

# Human studies programs begin this year

## Courses offer introduction to women's studies

By NANCY BECK  
Of the Emerald

Have you wondered why nearly all your college teachers are men and most of your previous teachers were women? Do you study only male authors in your literature classes? Do you understand what feminists mean when they talk about women's oppression?

Three courses offered this fall will help you to understand these and related questions on feminism: Introduction to Women's Studies, Women and Literature and Sociology of Women.

Introduction to Women's Studies will provide basic information on the women's movement and on women's status in this society. The 3-credit course is coordinated by Jeanette Silveira and may be taken by University and DCE (Division of Continuing Education) students. Students can select the course in one of the following departments: psychology, sociology, political science, educational psychology or CSPA.

The course was initiated by a number of women at the University, including graduate and undergraduate students and faculty, who saw the need for an interdisciplinary, introductory approach to women's studies. Other women's studies classes have been taught at the University, but several have been hampered by having to spend much time on the basics of feminism, instead of concentrating on more specific and advanced material. Hopefully the 199 course will provide a base for these courses as well as for a women's studies program encompassing many academic disciplines.

Some of the topics to be discussed will include a history of the women's movement in the 19th and 20th centuries, sex differences, women's health, sex roles and socialization, sexism and language, lesbianism and women and welfare. Issues and problems of the current feminist movement, such as classism and racism, will also be considered.

Community and University women will act as resource persons for presentations on these topics. Some of these women are:

Roberta Hanna, M.A., University of Oregon

Jan Newton, Assistant Professor of Economics

Judith Merkle, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Mary Rothbart, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Jean Leppaluoto, Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology

Marilyn Farwell, Assistant Professor of English

In addition to lectures, films, panel discussions and demonstrations will be used.

Students will have a number of options for meeting course requirements, including discussion groups, projects, papers, exams and social action. Grade choice is also optional.

There are still openings for qualified discussion group leaders. Interested persons can contact Nancy at 343-1103 or Norine at 686-2156.

English 199, Women and Literature, will focus on 20th Century women writers' views of themselves and their society, according to instructor Marilyn Farwell. Students will read essays, poems, novels and autobiographies of American, English and European authors in translation.

Feminist writers, such as Doris Lessing and Sylvia Plath, will be stressed. In

addition, Mary Wollstonecraft, an 18th Century English feminist, will be studied. Farwell will also discuss sexism in language.

The course has no prerequisite. Students taking Sociology of Women, Soc 407, should have some background in the department and knowledge of women's issues. Joan Acker, assistant professor of sociology, is the instructor.

Several areas to be covered are theories on the position of women, the family, women and aging, working women and housewives.

Joan Acker first taught Sociology of Women Spring term, 1970. She offered it again Fall term, 1971 and in every subsequent term. This is the first women's studies course and the first to be listed in the catalogue.

Approximately thirteen other courses on women have been offered in several departments since Fall, 1971. Some of these include Images of Women in Contemporary Literature, Women and Politics and a three-term sequence in Anthropology of Women. Since there was no over-all coordination for these courses, most were offered only once. A women's studies program could provide sequences, assure the continuation of good courses and expand the study of women's condition and achievements to as many departments as possible.

Introduction to Women's Studies is a good step in that direction.

## Certificate available for majors in ethnic studies

By CLAY EALS  
Of the Emerald

University students will soon — after three years of talk, proposals, arguments, committee work and bureaucracy — enroll in courses as part of an Ethnic Studies Program.

The University's new Ethnic Studies Program, costing the University \$35,000, will probably begin winter term.

It consists of awarding a certificate in ethnic studies to students completing 30 hours of appropriate course work.

Students choosing to complete the 30-credit certificate program would major in one of the established departments of professional schools and would meet the certificate requirements, as well as degree requirements, for their individual majors.

Obtaining a certificate in ethnic studies would be equivalent to having ethnic studies as a "minor."

Individual student programs will be worked out in conference with the student's regular departmental adviser or with the office of the director of ethnic studies. As of press time, the ethnic studies director had not been selected.

The Ethnic Studies Program became a reality July 24 when the State Board of Higher Education voted six to two to authorize the University to offer the program to students beginning this fall term.

