

Institute of Gender and Women's Studies

M.A. Handbook
Academic Years 2015-2017

The M.A. in Gender and Women's Studies in the Middle East/North Africa requires students to take 8 courses (24 credits): six required courses and two electives.

The required courses for all GWST graduate students are:

GWST 5100 Theorizing Gender

GWST 5205 Gender and Feminist Research Methodologies

GWST 5298 Thesis Writing Seminar

The specialization required courses are:

Gendered Political Economies

GWST 5107 Critical Geographies: Reading the Global South

GWST 5106 Reading Capital

GWST 5104 Gender and Migration

Gender and Women's Studies in the Middle East/North Africa

GWST 5101 Approaches to GWST in the MENA

GWST 5103 Gender and Development

GWST 5104 Gender and Migration

Geographies of Gender and Justice

GWST 5102 Theories of Justice

GWST 5108 Women and Human Rights

SOAN 5230 Anthropology of the State

The available two elective courses are posted on the IGWS website each semester. Only courses listed as electives in the respective specializations will be counted towards the MA. Elective courses are offered from a variety of programs especially Sociology- Anthropology and Law. Check the IGWS website for availability in a given semester.

Typical Student Schedule:

Gendered Political Economies Specialization

Semesters	Course Work	Thesis Writing	
Year One			
Fall Semester	GWST 5100 GWST 5107 Elective 1	Consultation with graduate advisor regarding thesis topic Preparatory thesis topic research	
Spring Semester	GWST 5205 GWST 5107 GWST 5106	Identification of thesis advisor Preparation of thesis proposal Submission of IRB	
Summer		Continue working on the literature review Begin fieldwork and/or data collection	
Year Two			
Fall Semester	Elective 2 GWST 5298	Continue fieldwork Write thesis	
Spring Semester	GWST 5299	Complete thesis writing process Submit final draft thesis to thesis committee by April 1 Defense Revisions Final thesis submission	

Gender and Women's Studies in the Middle East/North Africa Specialization:

Semester	Course Work	Thesis Writing	
Year One			
Fall Semester	GWST 5100 GWST 5101 Elective 1	Consultation with graduate advisor regarding thesis topic Preparatory research for thesis topic	
Spring Semester	GWST 5205 GWST 5103 GWST 5104	Identification of thesis advisor Preparation of thesis proposal Submission of IRB	
Summer		Continue working on the literature review Begin fieldwork and/or data collection	
Year Two			
Fall Semester	Elective 2 GWST 5298	Finalize thesis committee Continue fieldwork Write thesis	
Spring Semester	GWST 5299	Complete thesis writing process Submit final draft thesis to thesis committee by April 1 Defense Revisions Final submission	

Geographies of Gender and Justice Specialization:

Semesters	Course Work	Thesis Writing	
Year One			
Fall semester	GWST 5100 GWST 5102 Elective 1	Consultation with graduate advisor regarding thesis topic Preparatory research for thesis topic	
Spring Semester	GWST 5205 GWST 5108 SOAN 5230	Identification of thesis advisor Preparation of thesis proposal Submission of IRB	
Summer		Continue working on the literature review Begin fieldwork and/or data collection	
Year Two			
Fall Semester	Elective 2 GWST 5298	Finalize thesis committee Continue fieldwork Write thesis	
Spring Semester	GWST 5299	Complete thesis writing process Submit final draft thesis to thesis committee by April 1 Defense Revisions Final submission	

The Thesis

A. The Thesis Proposal

All students are required to prepare their thesis proposal in their second semester in GWST 5205. The thesis proposal is the framework of the thesis itself. The thesis proposal is approximately 20 pages (double-spaced). It must contain the following elements:

Title

Overview: Thesis Question(s)

Introduction: Research Problem, Context, Justification

Literature Review

Conceptual Framework

Methodology

Fieldwork and/or Materials

Work Plan

Formulating the Research Question(s)

The first step in preparing a proposal is to read widely on your topic of interest. You need to be thoroughly familiar with the research that has been done in all domains related to your topic. Once you are familiar with the literature you are able to get a better sense of what contribution your research will make to our knowledge concerning a specific research domain-- and why your research questions matter. You also need to think about what kinds of sites, materials and analysis will be needed to explore your research questions.

Literature Review

The literature review engages the debates and texts upon which your research will be built, to which you wish to add or which you wish to refute. It should provide a broad analysis of ethnographic work, secondary literature and comparative case studies relevant to your thesis topic.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework delineates the construction of concepts, their relationships, and the analytical framework that you will use to think through and analyze the problem or question.

Methodology

The methodology section outlines the design of the project and translates this into methods.

