

## **Department of Gender & Women's Studies Ph.D. Program**

### **Individualized Concentration**

#### **Description:**

Students may choose to pursue an individualized concentration if they cannot find a pre-specified concentration that aligns with their research interests and career aspirations. Individualized concentrators must successfully demonstrate that their proposed plan of study cannot reasonably be completed within an already established concentration. Students are required to work with their GWS faculty advisor to design the right breadth and depth of coursework that meets their specific research needs and career goals.

#### **Core Faculty:**

Any faculty member in Gender & Women's Studies may serve as an advisor for a student pursuing an Individualized Concentration.

#### **Required Courses:**

Students pursuing an Individualized concentration must complete 15 credits of graduate work. Students may do so by:

1. Creating an individualized area of study that is distinct from existing GWS concentrations.
2. Tailoring one of the established GWS concentrations (Political Science, Health, History, LGBTQ+ Studies, Psychology, or Visual Culture, Art, and Performance Studies) to meet their specific interests. Such tailoring generally involves replacing one or more of an existing concentration's required courses with a course or courses of their own choosing.

#### **Additional Course Requirements and Guidelines:**

1. All **GWS Individualized Concentration courses must be listed at the 700+ level or have the 50% graduate attribute.**
2. Two GWS advanced electives may double count as an Individualized Concentration course.
3. The Director of Graduate Studies and the relevant GWS faculty advisor(s) must approve all Individualized Concentration proposals.

#### **Students who wish to pursue an Individualized Concentration must complete the following steps:**

1. Consult with your faculty advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies and/or Graduate Program Manager about your proposal.
2. Complete a proposal that includes a statement of objectives, rationale, and list of courses to be taken.
3. Obtain written approval of said proposal from your GWS faculty advisor.
4. Submit your proposal and evidence of your advisor's approval of said proposal to the Graduate Committee for final approval no later than May of your first year.