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**Proposal for a Global Option in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies**

**(GO WGSS)**

*Background and Rationale*

The Global Option is a curriculum enhancement program through which Ohio State students may acquire documented international expertise integrated into participating majors without adding time to graduation. The [Global Option](http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/GlobalOption.pdf) is a key component of Ohio State's strategy for institutional internationalization as presented in the President and Provost's Council on Strategic Internationalization.

**University Approval**: The Provost's Council approved the Global Option concept on October 17, 2011 and the Council of Academic Affairs (CAA) approved the general framework on October 9, 2012.

The undergraduate curriculum of the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) offers numerous courses on women, gender and transnationalism. Moreover, the faculty of WGSS is deeply committed to exposing students to the histories, experiences and ideas of populations outside of the United States. Our department has professors who have carried out extensive research in places such as Latin America, South Asia, Africa, Europe and elsewhere. Given the global scope of our teaching and research, we are confident that we already have most of the resources in place to offer a Global Option in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Having this plan of study in place will further help our students to think of gender and feminism as global and transnational issues. Moreover, offering such an option will expand students’ awareness of the critical issues raised across the courses included in the proposed Global Option. Given the certificate design, this can be accomplished without adding time to graduation.

The faculty and staff in WGSS, in consultation with Esther Gottlieb from the Office of International Affairs, have developed this proposal. The (2013-2014) WGSS Undergraduate Studies Committee then chaired by Professor Guisela Latorre initially designed the program and the (2014-2015) WGSS Undergraduate Studies Committed chaired by Professor Wendy Smooth amended that proposal to address concerns as articulated by the Council of Academic Affairs. This final submission reflects the requested changes by the ASC curriculum committee to limit the global option to WGSS majors only. This revised proposal includes the background and rationale; global competencies; goals; framework and components; procedure and oversight; metrics and milestones; and a 4-year plan for implementation. The global competencies serve as the structure of the certificate by clustering students’ international learning experiences. The program will focus on an in depth analysis of the literature on students’ learning and the ways to educate global citizens. Our deliberations have identified the following eight global competencies in WGSS that majors will acquire as a result of completing the Global Option in WGSS:

*Global Competencies*

1. Understanding of global cultural diversities and their impact policy decisions that affect women, gender, and/or sexual minorities
2. Ability to make ethical and equitable decisions amidst cultural and national differences
3. Proficiency in a second language
4. Ability to communicate across cultural and linguistic boundaries
5. Sensitivity when working in ethnically and culturally diverse social environments
6. Understanding of the interconnectedness of the world and the inner workings of global processes
7. Understanding how transnational and global phenomena affect the lives of women and other gender minorities
8. Gaining knowledge of how gender considerations impact global phenomena like immigration; flows of capital and goods; labor; and trafficking, among others.

*Goals*

The goal of the GO WGSS is to enhance students’ global competencies and thereby better prepare them to apply feminist and gender principles in a global environment. We seek to educate students to become global citizens. Even though we currently offer almost all the courses listed in this proposal, most of our WGSS majors do not take more than one or two of our classes with a global or transnational focus. The GO WGSS, however, provides an opportunity to appeal to more students who would seek out these courses and would thus graduate with a heightened consciousness and knowledge about transnational realities. Moreover, the international experiences they will gain, such as participating in a general study abroad experience for a semester or participating in the disciplinary study abroad program in WGSS, will further enforce the knowledge they acquire through their course work. The GO WGSS will provide students completing the program with a certificate upon graduation and designation on their transcripts.

*Framework and Components for WGSS*

Students participating in the GO WGSS program will plan an undergraduate curriculum with elements related to international themes and global dimensions as described in the following components. Courses, international experiences, language, and reflection in the components constitute a special engagement well beyond the standard requirements for graduation.

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| **Component** | **Description** | **Credits** |
| A. Introductory Exposure | Either a General Study Abroad Experience (e.g. an existing Study Abroad General Education (GE) course) or one of the new disciplinary Study Abroad courses in WGSS[[1]](#footnote-1) | 3 |
| B. Language | One language course, other than English, above and beyond the GE requirements  | 3 |
| C. Three Global and Transnational Courses | WGSST 2305 Gender and Sexuality in Global PerspectiveWGSST 3302 Engendering Peace and ConflictWGSST 3322H Natives and Newcomers: U.S. Immigration and MigrationWGSST 3505 Feminist Perspectives on GlobalizationWGSST 3530 Women, Environment and DevelopmentWGSST 4404 Regulating Bodies: Global Sexual EconomiesWGSST 4576 Women & Visual Culture in Latin AmericaWGSST 4597 Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World | 9 |
| D. Capstone Project | WGSS 4998 Capstone Project (research course focused on international/transnational theme) | 3 |

Additional program requirements include:

1. Pre- and Post-program evaluation of global competencies using the *Assessment of Global Learning at OSU,* a standard assessment to be administered upon declaring the GO-WGSS and upon completion. This will be administered in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs, and/or other GO programs.
2. Maintaining an e-portfolio or record of activities addressing the A-D components.
3. Students must earn a C or better in all graded components of the GO WGSS and satisfactorily complete all S/N courses.
4. Completion of all degree requirements for bachelor degree at an OSU college.
5. Students are expected to remain in good academic standing at OSU to continue and to receive the certificate.

We will begin with outreach to WGSS majors in current WGSS courses and use our advising component to inform majors of this opportunity. Completion of all components of the GO-WGSS requirements will be necessary to receive the transcript designation. Students enrolling in the program may abandon it without penalty.

*Procedure and Oversight*

The GO WGSS will be managed by the WGSS Undergraduate Studies Committee. This Committee, in consultation where appropriate with the Office of International Affairs will be responsible to:

* Increase awareness of the program
* Establish a system for communicating program goals and requirements to students; advise GO-WGSS students; and manage student participation; and maintain program records for participation
* In cooperation with the WGSS advisor and academic advisors in the College of Arts and Sciences, advise students regarding the program
* Maintain records of student participation in the program
* Continually seek to improve the program taking into account the findings from the assessment tools and as advised by the WGSS Undergraduate Studies Committee
* Establish and maintain an assessment plan for the program including longitudinal tracking of participants
* Collaborate with the Office of International Affairs and other GO Options within the University
* Seek funding to support student and faculty participation
* Report at least annually on the program to the College of Arts and Sciences

Metrics and Milestones

* Goal for initial approval is June 2016.
* Enroll students in the program beginning 2016/2017
* Up to 10% of WGSS students participating in the program by 2020.
1. A disciplinary-based study abroad experience is currently being developed [?]. The first course offering is projected for 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)