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Action: _____

Date: _____

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

I. Title/Author of Change

Course/Program Title: En 384, Introduction to Literature by Women

Suggested 20 Character Course Title: Intro to Lit by Women

Department: English

Contact Person: Karen Dandurand

II. If a course, is it being Proposed for:

☒

Course Revision/Approval Only

☐

Course Revision/Approval and Liberal Studies Approval

☐

Liberal Studies Approval Only (course previously has been approved by the University Senate)

III. Approvals

Karen Dandurand

Department Curriculum Committee

James L. Chaz

Department Chairperson

Bob L. ... Approved April 18, 1991

College Curriculum Committee

College Dean *

Director of Liberal Studies
(where applicable)

Provost (where applicable)

*College Dean must consult with Provost before approving curriculum changes. Approval by College Dean indicates that the proposed change is consistent with long range planning documents, that all requests for resources made as part of the proposal can be met, and that the proposal has the support of the university administration.

IV. Timetable

Date Submitted
to LSC: _____

Semester to be
implemented: _____

Date to be
published
in Catalog: _____

to UWUCC: _____

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

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EN 384

I. TITLE/AUTHOR OF CHANGE

COURSE/PROGRAM TITLE Introduction to Literature by Women

DEPARTMENT English

CONTACT PERSON Karen Dandurand x2267

II. THIS COURSE IS BEING PROPOSED FOR:

- _____ Course Approval Only
_____ Course Approval and Liberal Studies Approval
_____ Liberal Studies Approval only (course previously has been approved by the University Senate)

III. APPROVALS

Department Curriculum Committee

Department Chairperson

College Curriculum Committee

College Dean*

Director of Liberal Studies
(where applicable)

Provost
(where applicable)

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IV. TIMETABLE

Date Submitted
to LSC _____
to UWUCC _____

Semester/Year to be
implemented _____

Date to be published
in Catalog _____

Revised 5/83

[Attach remaining parts of
proposal to this form.]

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

EN 384--Introduction to Literature by Women

This is an introductory course in literature by women. The plan of the course is to read women's fiction, nonfiction prose, poetry, and drama, with emphasis on work of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in England and America. Both works of well-known writers traditionally included in the English curriculum and the writings of their less well known contemporaries will be included.

EN 34⁴¹--Introduction to Literature by Women

Dr. Karen Dandurand

Office: Leonard 209A Phone: x2267

Office Hours: Mon., 1:00-2:00;

Wed. and Fri., 10:30-11:30 and 1:00-2:00

Course Description: This is an introductory course in literature by women. The plan of the course is to read women's fiction, nonfiction prose, poetry, and drama, with emphasis on work of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in England and America. Both works of well-known writers traditionally included in the English curriculum and the writings of their less well known contemporaries will be included.

Course Objectives: To identify women writers who have been neglected or insufficiently appreciated in the past, as well as those who were widely read in their own time but have been excluded from the literary canon. To study the relationship of the work of women writers to their cultures and to the work of their contemporaries, both male and female. To consider the patterns, subjects and themes that have been of continuing interest to women writers. To familiarize students with the basic principles and approaches of feminist critical theory. To build awareness of the intersection of racial, ethnic and social class concerns with issues of gender.

Texts: The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women, Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, eds.
Harriette Arnow, The Dollmaker

Class Format: We will proceed primarily as a discussion group, with all class members expected to contribute. Assigned reading should be done by due dates. Full participation by everyone is essential for the class to be effective.

Required Course Work: There will be a mid-term and a final exam (covering material since the mid-term), both of which will be in essay form. There will be several brief (a paragraph or two) writing assignments, some in-class and some done in advance, to be used to facilitate discussion.

Paper: You will write a paper of original response and analysis, about 2,000 words in length, on a topic of your choice approved by me in advance. The paper will be due toward the end of the semester; specific suggestions, requirements, and due date will be announced later. This will not be a research paper, but if you wish to use secondary sources, they must be properly acknowledged. You will be asked to share the ideas in your paper with the class in an informal presentation.

