

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Senate

**From:** J.W.G. Ivany  
Chair, SCAP

**Subject:** Women's Studies Program -  
Curriculum Revisions

**Date:** November 17, 1988

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Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies gives rise to the following motion:

Motion: that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S. 88-76 curriculum revisions to the Women's Studies Program including:

New courses

W.S. 304-3 Women and Religion

W.S. 305-3 Women and Utopias

W.S. 311-5 Feminist Psychoanalytic Theories

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

FACC  
C.88-23

## MEMORANDUM

To..... Faculty of Arts.....	From..... Susan Wendell,.....
..... Curriculum Committee.....	..... Women's Studies.....
Subject..... Course Changes.....	Date..... May 4, 1988.....

The Women's Studies Program wishes to add three courses to our permanent course offerings. All three courses have been offered repeatedly as Special Topics, and we are now offering them so regularly that we think it appropriate to list them in the Calendar as normal components of the Women's Studies curriculum. They are:

- W.S. 304-3 Women and Religion (has been offered 7 times)
- W.S. 305-3 Women and Utopias (has been offered 4 times)
- W.S. 311-5 Feminist Psychoanalytic <sup>Theories</sup> (has been offered 5 times)

Attached are sample course outlines for all the courses. One of them, Women and Religion, is normally taught on a sessional basis by the Chaplain, Barbara Blakely. As we have always had qualified applicants to teach the course, we anticipate no future difficulty in staffing it. The other two courses are offered regularly by permanent faculty.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

MAY 12 1988

FACULTY OF ARTS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department Women's Studies

Abbreviation Code: W.S. Course Number: 304 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 2-1-0

Title of Course: Women and Religion

Calendar Description of Course: This course examines critical issues of women's relationships to theology and religious practice in major religious traditions.

Nature of Course Lecture, tutorial.

Prerequisites (or special instructions):  
60 credit hours or permission of the instructor

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: none

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? Once a year.

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 89-3 or 90-1

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? The chaplain teaches this course on a sessional basis. Sue Wendell

Objectives of the Course

To examine from a feminist perspective one or more major issues of women's relationships to theology or religious practice.

Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty none

Staff

Library none other

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

Approval

Date: 8 May 88

11/15/88

U J Long Goep  
Department Chairman

R Chom  
Dean

[Signature]  
Chairman, SCUS

CUS 73-34b:- (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a. Attach course outline).

## SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

W.S. 304-3

### WOMEN AND RELIGION

Sexuality is an area widely understood to be controversial in Church teachings and traditional theology. In fact, the Women's Movement has identified the Church as one of the central structures in the oppression of women.

Sexuality is, however, a crucial dimension in our lives as women, and sexual victimization is thus a key aspect of our overall oppression. The Women's Movement has developed a significant practice, education and theory around sexual violence, analysing issues like rape, pornography, wife battering and incest, and taking action to stop these abuses.

For its part, feminist theology has critically examined Christian teachings about sexuality and related matters: male-female roles, the family and reproduction, birth control and abortion. However, it may be said that feminist theology has remained distant from the grass roots experiences of women, especially women who are victims/survivors of sexual violence. Feminist theology stays within the boundaries of traditional theology, and does not go far enough in challenging the oppressive structures and rituals of the traditional Church.

This course, therefore, will begin with the experience of women who are survivors of sexual violence. Many written testimonies have been published; some of us will know that experience personally. We will move then to examine feminist theory about sexuality and sexual violence, hoping to use theory to clarify and conceptualize the experiential dimension.

From this base, we will look at feminist theology, to see how adequate is its critique of the Church's traditional teachings. We will move to develop a "feminist spirituality" that emerges from women's experiences of sexuality and sexual victimization. Drawing upon feminist theory and feminist theology we will move beyond the critique of tradition to build new positions and new visions.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS

Butler, Sandra, Conspiracy of Silence, (Volcano Press)  
Griffin, Susan, Pornography and Silence, (Harper & Row)  
Reuther, Rosemary, Sexism and God-Talk, (Beacon Press)

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Term paper (20 pp) - 50%  
Short papers (3) on theoretical material (5 pp each) - 40%  
Tutorial participation - 10%

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours or permission of the instructor

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview: Goals and Directions

B. Feminist Method

Ruether, 1  
Foucault

1. Phenomenology - the authority of experience
2. Hermeneutics - making sense of experience,  
asking the right questions
3. Truth and Power - "the power of the press belongs  
to those who own one"

II. SEXUAL VIOLENCE

A. The Phenomenology of Sexual Violence

Butler

B. A Typology of Victimization - Naming the pain

Finkelhor I

C. A Model of Male Violence - Naming the danger

Finkelhor II

III. FEMINIST THEORY - Analysis and Hypothesis-testing

A. Psychoanalytic Model - Phallocentrism

Mitchell

B. Existentialist Model - Flight from vulnerability

Sartre, Griffin

C. Political/Historical Model - Rise of the Patriarchal  
State

Lerner I

D. Political/Structural Model - Sexual violation as a  
paradigm of reality

MacKinnon

IV. FEMINIST THEOLOGY - An Incest-Survivor's Guide to Patriarchal Theology

A. Feminist Theology

Ruether, 1 & 2

B. Critiques of Theology

1. Dualism

Augustine, Ruether

2. Valorization of Suffering

Brown & Parker,  
Ruether, 7

3. Deification of Fathers and Sons

Lerner II, Ruether, 5

4. Externalization of Authority

Daly

V. TOWARDS A NEW FEMINIST SPIRITUALITY

A. Reclaiming the Heresies

Fiorenza, Parvey,  
Ruether

B. The Erotic as Sacred

Lorde

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department Women's Studies

Abbreviation Code: W.S. Course Number: 305 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 2-1-0

Title of Course: Women and Utopias

Calendar Description of Course: This course focuses upon various visions of a better world for women. Using historical and fictional sources, it examines proposals to re-organize societies, giving special attention to utopian ideas about creating equality among all members of the community.

