



Call for gender studies course proposals at University of Klagenfurt during the academic year 2025/26

The interdisciplinary expert commission of the elective program Gender and Diversity Studies at the University of Klagenfurt is hereby issuing a call for course proposals in the extension program *Gender Studies* and the elective program *Gender and Diversity*. Please send your application documents to the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Klagenfurt in a **single pdf file (per submitted course)**, by e-mail only (gender.zentrum@aau.at). **The deadline for applications is the 15th of December 2024.**

We are looking forward to applications for a total of six thematic modules (a maximum of two courses per module). One course consists of 2 semester hours per week / 4 ECTS. Applications for courses in English are highly welcomed.

- **courses in the module Introduction**
- **courses in the module Living Spaces**
- **courses in the module Historicity – Memory – Experience**
- **courses in the module Communication – Representation**
- **courses in the module Body – Psyche – Physicality**
 - o with a focus on trans*, inter* and non-binary in particular
- **courses in the module Economics and Work**
 - o Particularly with a focus on business administration, economics, sociology in combination with gender and diversity (see p. 4)

Since 2020, students can enrol in an extension programme in *Gender Studies* as well as choose *Gender and Diversity* as elective courses. The interdisciplinary extension curriculum comprises several modules, the descriptions of which are in the appendix.

We ask lecturers to consider the heterogeneity and diverse educational backgrounds of students. Students are from four different schools (Education and Cultural Studies, Social Science, Economics and Law, Technology) and often do not possess any prior knowledge in Women's and Gender Studies.

Required documents

1. A description of the proposed course, including
 - 1.1. The module you are submitting your course to (it is possible to name two modules, if you make a case for it; the appendix comprises the descriptions of the modules)
 - 1.2. Course title
 - 1.3. Type of course (lecture, lecture with introductory seminar course, introductory seminar course, seminar course)
 - 1.4. Content of the course (up to 2500 characters incl. spaces)
 - 1.5. Expected teaching goals



- 1.6. Teaching methods
- 1.7. Mode of assessment
- 1.8. Relevant course literature
2. Applicant's CV which illustrates the applicant's suitability for teaching the course (academic area of expertise, teaching experience, publications...)
3. Applicant's short bio (up to 1500 characters, incl. spaces).

Further details:

- **The interdisciplinary expert commission**, which consists of about 20 experts, selects the proposals. It aims at coming to a final decision by the end of January 2025. Applicants will be informed until March 2025.
- **Scheduling of courses:** Courses can be either weekly or blocked. If they are blocked, they need to take place on at least four separate blocks. Scheduling will be in coordination with the University Centre for Women's and Gender Studies.
- At the AAU, **classroom teaching and blended learning are possible teaching forms under regular conditions**. The following guidelines must be observed in case of blended learning: Of the average 15 course dates per semester, at least 2/3 must be classroom teaching. The requirement is that the eLearning components provide online interaction between the teachers and students.
- A **course consists of 30 teaching units** (45 minutes of teaching and a 15-minute break each). A course should not be longer than 6 hours a day. Breaks need to be included in the scheduling.
- **Travel and/or accommodation expenses cannot be reimbursed**. We regret that we must inform you that lecturers have to pay for their own travel expenses.
- The **gross salary for a course is about 3.267,22 EUR** (according to the Austrian collective bargaining agreement; category 2 teaching).

Applications from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), people with a history of migration, people with disabilities as well as trans*, non-binary, sex-diverse and queer people are strongly encouraged.

Questions you may have will be answered by the University Centre for Women's and Gender Studies (gender.zentrum@aau.at).



Appendix 1: Module descriptions

Module: Introduction

The introductory module provides an overview of the developments in the history of science and the range of schools of thought in Gender and Diversity Studies (Feminist Theories, Gender Studies, Queer Studies, Women* and Gender Studies, Inter* and Trans* Studies, Critical Men's Studies, Post- and Decolonial Studies, and Diversity Studies). Special consideration is given to concepts such as intersectionality, interdependencies, and also diversity approaches. In this

context, the various power dynamics such as sexism, heteronormativity, racism, ableism, classism, and colonialism are considered as reciprocal and mutually constituting.

The introductory course teaches central approaches and texts of Gender Studies and introduces in current inter*- and trans*disciplinary debates. The practice-oriented course applies elements of gender and diversity trainings and reflects upon interventions in practice. Cases of discrimination and multiple discrimination are presented and the students get to develop strategies and emancipative ways of dealing with inequalities. Feminist and queer-intersectional theories of science and epistemology as well as various gender-specific methods (memory method, biographical research, etc.) are topics of the course on methodology.

Module: Living Spaces

The module "Living Spaces" deals with life realities and spaces in which gender relations as well as other axes of social inequality manifest themselves in a particular way. Relationships of power, domination and violence, which are inscribed in the gender order, are scrutinized in terms of how they produce certain life designs and at the same time norm them. Another focus of critical examination are theoretical and everyday attempts to undermine hegemonic logics. This is for example taught in the course of the realization and performance of alternative life plans. The conditions for the possibility of social change are investigated on a theoretical, political and everyday practical level. Accordingly, paradoxical effects as well as (unintended) consequences that (can) result from perspectives of equality and difference as well as from attempts to break up power structures are addressed. Students are invited to reflect their own attitudes and actions and put them in a wider context. Furthermore, they are challenged in taking on their own responsibility in establishing a more (gender-) equal society. This is addressed, among other things, against the backdrop of difference, intersectionality and (de)coloniality. Similarly of particular importance are diversity (discourses), migration, climate change and precarious living conditions.

