

MAJOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GENDER STUDIES

524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 ■ Haaren Hall, Room 520.05

MAJOR ADVISOR

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See all major requirements at: www.jjay.cuny.edu/gender-studies-major-resources

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

Gender is a fundamental organizing principle of human lives throughout the world. Gender Studies examines the way ideas about gender norms and expectations shape our lives, why they are taken to be ‘natural,’ how they think in binary terms (‘men’ and ‘women’), and why these traditions have been oppressive and related to other forms of injustice. Gender Studies is an intersectional, transnational, decolonial, and anti-racist field of study committed to disrupting such systemic oppressions.

Gender Studies majors learn why study of gender is central to fierce advocacy for justice. Our courses question the gender binary, normalization of straightness, and the social, historical, political, cultural, economic, and legal forces that have long inhibited the attainment of justice and equality for transgender women and men, people who are non-binary and gender expansive, cisgender women, and LGBTQ+ people.

We study how experience of gender varies as it intersects with sexuality, race, ethnicity, and citizenship status, and how it has been studied from different feminist and queer perspectives, including Black feminism, Chicana feminism, transnational feminism, Asian American feminism, trans studies, jotería studies, etc. This major will help you develop your own critical, imaginative, and active approaches to problem solving, research, data collection, and clear expression, including writing.

IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL ■■■

Examine gender as a complex and changing social construction that intersects with class, race, age, ethnicity, sexual identity, nationality, and other aspects of self.

Engage in and lead interactive, dynamic discussions through multi-modal approaches and multimedia platforms that have been underrepresented in traditional academic work.

Write expository and reflective analysis and research papers to synthesize source material and foundational theories. Through papers, artistic expression, multimedia group projects and discussion, students will have the opportunities to integrate theory, self-reflection and action.

FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ■■■

GEN 101: Introduction to Gender Studies

GEN 205: Gender and Justice

GEN 255: The Biology of Gender and Sexuality

“Because gender is such a fundamental part of the human experience, the courses that I have taken cover a broad spectrum of disciplines which include sociology, psychology, philosophy, biology, history, literature, and criminal justice. Looking at gender from all of these different perspectives has helped me realize just how much gender informs every aspect of our lives and how important it is to address the inequalities that stem from gender stereotypes.”

— Sharlene Johson, Junior

“Through Gender Studies my understanding of myself and the world around me has changed so dramatically; the classes have invigorated in me a passion that I believe will follow me for as long as I live. I have realized the power of education, and for that I am truly grateful.”

— Selma Djokovic, Senior

WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Summarize, analyze, compare, evaluate, interpret and synthesize ideas.
- Present ideas verbally and in writing: interpret data, shape information into specific points and arguments.
- Design projects, develop hypotheses, perform research, organize information, and solve problems.

WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- Africana Studies
- Criminology
- Economics
- English
- Counseling
- Human Rights Studies
- Latin American and Latinx Studies
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Sustainability and Environmental Justice

For more information about minors, go to:

www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

- Internships
- Ongoing research opportunities with faculty
- As majors in an interdisciplinary field, students receive a solid foundation in liberal arts and social sciences that prepares them for graduate study and makes them great candidates for professional positions.

THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, BUT SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER ARE:

- **Human Rights/Social Justice:** potential employers include Amnesty International, Children’s Defense Fund, National Organization for Women, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Human Rights Campaign, Safe Horizon, Anti-Violence Project, MADRE, Center for Immigrant Families, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, Planned Parenthood
- **Law/Government/Public Sector:** potential employers include any law firm, but also National Women’s Law Center, Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, Empire State Pride Agenda, Human Rights Watch, Lambda Legal Defense Fund, New York Civil Rights Coalition, Legal Aid, American Civil Liberties Union
- **Business and Marketing:** potential employers include Womenkind LLC, Scenario DNA, Fortune 500 Companies—Human Resources, Nielson, Addis Creeson. Any organizations that engage in consumer analysis, since gender is central to how businesses market goods.
- **Mental Health & Human Services:** potential employers include Partnership with Children of NYC, Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, Public Health Solutions, MIC—Women’s Health Services, GMHC-Gay Men’s Health Clinic.