

# SIMMONS

Intersectionality Cutting Edge Theory Interdisciplinary Inspiring Social Change



Master of Arts in  
Gender/Cultural Studies



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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Intersectionality

Crossing disciplinary boundaries, the graduate program in Gender/Cultural Studies (GCS) is dedicated to critically analyzing intersecting systems of power and privilege, and examining the ways in which race, ethnicity, nation, class, gender, sexuality, and sexual orientation are constructed within the United States and in international contexts.

### Cutting-Edge Theory

The program places an emphasis on cutting-edge theory, including theories in feminism, post-structuralism, cultural studies, and postcolonialism, and promotes multi-perspectival, multi-factored theoretical analyses.

### Interdisciplinary

The interdisciplinary nature of the GCS program allows students to pursue more specialized courses of study by providing access to courses from a range of disciplines, including African Studies, Children's Literature, Economics, Education, English, History, Philosophy, Public Policy, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies.

### Inspiring Social Change

The GCS program strives to prepare and inspire the next generation of scholars, educators, activists, and professional leaders.

**GCS students are prepared for professional careers in areas such as:**

- Higher education administration
- Educational programming
- Nonprofit administration
- Public policy
- Social work
- Gender- and race-related social services
- Feminist research
- Publishing
- Business

**Many students enroll to prepare academically for PhD programs in fields such as:**

- Women's Studies
- Sociology
- Philosophy
- History
- American Studies
- Cultural Studies
- English

**Others seek intellectual enrichment to enhance careers or to change direction in their professions.**



# DEGREE REQUIREMENTS



The GCS program requires 32 semester hours, the equivalent of eight courses. All students take three required core courses in Gender/Cultural Studies, design their own program from an interdisciplinary list of electives, and finish with a capstone project that furthers their individual academic and professional interests.

## COURSEWORK

### GCS Electives

16 CREDITS

A minimum of four approved electives are required. The following partial list of elective options will vary by semester. Additional elective courses are available through the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality.

- AST 513 The Black Struggle for Schooling in America
- AST 529 Race, Culture, Identity, and Achievement
- AST 536 Black Narratives of Oppression, Resistance, and Resiliency
- AST/SOCI/WST 540 Intimate Family Violence: A Multicultural Perspective
- AST 588 Black Popular Culture and the Education of Black Youth
- CHL 401 Criticism of Literature for Children
- ENGL 508 The Postcolonial Novel
- ENGL 517 Toni Morrison and American Literature
- ENGL 527 Race and Gender in Psychoanalytic Discourse
- ENGL 554 Studies in Film Genre: Melodrama
- ENGL 598 Feminist Media Studies
- HIST 527 Archives, History, and Collective Memory
- HIST 560 Seminar in the History of Women and Gender
- HIST 561 Cross Cultural Encounters: Contacts, Connection, and Conflict
- HIST 567 Memory and the Holocaust
- HIST 597 Historical Methods and Research
- SOCI 500 Gender and Islam
- SOCI/AST 511 Critical Race Legal Theory
- SOCI 521 Sociology of Food
- SOCI 539 Qualitative Research Workshop
- SOCI 544 Sociology of Poetry & Prose
- SOCI 545 Health Systems and Policy
- SOCI 547 Antiracism and Justice Work
- WGST 554 Feminist Theories
- WGST 580 Gender and Queer Theory

### Capstone

4 CREDITS

- GCS 455 Thesis
- GCS 460 Project
- GCS 470 Internship
- GCS 480 Gender/Cultural Fieldwork

## COURSEWORK

### Required Core

8 CREDITS

Required core courses:

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

### Core Elective

4 CREDITS

ONE of the following courses:

- GCS 406 Feminism and Literature
- GCS 410 Issues in International Studies
- GCS 412 Theoretical Approaches to Cultural Narratives
- GCS 415 Feminism and Economic Difference
- GCS 417 Race Theory

## RECENT CAPSTONE TITLES

*Selective Visibilities: Navigating Identity as an Asian-Indian American Woman through Body and Beauty*

*White Noise: How the Media Amplified and Drowned Out Black Political Protest: "Post Ferguson"*

*Subversive Masculinity: Cultivating Men's Engagement in Gender Equality*

*Desexualization of Sex Education*

*Consent Culture: A Workshop for Sexual Violence Prevention on College Campuses*

*Wonder Woman in Chains: Images of "Alt" Sex in Golden Age Comics*

*White Futures: Stratified Labor and Reproduction in Biopolitical Times*

*Active Minds, Docile Bodies, and the Freedom to Read: How U.S. Prison Libraries Function as Instruments of State Power*