Module: Economics and Labor

The module "Economics and Labor", invites students from various fields of study to reflect on the significance of gender and diversity in the organizational context and in various fields of entrepreneurship. In today's work environments, digitalization, and internationalization present new challenges to companies and economic stakeholders. However, such challenges are also present in changing legal and social frameworks with regard to equality, anti-discrimination and diversity. Companies are therefore challenged to shape their organizational cultures in a diversity-friendly, anti-discriminatory and equality-oriented way. Employees with competence and know-how in the area of gender and



diversity have a potentially significant competitive advantage in the labor market. The module addresses important topics of business administration, law and/or economics in connection with gender and diversity (e.g. gender & diversity management, intersectionality, gender mainstreaming/gender budgeting, feminist economics, work-life balance). Students accordingly receive theoretical as well as practical knowledge regarding the implementation of diversity as a management strategy. In addition to strategies and their implementation, such as gender mainstreaming or the advancement of women, alternative theoretical approaches to economics (e.g. heterodox economics, feminist economics and gender economics) are taught. Students are thus encouraged to think economics more broadly and to identify potential for change in organizations with regard to diversity. In addition, the module aims to raise student's awareness considering economic gender equality, for instance access to the labor market and certain industries/segregation, wages/gender pay gap, allocation of management positions/glass ceiling. Subsequently, students acquire knowledge about practice-relevant strategies and solutions, such as concepts for equality, diversity and the advancement of women.

Module: Communication – Representation

Texts, images as well as all speech acts are never gender-neutral; they always produce and reproduce specific forms of gender identity and thus also of gender relations. Social power relations, but also their subversions, are expressed in aesthetics, discourses, gaze structure, images and ideas of gender.

Questions we ask in this module are: Which images and ideas of gender, sexual identity, "femininities" and "masculinities" do we find under historically specific and cultural conditions in everyday and professional communication, in language and literature, in art and visual culture, in popular culture, in mass and social media? What kind of wishes, desires, emotions and fantasies are linked to this? What is the resulting consequence for our self-understanding and that of our society?

The module hence explores communicative practices that produce gender in a discursive, visualized, and performative way. At that these practices continuously (re)produce hegemonic heteronormativity, but they're also parodying, ironizing, distorting, satirically exaggerating, and questioning it. In doing so, the module takes effects of the interdependencies of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, age, etc. into particular consideration.

To address these topics, theoretical and methodological approaches from various disciplines such as linguistics and literary studies, philosophy, cultural studies, art history and visual studies, film, media and communication studies, sociology, and visual culture studies are presented, discussed, and applied. Potential examples of analysis include all types of texts and media, such as literature and newspapers/magazines, radio, film and TV, as well as the Internet and social media in all their variations.

Module: Historicity – Memory – Experience

Students recognize the historical conditionality and development of gender models, roles, and stereotypes and engage with the gender-specific differentiations of life realities and scopes of action, focusing in particular on the following areas:

- Representations, narratives, performance: the representations, narratives, and enactments of gender in public-cultural and private spaces.



- Adaptation/resistance: gendered forms of human behavior in the context of political, social, and cultural systems and norms.
- Ideologies/criticism of ideologies: the development of gender-sensitive and ideology critical positions as well as the examination of gender-specific manifestations of various ideologies in their theoretical foundation and practical effectiveness.
- Gender and nation: gender-specific cultural and communicative forms of representation of nation as well as gender-specific participation in national projects and in processes of nation-building.
- Gender/human rights: the legal status of the sexes and genders and their fight for their rights, analyses of codified and non-codified legal systems in their impact on gender orders and gender-related human rights violations over time.
- Women's*politics/feminist positions: Women's* and queer movements in their historical genesis with their different manifestations and goals, and the relationship between gender and politics.
- Herstories/Histories/Theirstories: the personal-reflective approach to gender-specific narration, remembering, experiencing and transmitting, as well as its structures and meaning.

Module: Bodies – Psyche - Physicality

The module deals with bodies, physicality and psyche in different scientific but also practical-clinical or practical-psychosocial fields (psychotherapy or psychoanalysis, health professions, etc.). The module focuses on the negotiation and treatment of bodies, physicality and psyche. Bodies, physicality and psyche will be approached from a perspective of: epistemology and theory of science, cultural studies, empirical sociology, and a practice-oriented and/or an ethical perspective. The perspectives are transversal arranged in diverse thematic fields, such as living conditions and coping strategies of women*, gender roles, gender stereotypes and functions, body and gender imagery, psychoanalysis - psychosomatics - therapy, affect theory, bio-/technology critique, violence, body manipulations, trans*, inter*, age/s, law, (bio)politics and integrity.

The aim of the module is to convey and continue the questioning of discourses and practices of domination and norming in relation to bodies, psyche and physicality, which were induced by intersectional theories, feminist critique, gender studies and queer theory. The critical approaches grasp the body and corporeality in their complex entanglement with the psyche; as sexed bodies and finally as sexualized bodies within an asymmetrical-complementary gender contract. Discourses anchored in the module can for instance deal with the since the Greek antiquity "normed" male bodies, which represent at the same time model and limb of collective bodies, and are distinguished from the amorph female body; with the exclusion of women* and bodies that do not correspond to this "norm"; negotiations, changes and structural continuities, as well as power relations, exercises of power and domination and resulting symptom manifestations can as well be dealt with in the context of body, corporeality and psyche.