



## *News Release*

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## **Century's Women and Gender Studies Program Expands Opportunities**

Known for encouraging students to challenge assumptions and rethink identities, Century College's

[Women and Gender Studies Program](#) is expanding its course offerings.

Starting in fall semester 2011, the program is adding a capstone course that will make the 16-credit certificate eligible for financial aid. It is also offering a new "[learning community](#)" that pairs the Foundations of Women's Studies course with a new English Composition course called "Composing Gender: Beyond Pink and Blue."

"Students will be gaining a lot of insight into how we approach gender in a variety of disciplines," said Prof. [Kris Peleg](#), coordinator of the program. "They also will be meeting a group of interested and involved students to exchange points of view. It should be stimulating."

Heather Larson, a Century graduate of the Women and Gender Studies Program who is on track to graduate from the University of Minnesota this spring, said looking at history, politics, literature, biology and reproduction issues through the lens of gender is fascinating. “I loved all my Women’s Studies courses at Century,” said Larson, 27, in a recent interview at a coffee shop near the University. “They are great for people with a wide variety of interests who want to explore social justice issues.”

Larson said her Century coursework prepared her very well for her studies at the University, where she is majoring in Women’s Studies with a minor in African-American Studies and Chicano Studies. After working and possibly teaching for a year or two in another part of the United States, she plans to apply to graduate school.

“People are always asking me what I will do with a Women’s Studies degree,” said Larson. “Frankly, I think becoming a well-balanced, educated person prepares you to do almost anything.” Larson currently works part-time for a homeless shelter in Somerset, Wis.

A 2002 graduate of Hudson High School, Larson said she did not blossom as a good student until she enrolled at Century. “Studying things you are interested in changes everything,” she said. “I was also involved in a lot of student activities.”

Classes in Century’s Women and Gender Studies Program are offered during the day, in the evening and also online. Students who prefer online classes can complete the 16-credit certificate entirely online. Honors courses also are available, and a new honors online section called “Women in Literature: World Voices” will be available in the fall.

Century student Michelle Larson, 26, (no relation to Heather) said she is on track to graduate from Century in May with an associate in arts degree and Women and Gender Studies certificate. Of all the classes she took at Century, she said the Women and Gender Studies classes were her favorite.

“I learned a lot about the world and more about myself,” she noted. “The truth is, women still have a long way to go to achieve equality.”

Larson has been accepted at St. Catherine’s University and will begin there in the fall to earn her bachelor’s degree. Her goal is to become a high school teacher.



Photo: Heather Larson



Photo: Michelle Larson