Department of Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies

Web Site: http://www.twu.edu/ws/

Interim Chair: Dr. Mark Kessler
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Graduate Degrees Offered

- M.A. in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies (http://catalog.twu.edu/archives/2016-2017/graduate/arts-sciences/womens-studies/womens-studies-ma)
- Ph.D. in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies (http://catalog.twu.edu/archives/2016-2017/graduate/arts-sciences/womens-studies/womens-studies-phd)

The Department of Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies offers an exciting curriculum that integrates diverse perspectives and critically applies feminist/womanist scholarship on behalf of social justice. The Master of Arts degree in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies emphasize an understanding and appreciation of Women's and Gender Studies as a transdisciplinary field of study. Undergraduate and graduate courses are regularly taught by over thirty faculty from across the University. Women's and Gender Studies uses multiple critical lenses to question, expand, and transform existing modes of knowledge and power in the service of social justice. It provides a curriculum grounded in diverse feminist theories, methodologies, and ethics; promotes interdisciplinary scholarly endeavors; and seeks to prepare leaders, particularly women, who will have the skills to negotiate change in academic and community settings.

M.A. in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies

The M.A. degree is a two-year program that prepares students for Ph.D. work in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies or a traditional discipline with a focus in Women's and Gender Studies, for careers in agencies and organizations that serve women, or for advanced professional training in interdisciplinary fields such as law and public policy. Students in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies examine issues related to understanding difference, identity, and power across a variety of contexts. In addition to coursework, students may assist in teaching Women's and Gender Studies courses, work in community agencies, participate in professional development and mentoring programs, or take part in feminist activities on campus and in the community.

Ph.D. in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies

The Ph.D. degree prepares students to revitalize academic life by producing new forms of knowledge through transdisciplinary and transformative dialogues among faculty and students in diverse disciplines. Doctoral degree recipients will emerge from this program grounded in a rigorous graduate school education and equipped with effective communication and research skills, holistic-critical thinking skills, and transformative teaching techniques. As part of the program’s unique transdisciplinary focus, students will obtain a deep understanding of scholarly production, research methodologies, and pedagogies in various academic disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. They will use this knowledge to create new dialogues among academic disciplines.

Admissions

Admission Requirements

Master of Arts program in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies

In addition to the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (http://catalog.twu.edu/archives/2016-2017/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school), the Department of Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies requires the following for unconditional admission into the master's degree program:

1. A 3.0 GPA with supporting course work in the liberal arts and sciences or interdisciplinary studies.
2. A written statement of the applicant's background, interests, and goals as these relate to Women's and Gender Studies (approximately 3-5 pages in length).
3. An 8-10 page writing sample, preferably a paper from an academic course, including notes and references.
4. Two letters of recommendation from individuals (preferably professors) familiar with the applicant's academic and/or professional work.

The GRE is not required for admission to the M.A. program in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies. M.A. applications are reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Doctor of Philosophy program in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies

In addition to the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (http://catalog.twu.edu/archives/2016-2017/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school), the Department of Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies requires the following for unconditional admission into the Ph.D. degree program:

1. A completed master's degree.
2. A grade point average of 3.5 or above on prior graduate-level course work.
3. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can address the applicant's past academic performance and future academic potential in the field of Women’s and Gender studies.
4. A statement of purpose: a short essay (approximately 1,000 words) discussing the applicant's personal and professional goals and how TWU's Ph.D. program in Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies can assist the applicant in meeting these goals.
5. A writing sample: an academic paper not to exceed twenty-five pages, including notes and references.
6. A current curriculum vitae or resumé.
The GRE is not required for admission to the Ph.D. program in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies. We admit students to the doctoral program in alternating years. Specific application procedures and deadlines are available at the TWU Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies website (http://www.twu.edu/ws/phd-admission-requirements.asp).

**Prerequisite coursework for the Ph.D. degree program in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies**

Ideally, the previously-earned master’s degree should include foundational courses in Women’s and Gender Studies or other feminist scholarship, with at least one course in each of the following areas: feminist/womanist theories, U.S. women of colors, feminist pedagogies, and feminist/womanist epistemologies. If comparable courses have not been part of the prerequisite master’s degree program, they must be completed as part of the doctoral degree in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies. Applicants should have an understanding of the field of Women’s and Gender Studies and familiarity with feminist and/or womanist theories.

**Provisional admission to the Ph.D. degree program in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies**

Admission to the Ph.D. program in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies may also be awarded on a provisional basis. Applicants who do not meet the unconditional criteria for admission, but who have a GPA of at least 3.0 on prior graduate-level course work, may be considered for provisional admission on an individual basis. Additional factors that may be considered in the provisional decision include the following:

- scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE [http://www.ets.org/gre]),
- scholarly activities, and/or
- professional leadership activities.

**Certificates**

**Certificate in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies**

- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies (http://catalog.twu.edu/archives/2016-2017/graduate/arts-sciences/womens-studies/post-baccalaureate-certificate-womens-studies)

**Minors**

**Minors Offered to Students from Other Departments**

Students may minor in Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies at both the master’s and doctoral levels. Courses designed to complement the student’s major field will be selected in consultation with the student’s advisory committee. Normally a minor requires 6 semester credit hours at the master’s level and 12 semester credit hours at the doctoral level.

**Faculty**

**Professors**

KEATING, ANALOUISE, Professor of Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies. B.A., Wheaton College; M.A., University of Illinois at Chicago; Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago.

KESSLER, MARK, Professor of Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies. B.A., University of Pittsburgh; M.A., Pennsylvania State University; Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University.

SAHLIN, CLAIRE L., Cornaro Professor of Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies; Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. B.A., Bethel College; St. Paul, Minnesota; M.T.S., Harvard Divinity School; M.A., Harvard University; Ph.D., Harvard University.

**Assistant Professors**

BEINS, AGATHA, Assistant Professor of Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies. B.A., Carleton College; M.A., University of Arizona; M.F.A., Eastern Washington University; Ph.D., Rutgers University.

PHILLIPS, DANIELLE, Assistant Professor of Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies. B.A., Spelman College; Ph.D., Rutgers University.

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