

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - GENDER STUDIES

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience.

UVic students in the [Gender Studies](#) program develop the following program-specific competencies. We worked with the Department of Gender Studies to develop this document.

FEMINIST THEORY

Explores feminist theories and activism as they pertain to women's lives

- + Uses diverse feminist theoretical frameworks to explore and analyze historical and contemporary social structures, power relations, development of ideas, and varieties of cultural production
- + Understands the historical and philosophical influences on and debates within feminism
- + Examines debates on experience, knowledge and power within feminist theory and political strategy
- + Focuses on ways in which feminist activism has empowered individuals to fight for social justice
- + Analyzes western feminism as theory and practice by situating it within a global and historical context
- + Examines the emerging field of transnational feminist thought

DYNAMICS OF POWER, IDENTITY AND DIFFERENCE

Examines the complex ways in which power circulates through the lives of individuals and groups

- + Understands the socially constructed meanings of categories such as gender, race, class, sexual orientation, age, ability, citizenship, and national identity and the intersections among them
- + Analyzes the history and development of ideas/definitions of "rights" and how feminists have challenged these definitions
- + Examines diverse spaces of human experience including popular culture, language and work
- + Explores the complex and often problematic relationship between women, race and colonisation
- + Explores feminist and non-feminist theories of race, racism and racialization in relation to other sources of structured social inequality
- + Examines key assumptions underlying feminism and feminist anti-racist discourses
- + Understands concerns and methods in contemporary drawing

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Understands the implications of the complicated spread of global interdependence in political, economic, and cultural areas for women's lived experiences

- + Recognizes the interconnectedness of the global and local
- + Examines the evolution of feminist responses to and critiques of mainstream development policies and theories of international development
- + Analyzes western feminism as theory and practice by situating it within a global and historical context

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE CONT.

- + Understands connections between the local and global as well as theory, praxis, and social justice
- + Examines how the social construction of gender has influenced ideas of nation
- + Examines the historical relationship between women and the changing regulatory practices of the state and the criminal justice system, exploring how these practices and women's resistances to them were shaped by gender, class, race, ethnicity and sexuality
- + Explores women's challenges to economic restructuring, poverty, militarization, human rights abuses, and the rise of rigid, masculinized ideas of national sovereignty
- + Examines the ways in which international human rights theories, organizations, laws, and practice are gendered, racialized, sexualized, and class based, and their effects on freedom, equality, and dignity in the international system
- + Explores theories and practices of representation in cultural production
- + Understands human experience across time, place, and culture
- + Demonstrates appreciation and awareness of cross-cultural difference

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Participates in building communities through active engagement in community-based groups and projects

- + Works effectively individually and in group settings to bring about positive social and political change
- + Liaises and works with community-based groups and organizations including advocacy groups, human rights groups, environmental organizations, health care providers and social service organizations
- + Advocates actively on behalf of individuals and communities
- + Facilitates group process, taking a leadership role when appropriate
- + Participates in grant writing to generate funding for community-based organizations and projects
- + Researches, documents and archives the stories, histories and artifacts of individuals and communities
- + Employs technologies such as wikis, blogging and film-making