

Western Connecticut State University
General Education Committee
2008-2009

Members: Daryle Brown (PS), Ron Drozdenko (Ancell), Robin Flanagan (At-Large, Chair), Veronica Kenausis (Library, Webmaster), Patty O'Neill (First Year Coordinator), Chuck Rocca (A&S), Alba Skar(A&S), Linda Vaden-Goad (Dean), Kerry Walker (VPA), CUCAS rep, Student rep

Meeting Time: First Friday of the month at 9:00 am. September 5, 2008, October 3, 2008, November 7, 2008, December 5, 2008, February 6, 2009, March 13 (an exception), 2009, April 3, 2009, May 1, 2009.

Meeting Place: Haas Library 2nd floor conference room

Agenda

Friday September 5, 2008

- I. Assign recorder
- II. Welcome new members and guests
- III. Minutes of May 2 meeting
- IV. Input from community (15 minutes)
- V. Old business
 - a) Update on FYE
 - b) Update on assessment of General Education curriculum
- VI. New business
 - a) Women's Studies course (see attached)
 - b) News from Gen Ed conference (Vaden-Goad)
 - c) Goals for 2008-2009
- VII. Adjourn (by 10:30)

General Education Course Proposal

Department: Women's Studies
Course Number: WS 200
Course Name: Introduction to Women's Studies
Course Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
General Education: Yes

Rationale: Because this course is interdisciplinary, it will accomplish three goals that we believe are compatible with the general Education committee's. The course will: help add diversity to students' General Education requirements, expose students to disciplines they might not have otherwise experienced, and by making it a General education course, we will draw from students all across the university and guarantee a diverse group of students in each class.

Course Description: The course will introduce students to the broad variety of scholarship on women throughout the world. The course content includes topics such as gender, gender roles and sexuality and power. The course will examine women's lives through the lens of history, race, class, ethnicity and sexuality. The course may also address: women and work, welfare, family issues, AIDS, violence, reproductive rights, civil rights, communication, health, literature and militarization.

General Education: Humanistic Studies and Social Sciences

Grading/Assessment: Standard Grading will apply

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- a. read primary sources critically
- b. analyze political documents and literature
- c. understand the major literature from the field
- d. understand the importance of Women's Studies
- e. develop writing skills
- f. develop public speaking skills

These skills will be measured by existing department assessment methods.

Resources:

- a. Staffing Any faculty member associated with the Women's studies Program can teach this course. The addition of this course will not have an impact on the teaching demands of current faculty as the course will be taught once a year and rotate among a large number of qualified faculty.
- b. Equipment There is no special equipment required for this course.
- c. Facilities Our classrooms are adequate for this course.
- d. Library The library holdings and Inter-Library Loan are adequate for this course.
- e. Students This course offers students an opportunity to take a required

course for the minor.

Course Outline:

I. What is Women's Studies?

The first section of the course would introduce students to the concept of Women's studies. Faculty could use a textbook, a selection of readings, and/or online or mixed media sources. This section would include a survey of the history of the field.

II. Issues in Women's Studies

The second section of the course would be less general and would highlight particular issues that are currently important to the field.

III. Specific Topic in Women's Studies

This section will vary from professor to professor depending on field of expertise.

Time Provision: This course will be offered every other Spring semester beginning Spring 2009.