

## WOMEN'S STUDIES AT UNBC: FAQs

### **What is Women's Studies anyway?**

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary field dedicated to the study of the historical, cultural, and societal role of women and gender. Women's Studies at UNBC has two major goals:

- to foster the appreciation and production of knowledge by, for, and about women; and
- to study the workings of gender in our own society, in other cultures, and in the past.

Why is the work of Women's Studies different from that of other programs? Simply because Women's Studies draws from multiple perspectives and disciplines while remaining focused on questions related to women and gender. For example, in a Women's Studies course on women's health, you might discuss such topics as medieval views of women's bodies (history); the development of various treatment options for breast cancer (medicine); and representations of women within the media (communications).

### **Is Women's Studies just for women?**

Throughout history, many men have been interested in understanding women and their roles.

All courses in the Women's Studies program share a focus on women and/or gender as a category of analysis.

The Women's Studies program also offers a number of joint majors in partnership with other university programs. Students may complete joint majors in Women's Studies and History, Women's Studies and English, Women's Studies and First Nations Studies, and Women's Studies and Political Science.

### **What skills does the program teach?**

An awareness of the importance of gender in society is increasingly critical to a variety of workplaces and to responsible citizenship. But in addition to learning about gender and women, students in Women's Studies develop the following highly translatable skills:

- critical analysis and cross-cultural understanding
- competence in varying modes of expression ranging from formal essays to annotated journals and oral presentations