*The (Un)fit Mom: From an Unruly Body to the (Re)Production of Racial Fatness*

*Penetrating the Borders: Queer Immigration in Arizona*

*The Lesbian Bar is Dead, Long Live the Lesbian Bar: The Importance of Lesbian Bars as Cultural Institutions and Why It Matters That They're Closing*

*The Invisibility of STD Research, Resources, and Education for Queer People who were Assigned Female at Birth (FAAB)*

*Playing with Femininity: Transfeminine Gamers and Identity Play*

*Color of Her Skin, Content of Her Character: The Media vs. Michelle Obama*

*Hades Sings Torch Songs: A Queer Reading of Villain Characters in Disney Renaissance Films*

*Made Visible: Analyzing News Coverage of Transgender Students at Women's Colleges*



## CONSORTIUM FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN GENDER, CULTURE, WOMEN, AND SEXUALITY

Simmons is a member of the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS). GCWS offers interdisciplinary, team-taught seminars to students who are enrolled in related programs at nine member institutions. Courses are designed to foster a dynamic interchange between and among scholars and to provide intellectual stimulation for faculty and students doing work across disciplines. GCWS courses allow faculty and students to explore traditional and cutting edge theories, and develop new avenues of inquiry. The Consortium membership includes Simmons College, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Tufts University, and UMASS Boston. GCS students in GCWS courses receive Simmons credits and pay Simmons tuition.

## SELECT AFFILIATED FACULTY



**NAME:** Renee Bergland  
**DEPARTMENT:** English  
**EMAIL:** renee.bergland@simmons.edu

### SPECIALIZATIONS:

Early and 19th-century American literature and culture; Native American studies; women, gender, and sexuality studies

### COURSES:

**GCS 406** Feminism and Literature  
**ENG 520** American Women's Poetry  
**ENG 528** American Ghosts: The Cultural Politics of Haunting  
**ENG 531** Literary Boston



**NAME:** Sheldon George  
**DEPARTMENT:** English  
**EMAIL:** sheldon.george@simmons.edu

American and African-American literature; Lacanian psychoanalysis to investigate the effects of slavery and racism on American racial identity

**ENGL 517** Toni Morrison and American Literature  
**ENGL 527** Race and Gender in Psychoanalytic Discourse



**NAME:** Diane Grossman  
**DEPARTMENT:** Women and Gender Studies, Philosophy  
**EMAIL:** diane.grossman@simmons.edu

Continental philosophy, feminist theory, and applied ethics

**GCS 430** Cultural Theory  
**WGST 554** Feminist Theories



**NAME:** Valerie Leiter  
**DEPARTMENT:** Sociology, Public Policy  
**EMAIL:** valerie.leiter@simmons.edu

Medical sociology, gender and health, research methods, sociology of childhood and youth, and disability

**MPP 504** Quantitative Analysis  
**SOCI 521** Sociology of Food  
**SOCI 539** Qualitative Research Workshop  
**SOCI 545** Health Systems and Policy



**NAME:** Sarah Leonard  
**DEPARTMENT:** History  
**EMAIL:** sarah.leonard@simmons.edu

Cultural history; history of gender and modern Germany; advantages and challenges of fusing theory and empirical research

**GCS 430** Cultural Theory  
**HIST 567** Memory and the Holocaust  
**HIST 577** Seminar in Topics in Modern European History  
**HIST 597** Historical Methods and Research

## SELECT AFFILIATED FACULTY



**NAME:** Suzanne Leonard  
**DEPARTMENT:** English, Cinema and Media Studies  
**EMAIL:** [suzanne.leonard@simmons.edu](mailto:suzanne.leonard@simmons.edu)

### SPECIALIZATIONS:

Feminist media studies, film and television studies, women's literature, and the intersections between feminism and popular culture

### COURSES:

**GCS 406** Feminism and Literature  
**GCS 430** Cultural Theory  
**ENGL 554** Studies in Film Genre  
**ENGL 598** Feminist Media Studies



**NAME:** Cathryn Mercier  
 Director of Children's Literature Graduate Programs  
 Director of Center for the Study of Children's Literature  
**DEPARTMENT:** Children's Literature  
**EMAIL:** [cathryn.mercier@simmons.edu](mailto:cathryn.mercier@simmons.edu)

