



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Bernadette Palmeri '12

Gender and women's studies, English



Q: Why did you choose Connecticut College and why gender and women's studies as a major?

A: I was really drawn to the place when I did my tour. I felt like the atmosphere on campus was really positive and focused on a strong sense of community. I chose to go with a double major in English and GWS because I enjoy both areas of study and have been challenged in very different ways by both majors. I have a great respect for the interdisciplinary nature of gender and women's studies as a major that forces students to view their academic experience as a continuous, unfragmented learning process and is especially important at a liberal arts college.

Q: What has been your favorite class?

A: One of my favorite classes is called "Training for Transformation" in which we studied about the prison industrial complex and the history of activism surrounding this issue. I had the opportunity to volunteer once a week at York CI, a local women's prison, and teach a class on decision making with a group of incredibly devoted and knowledgeable activists from the area. It was a completely new and unique experience that, like so many courses in the department, really stretched me outside of my comfort zone and challenged traditional methods of learning.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I'm thinking a lot about law school and working with human rights organizations at the moment. I am also still intrigued by prison issues and I'm excited to see where GWS may take me after graduation!

Gender and Women's Studies

Overview

Students major in gender and women's studies because we combine a set of core courses with a range of interdisciplinary electives that allow you to shape your major according to your particular interests and talents. The major will take you from the basics of transnational feminism to advanced understanding and application of transnational feminist theory, methodology and practice. Students like you also choose gender and women's studies because you enjoy being passionately engaged with your studies and your world – as intellectuals, activists, artists, and writers who will apply your knowledge of gender in your work, families and communities, intelligently and creatively, for your entire lives.

Study Abroad

Gender and women's studies encourages you to take advantage of study abroad opportunities during the junior year to study gender and other subjects. GWS professors and students also can travel together through the Study Away Teach Away (SATA), Traveling Research Immersion Program (TRIP) programs, or on excursions as part of a course. Seniors did so in 2007 on a road trip to New Orleans through Monticello, Highlander, the Loretta Lynn Café, the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, then down the Mississippi River into the Crescent City. The trip totaled 3,600 miles on the van and a good bit of eating pig, even for vegetarians!

Interdisciplinary Study

Our students also have access to a broad array of interdisciplinary electives taught by our associated faculty from many other departments. Some of the courses have included "Postcolonial Literature" (English), "Gender in Communist and Post-Communist States" (East Asian studies and slavic studies), "Gendered Bodies in Motion" (dance), and "Psychology of Women" (psychology).

After Connecticut College

Our graduates have gone on to law school, master's programs in public policy, teaching or to Ph.D. programs in gender studies or other disciplines. Others work with non-profits on women's issues particularly or social justice issues more broadly.

Faculty

Mab Segrest, *Fuller-Matthai Professor of Gender and Women's Studies; Chair of Gender and Women's Studies Department*

B.A., Huntingdon College, Rutgers University; M.A., Ph.D., Duke University
Women's studies; social movements; sexuality studies; critical race theory/"whiteness"; creative nonfiction

Shubhra Sharma, *Vandana Shiva Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies*

B.A., University of Delhi, India; M.A., M. Phil., Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India; Concentration in Women's Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago; Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin
Transnationalism and policy making; governance and

NGOs; microlending; colonialism and education

ASSOCIATED FACULTY

Tristan Anne Borer, *Professor of Government*

B.A., University of Texas, San Antonio; M.A., Ph.D., University of Notre Dame
South African politics; human rights; transitional justice; gender and human rights; international relations

Joan C. Chrisler, *Class of '43 Professor of Psychology*

B.S., Fordham University; Certificate, Behavior Therapy, Long Island University; M.A., Ph.D., Yeshiva University
Health psychology and psychology of women; women's health; menstruation and menopause; cognitive and behavior therapy; weight and eating disorders; gender roles

Amy Dooling, *Associate Professor of Chinese*

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University
Modern and contemporary Chinese fiction; Chinese women's writing; history of the women's movement and feminism in China

Simon Hay, *Associate Professor of English*

B.A., M.Phil., Massey University, New Zealand; Ph.D., Duke University
Postcolonial literature and theory; 20th-century British and British-colonial literature; critical theory

Jennifer Manion, *Assistant Professor of History; Director of LGBTQ Center*

B.A., University of Pennsylvania; Ph.D., Rutgers University
Gender and sexuality; women and social movements; early America

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES?

Yalidy Matos '06

Ph.D. candidate in political science at Ohio State University.

While at the College, earned acceptance to the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University, a five-week academically intense summer program for underrepresented groups interested in political science.

Priyanka Gupta '06

Executive director, MPIL Steel Structures Ltd., Mumbai, India.

Also majored in economics and international relations. Earned a master's in public policy at New York University.

Erin Thomas '10

New York City Corps member at Teach for America.

Pursuing a master's degree in elementary and special education at Hunter College of City University of New York.

Selected Courses

Transnational Women's Movement; Bollywood, Globalization, and Identity; Words, Wisdom, And Witness: Women Of Color In The Americas; Race, Gender, And The Mass Media; Same-Sex Sexuality In World History; Women, Religion, And Modernity; Training For Transformation; Feminist Social Research Methods

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers 43 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences, humanities and other interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

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