

1980

## Program Notes- Nov. 1980

Women's Studies Program Staff

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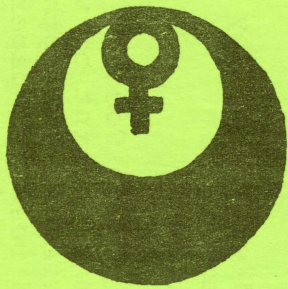
### Recommended Citation

Staff, Women's Studies Program, "Program Notes- Nov. 1980" (1980). *Women's Studies Program Notes*. 28.

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## Winter Courses Inside

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM  
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Vol. 5 No. 6

November/December 1980

# Why Minor In Women's Studies ?

A student at our first brown bag seminar asked, "Why should I minor in women's studies?" Several people rushed to answer her, but it occurred to us that many students who were not there might be asking the same question. What follows is an attempt to speak to all of you reading this.

There are three reasons why students should choose a women's studies minor: personal growth, curriculum enrichment, and career preparation. The most important of these is the first, the gain in personal growth for women, especially the many women who have returned to school to complete their education. There are new opportunities for them in many areas of work, but in order to take full advantage of them women need both knowledge and self-confidence. Their femaleness, a major factor in determining their lives, has often worked to deny them these assets, but they can be gained in women's studies courses.

Women's studies courses in the social sciences teach, for example, how socialization patterns and the structure of our social institutions combine to program women (and men) into sex-linked roles, jobs, and life choices. Students learn of the important changes that are transforming all of female/male relationships and of new arrangements and new options in both private & public arenas. Courses in the humanities restore to women their collective history, literature, thought, language, and artistic achievements. Courses in education provide tools for non-sexist teaching. All of the courses are taught by faculty who question the assumptions of traditional scholarship, thereby providing a breath of fresh air for women who feel stifled and frustrated in many of their other classes.

Most important in terms of overcoming women's feelings of inadequacy, isolation, and anger, women's studies classes provide contact with other women who share these feelings. This helps to create the kind of supportive atmosphere which encourages women to take themselves seriously as students and as persons in their own right, often for the first time.

The second reason to choose a women's studies minor is that it allows both women and men to balance their major field, often vocationally oriented, with a broad, interdisciplinary program structured about a vital, central theme--the experience of half the human population. An added benefit is the emphasis on research and writing skills in most women's studies courses, taught by faculty who are themselves heavily engaged in original work and in keeping up with the latest research, often in more than one discipline.

Finally, a women's studies minor will serve as career preparation for students interested in the growing number of fields that involve working with women or providing services to women. (continued on back page)

PROGRAM NOTES



# WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES for WINTER 1987

\*Evening

The following have been cross-listed as Women's Studies Courses because they support the goals of WSP: to encourage new knowledge about women's experience, history, contributions, and status; to bring a critical perspective to traditional areas of knowledge dealing with women and gender roles; to promote nonsexist education. All can be applied to the Women's Studies Minor.

DEPARTMENT/ COURSE NO.	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS	TIME	ROOM	INSTRUCTOR
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* WSP 350-31	Senior Seminar in Women's Studies	3	5:40-8:20 W	0-040	Blanche Hersh
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This interdisciplinary seminar builds on work done in other women's studies courses, and requires consent of instructor. It will examine new scholarship in women's studies and involve work on an original project (required of students completing a women's studies minor). Hours can be rearranged if all students concur.

*CRJU 321-31	Women's Advocacy: Rape & Womanabuse I	3	5:40-8:20 T	S-144	Pat Sadow
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This course will focus on the sociological, psychological, medical, and legal issues involved in the prosecution of persons accused of raping and physically abusing women; special attention will be given to kinds of assistance, legal and otherwise, which the victims need; course will include required readings and special projects.

*CRJU 322-31	Women's Advocacy: Rape & Womanabuse II	3	5:40-8:20 R	S-144	Pat Sadow
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This is a field seminar in which students work as advocates for victims of rape and womanabuse by working with women's centers in the Chicago area (CRJU 321 and consent of instructor required).

HIST 383-01	The Woman in American History	3	9:40-10:55 TR	3-094	June Sochen
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This is a herstory course; it attempts to survey the sweep of American history from the point of view of the American woman, thus creating a new perspective for the student. Opportunities for indepth consideration of particular themes and time periods will be available through assigned research papers.

* HIST 3459-31	Historical Perspectives: Women in Antiquity	3	7:05-9:45 R	2-031	Rivkah Harris
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This new course, offered by a visiting professor who is an expert in the field, will explore the roles and status of women in the ancient world in the contexts of family, economy, religious cult, cultural and political life. It will compare literary, legal, historical, and archaeological sources from ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome, and discuss the lives of major female figures of the period.

