

## **Guidelines for Senior Projects in WAGS**

**WAGS** is an interdisciplinary major that requires students to work in both a core field and to apply feminist theory and methodology to their senior projects. This takes advance planning! Therefore, students need to think carefully about possible senior work projects before their senior year, and speak with both the chair of the WAGS program and a possible advisor in their core field.

Senior projects may be either a one-semester senior essay or other creative work (WAGS 0700), or a three-semester senior thesis (WAGS 0710). A thesis advisor should be selected from among program faculty in the student's core field. *Students are required to meet with their advisor no later than the semester preceding the semester in which senior work is begun.* All senior projects must be approved by the project advisor and by the chair of Women's and Gender Studies (and students should hand in the Senior work Worksheet to the program chair).

**1. What is the difference between WAGS 0700 or WAGS 0710?** All majors in WAGS must complete senior work, but what determines if you will do a one semester or a three semester project?

Ask yourself if you want to devote three semesters to a thesis long investigation of a problem (or a creative equivalent). This commitment should not be taken lightly, and you may not even know the answer when you begin the process. You may undertake a shorter more focused study, and then as you get involved with it, decide it is worthy of more extensive work. On the other hand, if you sign up for a thesis and decide mid-semester that you really do not want to devote two more semesters to this project, you can turn your project into a one-semester one.

**2. What are the due dates I need to keep in mind?**

- a. In the semester before you start this project, you need to find a project advisor in your core field. If you will be abroad in that semester, make sure you speak with a possible advisor before you leave for your study abroad, at least just to get the process started. You need to fill out the *Senior Work Worksheet* and bring it to the WAGS Program Chair.
- b. If you elect WAGS 0700, then the project is due at the end of one semester. The project will be evaluated by your advisor for the project.
- c. If you elect WAGS 0710, then your final project is due in the first week after Spring Break. After this, a thesis defense will be scheduled. The evaluators of your senior work will be your thesis advisor and the

chair of WAGS or another WAGS Program faculty member. Your primary advisor should speak with the WAGS chair to determine a suitable second reader.

**3. Will there be a chance to share my work with other WAGS majors, faculty and other students?**

At the end of the Spring Term, all WAGS majors will be invited to share their research at a senior project presentation forum. In addition, non-WAGS majors whose senior work is related to gender issues will also be invited to present the results of their work if they are interested.

**4. What determines if I receive honors in WAGS?**

In order to receive honors, a student must have a B+ average in his/her major courses. In addition, the student must undertake a three semester senior project, and receive a B+ or above in this senior work. [A grade of B+ in this senior work entitles the student to honors, A- to high honors, and A to highest honors].

**5. What happens if I am a joint major?**

If the two majors differ on senior work requirements, this will be worked out on an ad hoc basis by their advisors in the two majors.