GRADING: Course grades will be based on the following:

- Mid-term exam (20%)
- Final exam (20%)
- Paper (30%)
- Short writing assignments (10%)
- Class participation (20%)

Course Schedule: The following is a list of readings in the order we shall consider them. All (except the Arnow novel) are in the Norton Anthology of Literature by Women. More specific dates will be given as we proceed. Descriptive titles indicate subjects or themes common to a group of readings, but are not meant to imply that discussion will be limited to those issues.

WOMAN AS WRITER

Fri., 9/8 Women Writers on Women Writing (handouts)
Mon., 9/11 Virginia Woolf, from A Room of One's Own (1376);
"Professions for Women" (1383)
Alice Walker, "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens"
(2374)

A PARADIGMATIC NOVEL--INTRODUCTION TO SOME THEMES

Wed., 9/13 Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre (351)
- Fri., 9/22 (specific chapters to be read for each day)

WOMEN AND MADNESS; ANGER, INDEPENDENCE SEEN AS MADNESS

Mon., 9/25 Dickinson, Poems # 280, 341, 435, 512, 670, 1705
- Mary E. Coleridge, "The Other Side of a Mirror" (1162)
Louise Bogan, "Evening in the Sanitarium" (1615)
Margaret Walker, "Molly Means" (1826)
Wed., 9/27 Charlotte P. Gilman: "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1148)
Fri., 9/29 Mary E.W. Freeman, "Old Woman Magoun" (1104)

COMMUNITIES OF WOMEN

Mon., 10/2 Elizabeth Gaskell, Chapters from Cranford (311)
through Sarah Orne Jewett, "The Town Poor" (981)
Fri., 10/6 Joanna Russ, "When It Changed" (2262)

MARRIAGE--HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

Mon., 10/9 Kate Chopin, The Awakening (993)
through (specific chapters to be read for each day)
Fri., 10/20 Susan Glaspell, "Trifles" (1389)
Gertrude Stein, "The Gentle Lena" (1307)
Zora Neale Hurston, "Sweat" (1639)

Mon., 10/23 MID-TERM EXAM

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Wed., 10/25 Anzia Yezierska, "The Fat of the Land" (1424)
through Flannery O'Connor, "Good Country People" (1956)
Fri., 11/10 Toni Cade Bambara, "My Man Bovanne" (2308)
Toni Morrison, The Bluest Eye (2068)
Leslie Marmon Silko, "Lullaby" (2383)
Alice Walker, "Everyday Use" (2366)

A SYNTHESIS OF SOME THEMES

Mon., 11/13 Harriette Arnow, The Dollmaker
-Wed., 11/29 (specific chapters to be read for each class;
note this time period includes Thanksgiving
break)

WOMAN AS ARTIST/WRITER; LITERARY SISTERS/MOTHERS

Fri., 12/1 Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Mother and Poet" (290)
through Rebecca Harding Davis, "Life in the Iron Mills" (904)
Fri., 12/8 Margaret Fuller, "[Muse and Minerva]" (301-04)

Emily Dickinson, Poems # 312, 593, 613, 657, 709
Amy Lowell, "The Sisters" (1300)
Anais Nin, "[Gender and Creativity]" (1692)
May Sarton, "My Sisters, O My Sisters" (1772)
Carolyn Kizer, "Three" (1973)
Adrienne Rich, "I am in Danger--Sir--'" (2029);
"Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" (2025); "Culture and
Anarchy" (2039)
Margaret Atwood, "Circe/Mud Poems" (2296)

