

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 2819S  
Date of Senate Approval 04/04/19

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 21 (WGSS): Add a Methodological Course to the Major Requirements for WGSS**

**Effective Date: Fall 2019**

**1. Delete:** On page 290, under **Major in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies:**

- I. Required courses in the major—12 hours: WGSS 100, 365, 400.
- II. Additional course requirements—at least 24 hours from WGSS 451 and the courses listed below, with at least three courses from the Humanities listing, and at least three courses chosen from the Natural Science/Social Science listing. Special topics courses or other courses with relevant content may be substituted with approval of the program director. 12 of the additional 24 hours must be at the 300 level or above.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated in WGSS 400. The course must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

**Add:** On page 290, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in the major—12 hours: WGSS 100, 365, 400.
- II. Required course outside the major—4 hours to be selected from the following Methodological course options: ANTH 336, HIST 250, LIT 440, or SOC 338. Other methodological courses may be substituted with approval of the program director. Students are responsible for completing necessary prerequisites or obtaining permission of the instructor. The methodological course should be completed prior to taking WGSS 400.
- III. Additional course requirements—at least 20 hours from other WGSS courses and the courses listed below, with at least two courses chosen from the Humanities listing, and at least two courses chosen from the Social Science listing. Other courses with relevant content may be substituted with approval of the program director. 12 of the additional 20 hours must be at the 300-level or above.
- IV. Other departmental requirements – Major competency is demonstrated in WGSS 400. The course must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

**Impact:** Adding the requirement for a methodological course has no impact on the total number of hours in the major due to the reduction in the number of required electives. Arrangements have been made with departments offering the methodological courses to waive prerequisites when necessary so that this remains a true 36-hour major. Furthermore, the relatively small number of majors will be distributed across multiple course options according to their interests, avoiding significant burden for any single instructor. Therefore, we expect minimal-to-no impact on resources or staffing. The benefit for students is expected to be considerable, as they should be better prepared for engaging in inquiry, research, and analysis in the field.

**Rationale:** For a number of years, instructors of WGSS 400 have reported challenges guiding students successfully through an entire senior project during the course of one semester, due in part to students' lack of prior exposure to methodological approaches. Students have likewise reported a desire for more preparation in advance of the senior project. Requiring WGSS majors to take a methodological course of their choice prior to enrolling in the senior capstone will better equip them for the research and writing necessary for the senior project. Ideally, we hope to offer a Feminist Methodology course in the future. At present, though, we have neither enough majors nor adequate staffing to offer such a course. In the meantime, we have identified two appropriate options in the social sciences and two options in the humanities. All relevant department chairs, as well as WGSS Faculty have expressed support for this plan.