll on either a full- or part-time basis. Although the program may be completed in one academic year, including summer study, most students choose to complete the program over three or four semesters in order to explore their interests more thoroughly. Students may take up to five years to complete the program. The GCS program faculty recommend a reduced load of two courses for at least the first term enrolled in the program.

### Required Courses:

GCS	403	Seminar in Gender/Cultural Studies
GCS	430	Cultural Theory

### Choose one of the following:

GCS	406	Feminism and Literature
GCS	410	Issues in International Studies
GCS	412	Theoretical Approaches to Cultural Narratives
GCS	415	Feminism and Economic Difference

### Elective Courses (partial list)\*

GCS	405	Contemporary Critical Theory
AST	513	The Black Struggle for Schooling in America
AST	535	Race, Sex, and Class: Contemporary Film Images of Women of Color
ENGL	402	Seminar in the Teaching of Writing
ENGL	508	The Postcolonial Novel
ENGL	522	The Postmodern Novel
ENGL	527	Race and Gender in Psychoanalytic Discourse
ENGL	598	Feminist Film Studies
HIST	527	Archives, History, and Collective Memory
HIST	560	Seminar in the History of Women and Gender
INRL	590	Seminar in International Relations
PHIL	523	Law and Philosophy
SOCI	511	Critical Race Legal Theory
SOCI	542	Women, Work, and Mental Health
SOCI	546	Society and Health
SOCI	547	Antiracism and Justice Work
SOCI	548	Re-envisioning the Third World
WST	500	Gender and Sexuality
WST	504	Feminist Theories
WST	533	Queer Theory

### Capstone Course

*\*This coursework is subject to change. Other electives are available on a semester-by-semester basis. A list of current electives for each semester is available from the program director. For a full description of courses, please check the course catalog, or visit our website at [www.simmons.edu/gradstudies/programs/gender-cultural/courses.php](http://www.simmons.edu/gradstudies/programs/gender-cultural/courses.php).*

## Contact Us

Graduate Studies Admission  
 T 617-521-2915  
 F 617-521-3058  
 E [gsa@simmons.edu](mailto:gsa@simmons.edu)  
[www.simmons.edu/gradstudies](http://www.simmons.edu/gradstudies)

Simmons College  
 300 The Fenway  
 Boston, MA 02115