

National Report on Women, Gender, and Sexuality Programs in Canada

2026



National Report on Women, Gender, and Sexuality Programs in Canada

Project Title

Transformative Encounters: Gender and Sexuality Pedagogies in Canada

Principal Investigator Title

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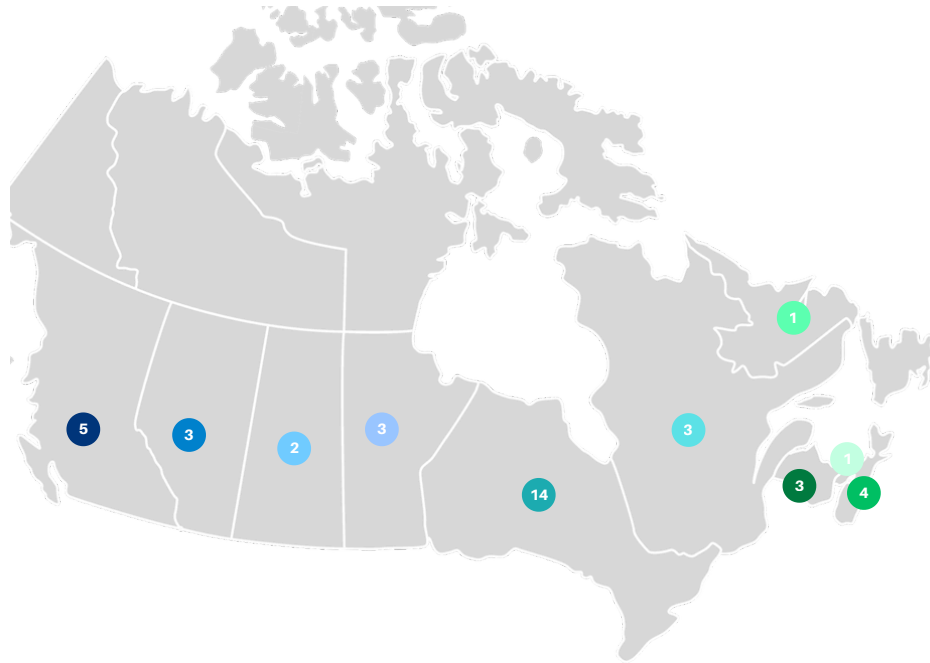
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Website

transformativepedagogies.ca

Universities with at least one undergraduate **major** in WGS



Western Canada

- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Island University
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Lethbridge
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- Brandon University
- University of Winnipeg
- University of Manitoba

