

Gender Studies



Today more than ever, the study of gender is a vital, indispensable component of a Christian Liberal Arts education.

Westmont's interdisciplinary minor provides opportunities for students to explore and analyze the complexities of gender identity across disciplines, methodologies, and cultures. Gender Studies courses guide students to navigate, interrogate, and understand how femininity and masculinity develop and affect all aspects of our lives, including how we live, worship, work, and play together. Faculty shape these courses to live in the tension of what it means for us to bear God's image in gendered bodies, in particular times and spaces. Small class sizes and internship opportunities allow for lively, dynamic engagement of this fundamental aspect of our human nature.

SELECTED COURSES

- Gender in Theological Perspective
- Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
- Feminist and Gender Theory
- Women in the Middle East
- Screen Printing
- Latin American Women Writers
- Race and Gender on the American Stage
- Sociology of the Family
- Interpersonal Violence
- Writers in Conversation: Gender and Literature
- Internships

CAREER PATHS

Gender Studies combines with most Westmont majors to open doors to exciting professional fields and to bring flexibility and durability to your life-long career paths. Westmont's recent graduates have found positions in fields as varied as counseling, content creating, public relations, and ministry. Understanding the role gender plays in a variety of institutions and professional practices gives applicants an edge in many nonprofit organizations, human resources, public health, theater, visual arts and museums, writing, advocacy, public policy, and law.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



MEREDITH WHITNAH,
PH.D.

Meredith Whitnah is a sociologist who studies race, gender, and religion in the U.S. and South Africa.



DINORA CARDOSO,
PH.D.

Dinora Cardoso teaches Latin American women's literature, focusing on the Caribbean where she was born.



CHERI LARSEN
HOECKLEY, PH.D.

Cheri Larsen Hoeckley asks how gender plays into determining whether we use "migrant" or "expatriate."



CARYN REEDER, PH.D.

Caryn Reeder's newest book studies Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well to explore Christian perspectives on women's sexuality and leadership.



MEAGAN STIRLING,
M.F.A.

Teaches printmaking, exploring the artistic medium's potential to create images of inquiry, protest, and dissent as it relates to gender and gender equality.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL STUDIES



- Westmont in San Francisco
- Westmont in Northern Europe
- Westmont in Mexico
- Westmont in Cairo
- Westmont in Jerusalem
- Westmont Downtown

ALUMNI

Emily Hauck ('15) completed her PhD in Psychology at Fuller Seminary in 2021. Her dissertation is a theoretical analysis of purity culture using Relational Psychoanalysis, and she completed her pre-doc internship in the counseling center at CSU Long Beach. Emily identifies the Gender Studies program as "one of the highlights" of her Westmont career. She says, "The program helped me find my voice professionally, personally, and as a woman in the Church. It also allowed me to enter my field with a specialty that is very needed in our current world."

Madeline (Celley) Phipps ('14) has worked in Public and Media Relations for Denver University and for Metro Valley RPTA. She credits the Westmont Gender Studies minor with requiring her to think critically about how identit(ies) shape our interactions and the mentorship encouraged her to pursue her masters in literature. In her words, "I appreciated the opportunity to take classes in a variety of different subjects, both in my major and outside of it with a shared focal point."



WESTMONT

westmont.edu/gender-studies