

What is GSW Studies and why did I choose to study it?

GSW is Gender, Sexuality, and Women's studies, a name unique to the University of Rochester but generally would be called Women or Gender studies.

It's a major that focuses on the sociology, history, and psychology of minorities. Coursework heavy in writing focuses on critical analysis of texts and arguments.

GSW is influenced by feminism but only by the general definition of believing in the inherent equality of the sexes. Contrary to popular belief of what feminism is, it (at *least* in the GSW sense) is not misandry {hatred towards men} or refusing the biological difference between the male and female sexes. Instead, it's believing that there is no natural superiority of either sex and that the patriarchal (male-dominated) history was completely at the play of social constructs.

I chose to major in GSW because I'm interested in pursuing careers with a large amount of interaction with different communities and studying the circumstances around women and minorities is fundamental to being able to communicate with them and understand society.

An example of the use of GSW can be demonstrated by a class I took on women and minorities in relation to health. We learned the history of healthcare's interaction with different people and discovered a very abusive past with black women. With further study, we learned that this resulted in a very intense distrust of doctors for many black communities. This, along with other factors we analyzed, is causing modern problems with ability for many to access healthcare and leading to disastrous consequences. Now that I have this knowledge, I'll be able to use that perspective in future interactions that I may have completely misunderstood otherwise.