Hello!

Congratulations! We are more excited than ever to have you along as we roll out our newly updated Gender, Women’s & Sexuality Studies curriculum in the fall of 2020.

Carleton’s Gender, Women’s & Sexuality Studies program provides an interdisciplinary meeting ground for exploring questions about gender, women, and sexuality that are transforming knowledge in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. Our goal is to include gender and sexuality along with class and race, as central elements of social and cultural analysis.

Let me tell you a bit more about our program and how you can customize your GWSS pathway.

Our gateway course into both the GWSS major and minor is, Introduction to Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies. Once you learn how to map the field of gender, women’s, and sexuality studies, you will advance to the Foundations of LGBTQ Studies course. This course provides an interdisciplinary examination of sexual desires, sexual orientations, and the concept of sexuality generally, with a particular focus on the construction of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender identities. If you decide to major in GWSS, additional upper level courses in methods and theory will follow.

Every student majoring or minoring in GWSS rounds out the program with a capstone course which offers students the opportunity to study a topic in depth and to produce a substantial research paper. Topics will rotate and change depending on the expertise and interest of the faculty teaching them.

Finally, all Carleton majors complete a self-directed, advisor-guided senior project known as senior comps. This is your opportunity to study a topic of choice in depth. Examples of recent topics include: anti-rape activism, identities of “at-risk” youth, identity negotiation among Somali Muslim women, gender norms in contemporary children’s bibles, and being lesbian in queer urban China.

Additional opportunities for research exist outside the classroom as well. Since 1984, Women’s and Gender Studies in Europe has offered students a unique opportunity to explore feminist and queer theory in practice across Western and East Central Europe.
While I hope this letter has answered some of your questions about our Program, I hope it has also inspired new ones. Please email me at amkhalid@carleton.edu if you’d like more information. On behalf of the entire GWSS program, we look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Amna Khalid