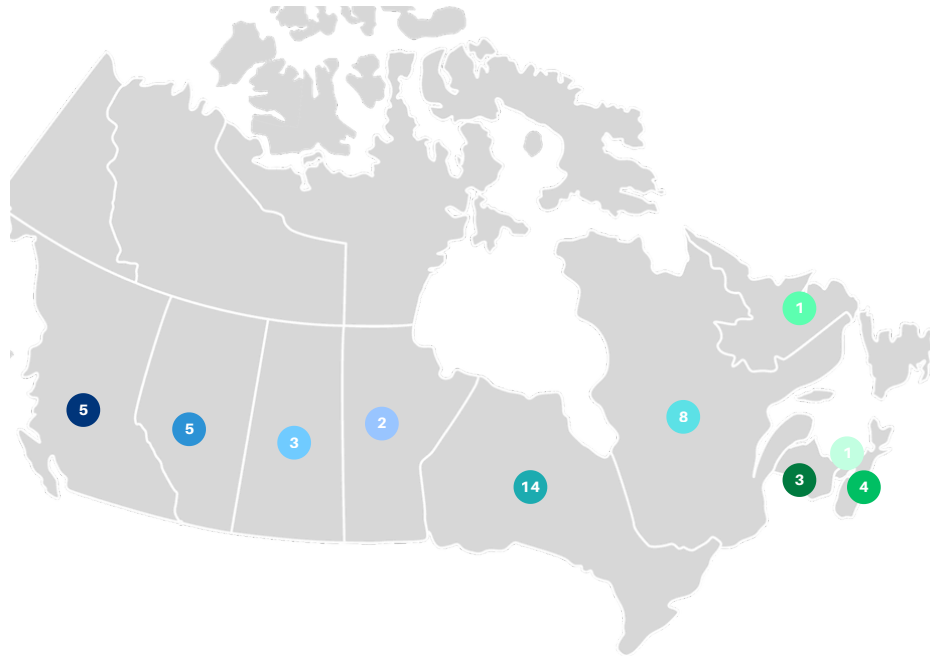
Central Canada

- Wilfred Laurier University
- Western University
- University of Windsor
- University of Waterloo
- Brock University
- Carleton University
- Lakehead University
- Laurentian University
- Nipissing University
- Queen's University
- Trent University
- University of Ottawa
- University of Toronto
- York University
- Concordia University
- McGill University
- UQAM

Eastern Canada

- Mount Allison University
- St Thomas University
- University of New Brunswick
- Mount Saint Vincent University
- St. Francis Xavier University
- Acadia University
- Dalhousie University
- Memorial University
- University of PEI

Universities with at least one undergraduate **minor** or **certificate** in WGS



Western Canada

- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University
- University of Victoria
- Vancouver Island University
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Lethbridge
- University of Regina
- Mount Royal University
- Macewan University
- University of Saskatchewan
- Brandon University
- University of Winnipeg
- University of Manitoba

Central Canada

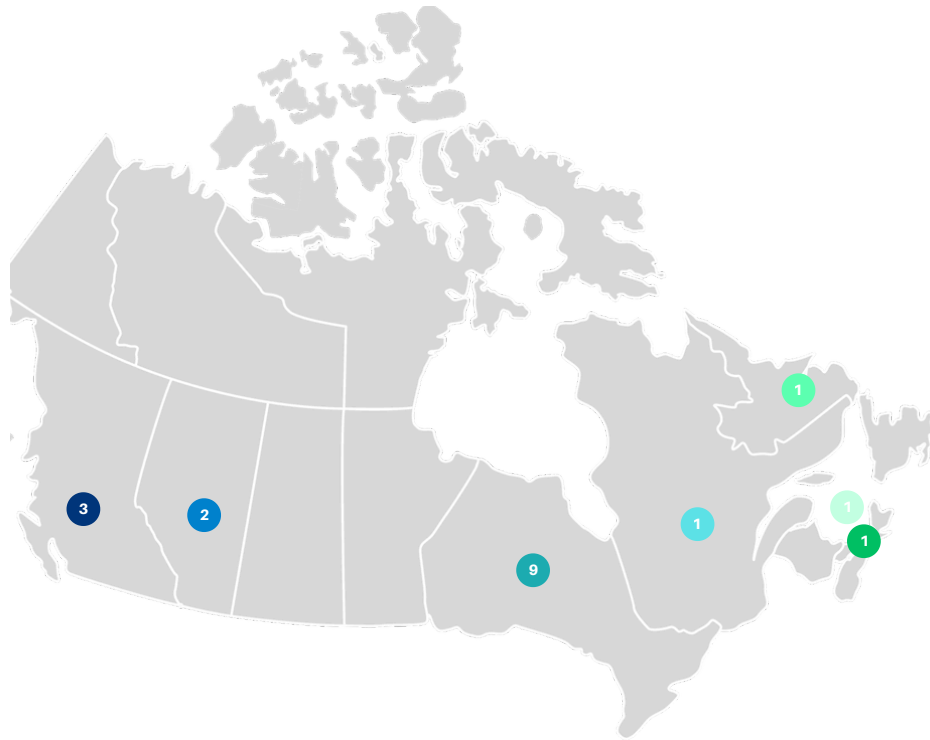
- University of Ottawa
- University of Toronto
- York University
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Western University
- University of Windsor
- University of Waterloo
- Brock University
- Carleton University
- Lakehead University
- Laurentian University
- Nipissing University
- Queen's University
- Trent University
- Université TÉLUQ
- Université de Sherbrooke
- Université Laval

- Concordia University
- McGill University
- UQAM
- Bishop's University
- Université du Québec en Outaouais