Mon., 12/11
through
Fri., 12/15

Presentations based on papers

Selected Bibliography--
Introduction to Literature by Women

- Abel, Elizabeth, ed. Writing and Sexual Difference. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1982.
- Auerbach, Nina. Communities of Women: An Idea in Fiction. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1978.
- Baym, Nina. Woman's Fiction: A Guide to Novels by and about Women in America, 1820-1870. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1978.
- Edwards, Lee R. Psyche as Hero: Female Heroism and Fictional Form. Middletown: Wesleyan UP, 1984.
- Flynn, Elizabeth A., and Patrocínio P. Schweickart, eds. Gender and Reading: Essays on Readers, Texts, and Contexts. Baltimore: John Hopkins UP, 1986.
- Gilbert, Sandra M., and Susan Gubar. The Madwoman in the Attic. New Haven: Yale UP, 1979.
- . No Man's Land: The Place of the Woman Writer in the Twentieth Century. New Haven: Yale UP, 1988.
- Huf, Linda. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Woman: The Writer as Heroine in American Literature. New York: Ungar, 1983.
- Moers, Ellen. Literary Women: The Great Writers. New York: Doubleday, 1976.
- Kelley, Mary. Private Woman, Public Stage: Literary Domesticity in Nineteenth-Century America. New York: Oxford UP, 1984.
- Pryse, Marjorie, and Hortense J. Spillers, eds. Conjuring: Black Women, Fiction and Literary Tradition. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1985.
- Rose, Phillis. Writing of Women: Essays in a Renaissance. Middletown: Wesleyan UP, 1985.
- Showalter, Elaine, ed. The New Feminist Criticism: Essays on Women, Literature, and Theory. New York: Pantheon, 1985.
- . A Literature of Their Own. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1977.
- Sternburg, Janet, ed. The Writer on Her Work. New York: Norton, 1980.
- Tompkins, Jane P. Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860. New York: Oxford UP, 1985.

Warren, Joyce W. The American Narcissus: Individualism and Women in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 1984.

Watts, Emily Stipes. The Poetry of American Women from 1632 to 1945. Austin: U of Texas P, 1977.

Vicinus, Martha. Ed. Suffer and Be Still: Women in the Victorian Age. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1972.

Course Analysis

A. Details of the Course

- A1 The course is designed for English majors as well as for non-majors, especially those taking or considering a Women's Studies minor. The course is not intended to be a Liberal Studies elective.
- A2 This course does not require changes in content of existing courses.
- A3 In format and procedure this course is similar to other courses in the English Department. It is, however, unique in dealing exclusively with the writings of women, whereas most literature courses offered here and at other institutions have traditionally emphasized the works of male writers, sometimes to the total exclusion of writing by women.
- A4 This course was offered by Dr. Karen Dandurand in the Fall semester in 1987, 1988, and 1989. Enrollment has increased over that period, with the section being closed during registration in Fall 1989, having reached the maximum allowed enrollment of 25 students. Evaluations by both English majors and non-majors who have taken the course have been consistently high.
- A5 This course is not to be offered as dual-level.
- A6 This course is not for variable credit.
- A7 Many other institutions offer courses in literature by women. Within the SSHE, a similar course is offered at West Chester University. Courses very much like Introduction to Literature by Women are offered at Pennsylvania State University, Rutgers University, Ohio University, and the University of California at Santa Cruz.
- A8 The Middle States review of the accreditation of the English Department in 1986 identified the lack of courses in Black Literature and Women's Literature as weaknesses in the program. The addition to the curriculum of EN 343, Black Literature, addresses the first concern; the addition of EN 384, Introduction to Literature by Women, will address the second and bring the program into conformity with the recommendations of the accrediting authority.

The need for this course cannot be adequately met by trying to incorporate its content into existing courses. While it is desirable to work toward the goal of inclusion of works by women in all literature courses, this goal is far from being achieved. Moreover, even were such inclusion a reality, it would still be important for students to be given an opportunity to consider the works of women writers in relation to

each other to see the development of countertraditions often obscured when women's writing is looked at within the context of periods and movements conceived on the basis of the canon which has traditionally excluded women.

B. Interdisciplinary Implications

- B1 The course will be taught by one instructor; it will not be team-taught.
- B2 Additional or corollary courses are not needed with this course.
- B3 No other department offers a course similar in content.
- B4 Continuing Education students are welcome in this course.

C. Implementation

- C1 No new faculty are required. No space, equipment, lab supplies, or travel funds are required. Current library holdings are adequate.
- C2 None of the resources for this course are grant-related.
- C3 It is expected that this course will be offered once a year; it can be offered either semester.
- C4 One section per semester is expected.
- C5 The maximum enrollment per section is 25, the usual maximum for upper level English courses. This limit is essential to the class format, which emphasizes discussion.
- C6 The recommended enrollment limit is 25 for literature courses.
- C7 This course will not be a requirement for English majors.