Literary theory and children's/ young adult literature (YA); construction of childhood/YA/new adulthood in literature; the intersections of cognitive sciences and literary insight

**CHL 401** Critical Theory — Children's & YA Literature  
**CHL 403** The Picturebook  
**CHL 413** Contemporary YA Realistic Fiction  
**CHL 426** The Child in Fiction  
**CHL 513** Survey of Children's and YA Literature



**NAME:** Stephen Ortega  
 Director of History Graduate Program  
**DEPARTMENT:** History  
**EMAIL:** [stephen.ortega@simmons.edu](mailto:stephen.ortega@simmons.edu)

Middle Eastern and early modern European history; social and cultural contact across the Mediterranean in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries

**HIST 527** Archives, History, and Collective Memory  
**HIST 561** Topics in World History: Cross Cultural Encounters  
**HIST 565** 9/11 Narratives



**NAME:** Theresa Perry  
**DEPARTMENT:** Africana Studies, Education  
**EMAIL:** [theresa.perry@simmons.edu](mailto:theresa.perry@simmons.edu)

Organizational habits of an institution and the creation of African American students' social identities as achievers; analysis of educational environments that normalize high achievement among African American students

**AST 513** The Black Struggle for Schooling in America  
**AST 529** Race, Culture, Identity, and Achievement  
**AST 536** Black Narratives of Oppression, Resistance, and Resiliency  
**AST 588** Black Popular Culture and the Education of Black Youth



**NAME:** Laura Prieto  
 Chair of History  
**DEPARTMENT:** History, Women and Gender Studies  
**EMAIL:** [laura.prieto@simmons.edu](mailto:laura.prieto@simmons.edu)

American cultural history, women and gender, race formation, sexuality, and historical methodology

**HIST 527** Archives, History, and Collective Memory  
**HIST 560** Seminar in the History of Women and Gender  
**HIST 573** Seminar in 19th Century U.S. History  
**HIST 574** Modern U.S. History Seminar  
**HIST 575** Cold War Culture  
**HIST 579** Expansion and Empire

## SELECT AFFILIATED FACULTY



**NAME:** Jyoti Puri  
**DEPARTMENT:** Sociology  
**EMAIL:** jyoti.puri@simmons.edu

### SPECIALIZATIONS:

Sexualities, states, nationalisms, postcolonial feminist critiques, and expertise in India/South Asia

### COURSES:

**GCS 410** Queer Transnational  
**GCS 410** Sexuality, State, and Governance



**NAME:** Saher Selod  
**DEPARTMENT:** Sociology  
**EMAIL:** saher.selod@simmons.edu

The racialization of Muslims, Islamophobia, gendered racialization, citizenship, and aging

**GCS 471** Race Theory  
**SOCI 500** Gender and Islam



**NAME:** Dawna Thomas  
**DEPARTMENT:** Africana Studies, Women's and Gender Studies  
**EMAIL:** dawna.thomas@simmons.edu

The intersection of disability, gender, race, ethnicity, and class; expertise in the field of healthcare policy, disability policy, community-based research, and grassroots coalition building

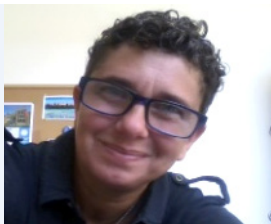
**AST/SOC/WST 540** Intimate Family Violence: A Multicultural Perspective



**NAME:** Becky Thompson  
**DEPARTMENT:** Sociology  
**EMAIL:** becky.thompson@simmons.edu

Antiracism, social justice, whiteness, liberatory education, and contemplative practices

**SOCI 544** Sociology of Poetry and Prose  
**SOCI 547** Antiracism and Justice Work



**NAME:** Jo Trigilio  
 Director of Gender/Cultural Studies Graduate Program  
**DEPARTMENT:** Philosophy, Women's and Gender Studies  
**EMAIL:** trigilio@simmons.edu

Intersections of oppression/liberation theories including feminist, gender, race, sexuality, queer theories; feminist epistemology; American pragmatism

**WGST 554** Feminist Theories  
**WGST 480** Gender and Queer Theory  
**GCS 403** Seminar in Gender and Cultural Studies





**Ally Day '09GS**

Assistant Professor in Disabilities Studies, University of Toledo

“Simmons hands down made me more competitive in applying to PhD programs in Women’s and Gender Studies, prepared me for finishing coursework in my PhD program more quickly than many of my peers, and allowed me time to develop the tools I needed to design a rigorously interdisciplinary PhD project.”