Eastern Canada

- Mount Allison University
- St Thomas University
- University of New Brunswick
- Mount Saint Vincent University
- St. Francis Xavier University
- Acadia University
- Dalhousie University
- Memorial University
- University of PEI

Universities with **graduate** programs (MA and/or PhD)



Western Canada

- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University
- University of Alberta
- University of Lethbridge

Central Canada

- Western University
- Brock University
- Carleton University
- Lakehead University
- Queen's University
- University of Ottawa
- University of Toronto
- York University
- McMaster University
- UQAM

Central Canada

- Mount Saint Vincent University
- Memorial University
- University of PEI

Trends in WGS Curriculum

The following table summarizes key aspects of WGS core curriculum in programs across Canada.

	Course Title Examples	Insights
Introductory	Introduction to program/topic name*; Sexual and Gender Diversity Studies; Making Sense of Gender; Critical Readings in Gender; Gender Talk; *Women’s and Gender Studies; Gender Studies; Women’s Studies; Sexuality Studies, etc.	Foundational courses in WGS are largely descriptive, use program titles, and occasionally offer insight into the type of learning (e.g., understanding, critical reading)
Theory	Feminist Thought; Feminist Theory and Practice for Change; Theorizing Gender and Sexuality; Introduction to Queer Theory	Emphasis on feminist or queer theory, key thinkers in the field, and applied theory (e.g, for change).
Research Methods	Feminist Research Methodologies; Qualitative Research Methods; Feminisms and Research Methods	Research methods in the field are primarily qualitative in focus.
Historical Understanding	History of Feminist Thought; Introduction to Historical Perspectives in Women’s Studies; Introduction to the History of Gender	Historical courses are less often included in core curriculum for programs and tend to focus on history of the field or theoretical approaches, historical perspectives, and topical history courses.
Indigenous, Decolonial and Race-Focused	First Nations Perspectives on Race, Class, Gender and Power; Topics in Aboriginal Women’s Studies; Indigenous Feminisms and Indigenous Law; Unsettling Canada: Indigenous Women’s Activism; Transnational Feminisms; Gender, Race, and...; Decolonial Praxis	Indigenous, decolonial, and race-focused courses are less often included in core curriculum for programs and tend to include specific focus on an area of scholarship in the field or cross-listed courses with other programs.
Applied and Experiential Learning	Praxis Seminar; Activism and Advocacy; Proseminar: Professional Development in Gender Studies	Only a handful of programs have courses designated explicitly as experiential or applied learning.

List of Core Courses in WGS Programs in Canada

Introductory courses

1. Introduction to Women's Studies / Women's and Gender Studies / Gender Studies / Sexuality Studies / Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies / Feminism / Indigenous Feminism / Indigenous Gender the History of Gender / Critical Studies in Sexuality / Trans* Studies
2. The Aboriginal Peoples of Canada
3. Focus on Women I / II
4. Gender and Diversity
5. Foundations in Sexuality Studies
6. Making Sense of Gender
7. Critical Readings in Gender
8. Talking Gender and Sexuality
9. Feminist and Social Justice Studies
10. Sexual and Gender Diversity Studies

Research methods courses

1. Anti-colonial and Feminist Qualitative Methodologies
2. Feminism(s) and Research Methods / Methodologies
3. Feminist Approaches to Research
4. Feminist Methods
5. Toolkit for GSWS Research
6. Research Methods and Data Analysis

Historical knowledge courses:

1. Introduction to Historical Perspectives in Women's Studies
2. Introduction to the History of Gender
3. Sexuality Theory in Historical Perspectives
4. History of Feminist Thought

Professional development/applied learning/ experiential learning courses

1. Activism and Advocacy
2. Decolonizing Praxis: A Practicum in Social Justice
3. Gender Studies Capstone
4. Proseminar: Professional Development in Gender Studies
5. Praxis Seminar