PHIL 105-31 Feminist Philosophy 3 4:15-5:30 TR S-144 Sarah Hoagland  
An analysis of recent work in feminist theory in order to investigate women's situation and its foundation in culture, perception and reality.

\* PHIL 373-31 Advanced Feminist Philosophy 3 5:40-6:55 TR S-211 Sarah Hoagland  
An investigation of radical feminist and lesbian feminist theory in order to study and develop feminist vision in contrast with masculinist perception (prerequisite: PHIL 105).

PSCI-COMP 379-01 Law and Social Change 3 9:40-10:55 TR 2-081 Shirley Castelnuovo  
This course will explore the use of law as an instrument of social change and assess its strengths and its limitations, focusing particularly on civil rights, the status of women, and criminal behavior (prerequisite PSCI-AMER 216).

\* SOC 306-31 American Women: The Changing Image 3 7:05-8:20 TR 3-044 Martha Thompson  
Drawing on interdisciplinary theory and research, this course will examine the image of American women and how it has changed. We will consider how this image reflects and shapes the lives of American women who differ in age, ethnicity, race, sexual identification, and social class. The efforts of feminism to change the image of American women will also be examined.

\* PIE SEM 283S-31 Women Returning to School: Strategies for Success 3 6-9 M C-505 Dee Dee Iazzetto  
The major objective of the course is to assist mature women to make the transition back to school a rewarding and growing experience. In the supportive atmosphere of other women returning to college, we will examine such topics as: renewing study skills, setting goals, managing your time effectively, learning how to learn, negotiating the university bureaucracy, practicing assertive behavior and how to deal with changing relationships in the family and classroom.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Karen Peugh of Television Services, a member of the Women's Studies Board, has sent out a call for original films, videotapes, and slide-tapes for WOMEN'S VISIONS 1981, to be held in March, 1981; deadline is December 1, 1980. For more information, call Karen at X441.



(continued from front page)

Business and Management majors interested in working in personnel, affirmative action, marketing, management consulting, and a variety of other specialties, would all benefit from a women's studies minor. Other career fields in which a knowledge of women's issues and women's experience would be a distinct asset are human services, criminal justice, health care, counseling, and all areas of communication, teaching, and writing.

Some of the students who have graduated with women's studies minors have gone on to work for advanced degrees in sociology, counseling, social work, and law, with the specific goal of working with women. Others have pursued their original plans, but all of them have testified to the fact that "taking women's studies has changed my life." The women's studies minor is too new--it was only approved two years ago--to cite a statistically significant number of cases. The experience of those of us teaching and advising students has persuaded us that more women (and men, too) would benefit from adding women's studies to their academic plans.

We now have eighteen faculty members teaching thirty regularly offered courses in twelve departments and P.I.E. If you have not seen our new 1980-1982 WSP Brochure, pick one up from the Information table in the Beehive or come up to our offices on the fifth floor.

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM RESOURCE CENTER (0-041)

Thanks to Gladys Mapp, we are back to normal in keeping the center open. We have a wealth of information, and students are using it regularly. We would also like to encourage faculty to stop in. We have excellent new curricular and research materials including New Feminist Scholarship: A Guide to Bibliographies, published this past year by the Feminist Press in order to collect the diverse bibliographies in the field into one volume. We also have a set of four model WS syllabi put out in 1978 which have a wealth of ideas in them, and a new book from Goddard College with suggestions for women's studies workshops and courses specifically designed for urban communities. Finally, we have the Women's Studies Monograph Series published this year under the aegis of N.I.E. as planning guides for research on a variety of vital and unexplored subjects. (Material may not be taken out, and we urge all of you who have borrowed folders to return them so that they can be available to others.) Faculty members have also been donating copies of their own published articles as well as student papers of worth, which is exciting, and others are urged to follow their example. HOURS OF RESOURCE CENTER THROUGH DECEMBER 12, 1980: Mon, 11-1, Tues, 4-6, Wed, 9-11 & 12:30-2, Thurs, 2-4, Fri, 11-1.

Program Notes is published by the Women's Studies Program (WSP), an academic program within the Center for Program Development, Reynold Feldman, Dean. Women's Studies Program offices are C-521 and C-532, X423. WSP Resource Center is in CLS 0-041, X556. Coordinator: Blanche Hersh; Secretary: Janet Cordoba.

Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois, 1,000 copies, 10/80

**PROGRAM NOTES**  
WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM  
Northeastern Illinois University  
Bryn Mawr at St. Louis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

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