**Sarah Shives '13GS**

Assistant Dean of Students, University of Puget Sound

“The GCS program has fundamentally influenced the way that I think and understand my place in the world. As I encounter challenging situations in my work, I am constantly thinking about the systems at play and the construction of identities for all those involved. In my final semester at Simmons, I completed a capstone project on creating consent cultures, and now I facilitate consent workshops for my university community and train hearing boards for sexual misconduct cases.”



**Sailaja N. Joshi '13GS**

Entrepreneur

“This program is not about simply learning a subject. It’s about shifting the way you think and view the world. It’s about understanding your own privilege and challenging the ways in which you use that throughout the world.”



**Naisha Bradley '06GS**

Director, Harvard College Women’s Center

“The professors at Simmons gave more than just their intellectual resources; they gave their time and attention. I was educated at Simmons, but I also developed and was nurtured there. The nurturing I received from the faculty and administrators at Simmons prompted me to change my career and move outside of the nonprofit arena into higher education. I wanted to be for others what some of the community at Simmons were to me — a support system, an anchor that caught you before you fell, and an honest ear that corrected you when you made blunders.”



**Amy Stewart '13GS**

PhD Candidate in Philosophy and Instructor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

“My transition from graduate work in gender/cultural studies to doctoral work in philosophy was undoubtedly facilitated by the quality of and emphasis on interdisciplinary research at Simmons. Between the intensive graduate seminars and my work as a research assistant and fellow, there were ongoing opportunities to cultivate the skills necessary for doctoral studies. The knowledge that I gained in the GCS program also influenced my own capacities to educate others, as I now design and teach courses on sexual diversity and transgender studies for my university’s women, gender, and sexuality studies program.”

## GCS GRADUATES



### Shayne Zaslow '11GS

PhD Student in Sociology, University of Virginia

"I went to Simmons to hone my interests as a scholar and to make sure I was well suited to continue a career in academia, and I very strongly believe that Simmons provided me with the necessary tools to succeed in my current graduate program. Without a doubt, the best part of the program was the ability to work closely with faculty members. I received incredible mentoring that allowed me to develop as a scholar and as I'm working towards my PhD now, I'm even more grateful for the guidance I got during my time at Simmons."



### Brenda Nyandiko Sanya '11GS

Visiting Assistant Professor in Education Studies, Colgate University

"Simmons was instrumental in my understanding of interdisciplinary scholarship. Taking courses that were always intersectional and interdisciplinary helped me transition into doctoral studies in an interdisciplinary program. Attending Simmons, with an interest in feminist, gender, and queer theories, I was concerned that race, nationalism, and citizenship would become secondary to the scholarship I engaged in, but that was not the case. The nature of the coursework pushed me to engage how power and norms are related to state power, and that continues to be central in my research and teaching."

### Anna Brecke '06, '11GS

PhD Candidate in Cultural Studies, University of Rhode Island

"The best feature of the program was taking classes with faculty and students from different disciplines and gaining diverse perspectives on the subject matter. Simmons' participation in the Graduate Consortium of Women's Studies program at MIT was a part of that interdisciplinary experience. It allows students to take classes that are team taught by Simmons faculty and faculty from other area schools."



## APPLICATION DEADLINES

The Graduate Studies Admission Office has a rolling admission policy. Apply early for priority consideration for admission and financial aid. To meet final application deadlines, completed application files should be submitted by the following dates:

FALL: August 1  
SPRING: December 15



Graduate Studies Admission  
300 The Fenway  
Boston, MA 02115-5898  
Phone: 617-521-2915  
Fax: 617-521-3058

Email: [gsa@simmons.edu](mailto:gsa@simmons.edu)  
[simmons.edu/programs/gradstudies](http://simmons.edu/programs/gradstudies)


#### CONTACT US


Please contact the Graduate Studies Admission Office at 617-521-2915 or [gsa@simmons.edu](mailto:gsa@simmons.edu) if you have questions about the application process, the program, or wish to visit the school.

To apply, visit [simmons.edu/gradstudies/admission/apply](http://simmons.edu/gradstudies/admission/apply).

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Where leaders make themselves