

Women writers focus of two new classes

By Sherry Succo
For The Print

This school year, two classes focusing on women writers are being offered. "Autobiography by Women" is already underway and "Women Writers" is scheduled for next term.

Both classes are taught by Annette Unwin and are an outgrowth of the first women's studies class, "Images of Women in Fiction," which she taught three years ago.

The classes carry transfer credits and now fulfill a sequence requirement because of the addition of the third course, "Women in the Arts," taught last spring, by former College instructor, Anita Helle.

The main objectives of the courses taught by Unwin are to promote self-awareness through the comprehension of others' points of view and to increase sophistication in understanding literature, she said.

Both classes also concentrate on moving away from the notion of studying the stereotyped images of women and center not only on the literature, but also on the author's motivation for writing.

"There seems to be a strong sense of community among my students. They are really supportive of each other as people and writers," observed Unwin, who has written her own autobiography and uses it to

help her students arrange their life stories. Even though she enjoys writing herself, Unwin emphasizes that she has no real intentions of becoming a writer.

Continuing to stress the beneficial and worthwhile values of the courses Unwin says, "They're the classes I most like to teach. The issues are relevant to the students' lives as well as my own, and I get to think about issues that are new to me."

Whether there will be a continuation of these subjects depends entirely upon enrollment. There are currently five women in the "Autobiography by Women" class. Men should not be discouraged from enrolling because they, too, have the opportunity of learning about women as writers and as important figures in the world literature, Unwin added.

New courses offered by English Department

By Ruby Smith
Of The Print

Two new courses are being offered by the English Department this year under the instruction of Mike Kepler.

English 212: "Post-War Visions and Values," is offered fall term, and reflects the history of the United States through literature from 1950 to 1965. English 213: "New American Consciousness," of-

fered in the spring, will continue the theme from 1965 to the present. Kepler said, "The premise for this division is that, most college literature courses stopped in the '60s or sooner." He wanted these courses "to be more contemporary, and have a broader base of appeal."

Kepler designed the courses because enrollment in literature courses at the College had declined, partially due to the

rather limited course offerings. The format for the new courses is more sociological and thematic, and includes all kinds of literary offerings (poetry, drama, and novels, and more) to entice more students, and generate an interest in literature.

"Post-War Visions and Values" begins with Lillian Helman's *Scoundrel Time*, covering the McCarthy era of

black-listing; then the San Francisco Renaissance poetry of the Beat generation; some Tom Wolfe essays; the film, "Rebel Without A Cause"; the effect of Rock 'n' Roll in history. It continues with the Viet Nam war and "The Green Berets."

"New American Consciousness," offered in the spring, will continue the theme with women in literature, Viet

Nam, neo-narcissism, pornography, violence, and politics through Watergate.

"The courses don't give easy answers, and are not aimed to give solutions," Kepler said, "but are designed to give collective exposure to literature." The literary selections he chose "are to remind us where we've been." He added, "the courses were fun to put together, but a lot of work."

The novels, movies, and poetry studied in English 212 reflect how social mores have changed and how personalities (national and individual) have been shaped over the last 30 years; and indicate the trend of the future of our society.

"I believe this is one of the most interesting and important classes in my schedule because it communicates the relevant inter-relationships of all phases of our society to the individual. It hits us where we live," said one student of "Post-War Visions and Values."

"The combination of the course material and Kepler as an instructor forces me to re-evaluate myself. What good is my education, if I become an amorphous part of the crowd perpetuating some of the injustices of society? Can I use what I learn to help make needed social changes?" the student added. "Kepler keeps us mentally alert with his probing questions, and his natural wit injects the class with productivity."

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