



**Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Program  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies  
*Proposed Final Research Project Form***

*In addition to the course work, all certificate students must complete a Final Research Project, WOMENSST 793A: (i.e., thesis, dissertation, paper of publishable quality, independent study that incorporates substantial feminist content – theory and methods). A research prospectus must be completed, and approved by your committee during your last year in the Certificate.*

**Students must complete this form and submit it with their application for the certificate**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Anticipated date of completion for Certificate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED PROJECT TOPIC:**

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Committee Member Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE

## **Guidelines for the Final Research Project**

- The project must incorporate substantial feminist content (in theories and methods)
- It must employ an integrative analysis (locating women and gender in its intersections with race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, nationality and other relevant social processes)
- The paper should be of publishable quality. It can be a chapter of a dissertation, a research paper or other discipline appropriate formats approved by the project committee. The paper should be about 30-40 (double spaced) pages in length.

### **The Committee:**

The committee members should be affiliated faculty/mentors of the Women's Studies Program (check website for list). Affiliate faculty have worked with the program over the years. Their research and/or teaching engages women's and gender studies and they have agreed to serve as mentors to the graduate program. If you wish to ask a faculty not on the list, please check with the Graduate Program before doing so.

1. The Committee Chair is responsible for the overall supervision of the final research project, including communication with the student, the other committee member and the WOST graduate studies committee. This faculty advisor may already be working closely with the student in her/his disciplinary program or may be someone who has not yet worked with the student but whose research interests coincide with the student's project.
2. Committee Member is responsible for reading the final project, giving feedback, and meeting with the student and committee chair to determine appropriate revisions.

Ideally one person on the committee should be in the student's discipline and the other should be from outside the discipline. The disciplinary member provides disciplinary support for the student to address key substantive debates, utilize appropriate methodologies, and incorporate theoretical frameworks appropriate to the standards of the discipline. The other member provides interdisciplinary supervision during the final research project, supporting the student to situate the project within relevant feminist scholarship, particularly the incorporation of an intersectional analysis.

We also invite all committee members to attend a presentation of the final research projects followed by a reception.

*Note:* Most students are enrolled in a course, WOST 793b, to complete the final project and the committee members will give input to the Certificate's Graduate Program Director, who is then responsible for submitting the letter grade for the student's work.

***We encourage the Student and the committee to consult with the Graduate Program Director at any point during the certificate and final project.***