



# THE FACULTY SENATE

December 13, 2005

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** President Robert M. Gates  
**SUBJECT:** Approval of Graduate Council Item (FS.23.64)

At its regular meeting on December 12, 2005, the Faculty Senate approved the following curriculum item from the Graduate Council and submits it for your approval. Attached is a copy of the material sent to our Senators.

College of Liberal Arts  
Women's Studies Program  
Graduate certificate in Women's Studies be added to the list of certificates eligible to appear on students' graduate transcripts.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please inform me of your action on this matter.

John L. Fike  
Speaker

*ds + Form. updated*

### Attachment

- cc: Dr. David Prior
- Dr. Karan Watson
- Dr. Paul Meyer
- Ms. Linda Lacey
- Dr. Rick Giardino
- Dr. Charles Johnson

Approved:

Robert M. Gates, President

1-12-06

Date

**REPORT OF GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**November 3, 2005**

Graduate Council approved the request from the College of Liberal Arts, Women's Studies Program, that the graduate certificate in Women's Studies be added to the list of certificates eligible to appear on students' graduate transcripts.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
College of Liberal Arts  
Women's Studies Program

September 7, 2005

Dr. Larry Oliver  
Professor of English and Associate Dean  
College of Liberal Arts  
4223 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-4223

Dear Larry:

I am writing to request that the graduate certificate in Women's Studies be added to the list of certificates eligible to appear on students' graduate transcripts.

As many of our graduate students expect to embark upon careers in academia and other areas in which their transcripts are subject to detailed scrutiny by prospective employers, I believe that it would be helpful to the students to have an easy way of substantiating their claims to have earned a graduate certificate with us.

I am enclosing a printout of the current description of the Women's Studies certificate program, including required and optional courses. Please let me know if you need any further information from me.

Thank you for your help.

Best,

Claudia Nelson  
Associate Professor of English and Director of Women's Studies  
Academic 306, MS 4351

Office of the Dean  
College of Liberal Arts

SEP 07 2005 *LD*

REFER TO \_\_\_\_\_  
COPY TO \_\_\_\_\_  
FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR CALENDAR \_\_\_\_\_

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## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES**

### ***Requirements***

This interdisciplinary program offers students the opportunity to develop a thorough grounding in the discipline of Women's Studies. Students will become familiar with a variety of methodological and theoretical perspectives as they focus their attention on gender and women's issues. Since Women's Studies often brings a different set of questions to the study of traditional disciplines, the student's understanding of the major discipline should be enhanced through the work on the Certificate. In addition to the gender focus, Women's Studies also incorporates other issues of diversity--race, age, ethnicity, class, nationality--employing a multicultural and pluralistic approach to knowledge. Increasingly, some understanding of issues relating to gender and diversity within the various traditional disciplines is expected in today's employment context.

Any Texas A&M graduate student enrolled in a Masters or Doctoral Program may apply for a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. Certificate eligibility is based on academic standing and approval of a plan of study and research agenda.

Certificate candidates must complete 12 hours of course work approved for this purpose by the Women's Studies Program, including WMST 481, Seminar in Women's Studies, or its equivalent; with the approval of the Program Director, ENGL 680, Theories of Gender, may be substituted for WMST 481. The other courses must include at least 3 hours of Humanities credits and at least 3 hours of Social Science credits. The remaining 3 hours are free electives, except that they must be approved by the Program Director as counting toward the Graduate Certificate. All courses in the certificate program must be passed with a grade of at least a B.

Students enrolled in a Masters or Doctoral Program at Texas A&M who wish to earn a Certificate in Women's Studies should speak to the Women's Studies Director and the departmental graduate advisor as early as possible in their program. A plan of study is worked out with the advice of the Director. Once the required 12 hours are completed, the Graduate Certificate will be awarded, usually at a Spring Women's Studies event.

Courses counting toward this certificate include some senior-level undergraduate courses (400-level). For Ph.D. students, no more than three hours of such undergraduate courses may be taken for credit toward the certificate; for Masters students, the limit is six hours. Up to three hours of WMST 685 (Independent Study or Readings) may be taken as one part of the program; alternatively, up to three hours of approved gender-focused independent study within the student's major department may be taken. If the student's thesis or dissertation involves a substantial gender focus, up to three hours of the thesis or dissertation research hours may be counted toward the certificate. Course credit hours counted toward the certificate may also count toward the major degree requirements. The decision to approve courses for credit toward the certificate is made by the Women's Studies Director, in consultation with the student.

## **List of Approved Courses for the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies**

The following is a list of some of the courses that count toward this certificate. Since the curriculum is growing each year, new courses are frequently added to this list. Consult with the Women's Studies Director for a current list, or to inquire about the possibility of including another gender-focused course not listed here.

### **PARTIAL LIST OF GRADUATE COURSES**

EHRD 670 Women in Education

EHRD 675 Women in Organizational Leadership

ENGL 645 Gender and Literature

ENGL 680 Theories of Gender

HLTH 634 Women's Health

HISP 645 Hispanic Women Writers

SOCI 607 Seminar in Social Organization (Gender)

SOCI 603 Contemporary Family

PSYC 633 Gender and Minority Issues in Clinical Psychology

WMST 685 Directed Studies

WMST 689 Special Topics in Women's Studies

### **UPPER DIVISION UNDERGRADUATE COURSES**

#### **I. Social Sciences:**

WMST 404 Women and Culture

WMST 407 Women, Minorities and the Mass Media

WMST 420 Gender and Communication

WMST 424 Women and Work in Society

WMST 430 Employment Discrimination Law

WMST 462 Women and the Law