MEMO

To: James Faubion, chair, Rice University Senate Graduate Council
From: Rosemary Hennessy
Re: Renewal of Graduate Certificate in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Date: February 12, 2015

In response to our conversation of last fall regarding the SWGS Graduate Certificate, I am submitting this new application for renewal.

On January 21, 2015 the CSWGS Steering Committee approved the exclusion of the clause that allowed graduate certificate students to take a 400 level course as an elective. Although in practice no student had elected to do this, committee members agreed that this provision was a remnant of some prior history and not desired by the faculty now.

To my dismay I discovered that the description of the SWGS Graduate Certificate requirements in the General Announcements 2015 online does not include the 400 level elective option although the CSWGS webpage did. The webpage has been changed to omit that phrase as of February 12, 2015. http://cswgs.rice.edu/certificaterequirements/

The Certificate was initially approved in 2004 and currently has over 50 students enrolled. While it is housed in the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the School of Humanities, the program is interdisciplinary, and draws many students from Anthropology and Sociology as well.

The certificate appears on the transcript once students complete the requirements.

Since its inception, the program’s requirements have remained the same. Over time, however, as faculty on the CSWGS steering committee have continually assessed the effectiveness of desired educational outcomes, the content of core courses and their expected outcomes have undergone minor revisions. Desired outcomes for the core courses have been formulated and approved by the CSWGS Steering Committee and are now included on syllabi.

What follows are the overall requirements, course descriptions of the core courses and their expected outcomes.

I hope the renewal process can be speedy. Please let me know if there is anything else you need.
The Graduate Certificate in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Requirements

http://cswgs.rice.edu/graduatecourses/

In addition to completing the requirements for the Ph.D. in a home department, students enrolled in the CSWGS Graduate Certificate Program must complete:

- Three courses, including two core courses and one elective course.
- The first core course - SWGS 501 "Feminist Debates" - is to be taken during the semesters in which other graduate course work requirements are being fulfilled.
- The second core course - SWGS 502 "Gender, the Disciplines, & Interdisciplinarity" - is to be taken after completion of SWGS 501.
- The elective course is to be chosen from listed SWGS courses, may be in the student's home department or another department
- Participation in the annual Colloquium

What the Certificate Program Offers:

Stipend Support

- Semester-long stipends for the last semester before entering candidacy (dependent on CSWGS approval of dissertation proposal)
- Semester-long teaching assistant stipends available for students who have achieved candidacy (usually in the fourth or fifth years)

Intellectual Support

- Sustained interdisciplinary work in scholarly literature and in students' dissertation plans
- Rapid acquaintance with faculty and resources across campus related to gender studies
- Through the annual Colloquium, personal contact with leading scholars in gender studies
- Strengthened intellectual community for students writing gender-related dissertations

CORE COURSES:

SWGS 501 - FEMINIST DEBATES
This course identifies and traces three streams of thought through debates about major issues in women's studies. While the content of these streams will vary, the course will always be attentive to the historical and theoretical context of the debates in question and to the intersection of these debates with others. Topics might include: public and private spheres; the relation between the local and the global links between gender and sexuality; the problem of identity; the relation between activist and academic feminism.

SWGS 502 - GENDER, THE DISCIPLINES, AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY*
Structured as a workshop, this course enables certificate students to engage cross-disciplinary feminist scholarship as they integrate the study of women, gender, and sexuality into their doctoral writing by transforming existing papers into works that are of publishable quality. Pre-requisite: SWGS 501.

*This course description was changed as of September 2014. The new description will appear in the General Announcements of 2015-16.
**COLLOQUIUM**

Graduate students enrolled in the certificate program are required to participate in the annual Colloquium - a series of seminars given by leading scholars that follow a public lecture. Through the Colloquium, students gain personal contact with these cutting-edge scholars while building intellectual community with their fellow graduate students. Readings for seminars ARE made available on OWL-space.

**CORE COURSES EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

**SWGS 501 Feminist Debates**

By the end of the seminar students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of historical and contemporary debates, organized in at least three debate streams, in the study of women, gender, and sexuality
- demonstrate knowledge of diverse approaches to SWGS inquiry in diverse disciplines
- analyze critical debates across the disciplines and in incorporating these debates in their own analyses
- hone analytic writing about the study of women, gender, and sexuality
- produce an extended paper that thinks through a project in their field in terms of SWGS debates and interventions.
- demonstrate skill in oral presentation through classroom discussion and presentation
- demonstrate skill in formal presentation of original, SWGS research
- demonstrate knowledge of how critics develop book length arguments in the study of women, gender and sexuality

**SWGS 502 Gender, the Disciplines, and Interdisciplinarity**

By the end of the seminar students should be able to:

- prepare a paper that already has some focus on gender, women, and/or sexuality for publication and/or use in a dissertation
- demonstrate in a round table discussion the scope and range of work in one year of an academic journal in feminist/women’s/gender/ or sexuality studies
- identify features of feminist concepts and methodologies in published articles in feminist/women’s/gender or sexuality studies journals
- identify features of Women’s Studies/Gender Studies/Sexuality Studies as academic fields
- revise their work so that it engages with the interdisciplines of feminist/women's/gender studies
- refine their critical abilities as readers of their own and their peer’s writing
- identify and discuss rhetorical elements of published work
- identify and work on individual writing goals
- understand, evaluate, and respond to critique of their work from peers
- improve oral presentation skills including ability to respond to and ask questions
- prepare documents in different academic genres, including the paper abstract