Nature of Course Lecture, tutorial.

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

60 credit hours or permission of the instructor

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: none

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? Once a year.

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 89-3

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? M. Benston, V. Strong-Boag, S. Wendell.

3. Objectives of the Course

To examine the treatment of women and attempts to create equality in the utopian tradition and in modern utopian thought and practice.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty

Staff none

Library

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

5. Approval

Date: 8 May 88

11/15/88

V. Strong-Boag  
Department Chairman

RCB  
Dean

RS  
Chairman, SCUS

SCUS 73-34b:- (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a. Attach course outline).

# WOMEN'S STUDIES 305-3

## WOMEN AND UTOPIAS

This is a course about visions of a better world. In the most interesting of these there is a call, not only for a total reorganization of the 'public' life of a society, but for a change in private life as well. Human relationships, sexuality and sexual practices, reproduction, childbearing, parenting and family structure all come into question. In many instances equality for all members of the community, female or male, is one of the explicit goals.

We will look at a number of these utopian visions, some fictional and some actual attempts to create ideal communities. Besides comparing the solutions that each offers in such major areas as production, reproduction, political organization and family structure, we will consider their relationship to utopian ideas arising in the class.

### PART I: Theories, Dreams and Speculations (approximately half the course)

The Utopian Vision: An overview

Four Utopias Limitations and Strengths

Exploration of Alternatives

### PART II: Utopian Communities

The Shakers and the Oneida Community: A celibate community and one based on group marriage

Nineteenth Century Socialist Visions: Communities based on the ideas of Fourier and Owen

Modern Utopian Communities

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

More, Thomas

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins

Piercy, Marge

Le Guin, Ursula K.

Utopia

Herland

Woman on the Edge of Time

The Dispossessed

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

25% - class participation and in-class presentations

25% - midterm exam

25% - final exam (take home)

25% - essay

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours or permission of the instructor



SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department Women's Studies

Abbreviation Code: W.S. Course Number: 311 Credit Hours: 5 Vector: 0-5-0

Title of Course: Feminist Psychoanalytic Theories

Calendar Description of Course: This course examines both the psychoanalytic tradition and modern feminist frameworks for psychoanalytic theory and practice.

Nature of Course Seminar.

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

Women's Studies 100 and two Women's Studies 200-level courses.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: none

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? Once a year.

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 89-3 or 90-1

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? M. Kimball

3. Objectives of the Course

To familiarize students with feminist psychoanalytic approaches to theories of female development and psychological sex difference and to issues of psychoanalytic practice.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty

Staff none

Library

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

5. Approval

Date: 8 May 88

[Signature]  
Department Chairman

[Signature]  
Dean

11/5/88  
[Signature]  
Chairman, SCUS

SCUS 73-34b:- (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a. Attach course outline).

### Feminist Psychoanalytic Theories

In this course we will focus on modern feminist psychoanalytic theories. As a background we will examine the writings of Freud and Horney on female development. From there we will move onto modern feminist theorists. The task of these theorists has been to explain female development and psychological sex differences. The class will be conducted as a seminar. As such, students will be expected to do the readings before each class and to facilitate class discussions on a regular basis. While the amount of reading will vary from week to week, some of it is quite difficult and will require concentration and effort on the part of the reader.

#### Required Readings

Chodorow, N. The Reproduction of Mothering: Psychoanalysis and the Sociology of Gender. Berkeley, Calif: Uni. of Calif. Press, 1978.

Dinnerstein, D. The Mermaid and the Minotaur: Gender Arrangements and the Human Malaise. N.Y.: Harper & Row, 1977.

Eichenbaum, L., and Orback, S. Understanding Women: A Feminist Psychoanalytic Approach. N.Y.: Basic Books, 1982.

Gilligan, C. In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1982.

Miller, J.B. Toward a New Psychology of Women. Boston: Beacon Press, 1976.

Alther, L. Other Women. N.Y.: Signet NAL, 1985.

#### Assignments Women's Studies 311-5

Major Paper The major paper will count for 50% of the final grade and will be due at the end of the term. The length will be approximately 20-30 pages. Students will choose their own topics in consultation with the instructor. A wide range of paper topics will be possible. For example, one might wish to apply one or two of the theorists we have studied to an issue not specifically discussed by the theorists such as incest; or one might wish to pursue in more detail a topic that is central to one or more theorists such as dependency. Many other topics are possible.

Short Essays. Two short essays (approximately 5 pages in length) will also be assigned. Each essay will count for 15% of the final grade. One essay will cover the material in the first part of the course and be due at mid term time and the second will cover material in the second part of the course and be due at the end of the term. For each of the short essays several topics/questions will be made available.

Class Participation. Class participation will count for 20% of the final grade. This will be based both on the student's general participation during class and also on two presentation/facilitation assignments. These assignments will consist of summarizing an assigned reading and presenting several questions or comments based on the reading in order to facilitate class discussion.