Fieldwork or Materials

The materials section of your proposal is a discussion of the sources you will use in researching the problem and deriving answers to the questions you have developed. Where are you going to look and what are you going to look for? Ask yourself if your

material is going to be adequate for your purpose. Are your procedures for collecting material going to produce what you need in order to explore your research questions?

Work Plan

You should specify a plan of work. This means you should categorize the material you intend to use in terms of how and when you will collect each part of it, what you will be looking for in analyzing it and how you will organize your time.

B. The Thesis Committee

A thesis committee consists of three faculty members: the thesis advisor and two readers. The thesis advisor must be an IGWS affiliated faculty member <http://www.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/IGWS/GradCent/Pages/AdvisoryCommittee.aspx> or another AUC professor approved by the IGWS director. The same applies for the readers. Upon completing your thesis proposal you must submit it to the IGWS Advisory Committee for approval. It may take one of the following decisions: a) approve proposal b) approve with minor modifications, c) approve with major revisions. Comments and suggestions will be communicated to you by your advisor. As soon as the proposal is approved you may apply for research grants if required (<http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/grad/resconf/Pages/default.aspx>). Once your proposal is approved select your readers.

C. The IRB

If your research involves collecting data from people in any form you will need prior approval from the IRB board after your proposal is approved and prior to beginning your research. <http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/grad/Pages/IRBFAQ.aspx>

D. The Thesis Timeline

It takes approximately six - eight months to complete a thesis. The writing process and the time it takes to process, analyze your research, write the first draft, and subsequent drafts, is often underestimated!

E. The School of Graduate Studies Thesis Workshops

Students should attend the workshops offered each semester focusing on specific components of the thesis research and writing process.

F. The Thesis Writing Process

Submit your chapter drafts to your advisor regularly for feedback. No thesis will be accepted that has not been submitted to the advisor chapter by chapter.

G. Thesis Structure

A thesis at the Institute for Gender and Women's Studies is approximately 120 pages. You must use the APA citation system.

A typical thesis consists of a minimum of 5 chapters:

Chapter 1:

- Overview: Thesis Question(s)
- Introduction: Research Problem, Context, Justification
- Literature Review
- Conceptual Framework
- Methodology
- Fieldwork and/or Materials
- Chapter Outlines

Chapters 2, 3, 4

- Analyze your Fieldwork

Chapter 5

- Conclusion and Reflections

Thesis Deadlines:

In a given year the deadline for submitting your complete thesis to your advisor is **April 1** for June graduation and **November 1** for February graduation.

The Thesis Defense:

When the thesis is completed and approved in its completed version by the advisor, your advisor will distribute copies to your two readers. Your advisor will then inform you to arrange for the oral defense.

The oral defense takes one hour. The defense consists of a 5-10 minute presentation by the student, followed by 40 minutes of questions from the committee. Immediately following the oral defense, the committee will convene to discuss the acceptability of the thesis. The committee will make one of three recommendations: (1) the thesis passes as submitted, (2) the thesis passes with minor revisions (to be completed in 2-3 weeks) (3) the thesis passes with major revisions (this usually requires another 1-3 months of work).

The deadline for submission of the approved and defended final version of the thesis to IGWS is specified on the Institute's website. You are advised to carefully observe the deadline for submitting a completed thesis if you wish to graduate at the end of a given semester

For your final submission, you should submit one digital copy to your advisor and one unbound copies of your thesis to IGWS. You should submit three copies of your Thesis Signature/Approval Page, which you can obtain from the IGWS website. In addition you

are asked to submit an electronic version of the thesis directly to the AUC Digital Archive and Research Depository.

H. Registering for GWST 5299

You must register for GWST 5299 in your fourth semester. For the first two semesters you will be charged a fee equivalent of three graduate credit hours. A student who does not complete the thesis requirement within the period of two semesters will be charged a fee equivalent to one graduate credit hour for each additional semester of thesis registration.

Please note the following with regard to GWST 5299:

GWST 5299-01 is zero credit hour in terms of academic load but is calculated as 3 credits in terms of payment

GWST 5299-02 is designated for students who are registering for the thesis beyond two semesters. Students pay the equivalence of 1 credit hour.

GWST 5299 consists of individual work on the thesis and meetings with the thesis advisor.

For fellowship and loan purposes, if a student has only one or two courses left in the third semester, the registration is considered to be full time as the student has no other courses left to register in.

I. Formatting:

For general AUC thesis formatting requirements visit the School of Graduate Studies website <http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/grad/Pages/ThesisGuidelines.aspx>

J. The Forms:

Visit the IGWS website for required forms accompanying all stages of the thesis writing process.