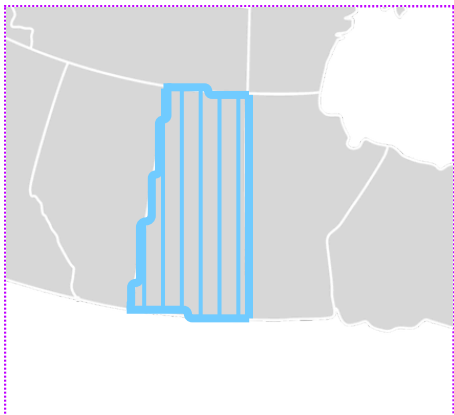
Theory courses

1. Contemporary Feminist Theory
2. Contemporary Feminist Thought
3. Feminist Thought / Theory / Theory and Practice
4. Gender and Society
5. Gender and Sexuality
6. Theories of Representation & Difference
7. Theories of Subjectivity
8. Gender, Sexuality and Social Justice
9. Discourses of Gender
10. Queer Theory
11. Foundations of Feminist Thought, the Body and Representation
12. Foundations of Feminist Thought, Work and Society
13. Gender and Literary Theory

Racism, colonialism, Indigenous studies, transnational-focused courses

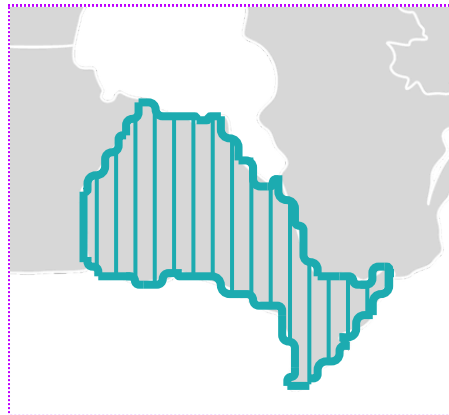
1. Decolonizing Praxis: A Practicum in Social Justice
2. First Nations Perspectives on Race, Class, Gender and Power
3. Unsettling Canada: Indigenous Women's Activism
4. Indigenous Literatures in Canada and the United States
5. Special Topics in Indigenous Literatures
6. Global Feminisms
7. Transnational Feminisms
8. Gender, Race, and Post-Colonialism in Global Contexts
9. Gender, Race, Sexuality & Social Justice in Literature
10. Introduction to Indigenous Feminisms / Indigenous Gender
11. Indigenous Women: Perspectives
12. Topics in Aboriginal Women's Studies

Universities with WGS experiential learning opportunities



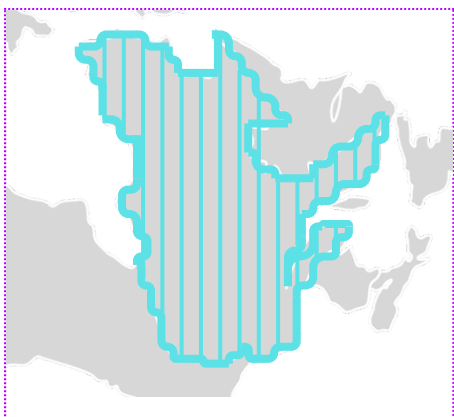
Saskatchewan

- University of Saskatchewan



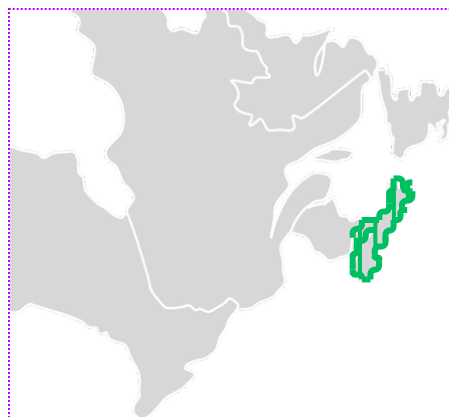
Ontario

- Brock University
- Carleton University



Quebec

- Concordia University
- Université Laval
- UQAM



Nova Scotia

- St. Francis Xavier University
- Mount Saint Vincent University
- St. Mary's University
- Dalhousie University

**Transformative
Pedagogies Lab**
Research on Gender &
Sexuality Pedagogies

**Laboratoire des
Pédagogies Transformatrices**
Recherches sur les pédagogies
du genre & de la sexualité