Before the board's action, the Ethnic Studies Program was considered by University-wide committees for more than two years. The committees met often, sometimes weekly, to develop such a program, and the meetings were marked by many disagreements among committee members and interested participants.

The board, in its July 24 meeting, disagreed among itself as to the central idea of such a program.

The two board members who voted against the program were Loran Stewart and Elizabeth Johnson.

Stewart said the program represents "a form of discrimination" and that consideration of such a program "points up something where we should all be working together . . . (not) pointing out minority groups." He added that the program is "basically wrong."

Johnson said she was in favor of "molding and merging existing programs" rather than creating a new program. She said she was concerned with "the possibility of building not bridges but walls" with the program.

"There are connotations attached to the program which, in my mind, I don't want to convey," she said.

"I know that in the Black community there is not unanimity on this kind of thing."

Johnson also said she was "concerned that there didn't seem to be a bigger student demand for this."

ASUO President Bill Wyatt countered Johnson's statement on student demand by saying there is "an absolutely tremendous demand" for the new program at the University.

"This sort of program is long overdue," he said. "It is not funded as well as a program like that should be. It's difficult to put together an adequate ethnic studies program with \$35,000."

But, he added, "the demand for this sort of program has never been greater than it is right now." Wyatt added that he would "hesitate to say" what would happen at the University if the board denied approval of the program.

Board member Robert Holmes, who supported the program, said, "maybe here is a chance to put it all together." Holmes said his only objection to the program is that "it may be a little late."

Philip Joss, board member, said he was "very impressed" with the objectives of the program.

"It's important for persons of minority extraction . . . to have the opportunity to learn and appreciate their culture, their traditions and it's also important for persons who aren't of minority extraction."

The Ethnic Studies Program itself is an enrichment program only during its first year and a lower-division ethnic studies sequence (ES 101, ES 102, ES 103) will fulfill that purpose.

The introductory sequence will introduce students to the general social problems and history of ethnic groups in the United States.

The sequence would also divide students into group discussion sections, "each taught for students of the various ethnic backgrounds and individually tailored to produce an understanding on the student's part of all the segments of a minority community, their interaction among themselves and their interaction with the larger society (including other minority groups)," according to a description of the program.

The initial enrichment period involving the first sequence will be nine of the 30 credits required in the certificate program. Required are 21 upper division credits, including six hours of field work.

The specific upper division courses needed to acquire the certificate will be worked out between the student's major advisor and-or with the office of the director of ethnic studies.

There is a wide range of already existing courses (except for the new introductory sequence) in the following categories: general and introductory, culture, history, sociopolitical, human biology and education. There is also a mixed group of courses under the heading "Other courses of relevance."

Additional courses in the ethnic studies area will be developed within established departments.

The general definition of the program says its purposes: "must not be viewed as a vehicle of assimilation. The aim is not to subordinate the minority cultures or absorb them into the national culture, but to aid the minority communities in participating in their own way in the national culture and to understand the various aspects of that national culture."

The \$35,000 budget for the program is for a half-time director, a half-time faculty member, teaching assistants, and a clerical staff. The money will also be used to buy materials and equipment for the program and to pay for other contingencies such as consultants, guest speakers, travel and recruiting.

A search committee has already met to select a candidate for ethnic studies director this summer for the approval of University President Robert Clark.

The requirements set up by the committee for the director, according to the committee's chair Marshall Wattles, are:

- "A terminal degree (in hand or near).
- "An excellent teacher.
- "A capable scholar in an acknowledged academic field.

— "One who is capable of negotiating with faculty members.

— "Priority will be given to candidates of ethnic minorities."

The director will be expected to establish and to teach in the ethnic studies basic course, Wattles says.

"While salary will depend upon education and experience, we contemplate its being in the vicinity of \$15,000 an academic year." The position is .5 FTE (full-time equivalent) for 12 months as a director and administrator, and .5 FTE for nine months as a teacher.

### In this section

University students come into contact with many educational experiences here—most of them are traditionally structured and administered. However, there are innovative and unusual courses and programs at the University, and this section of the Emerald's fall term orientation issue is an attempt to identify and explain some of them.