

# Initial approval given for women's studies program

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The development of a women's studies program at YSU is presently taking its final steps toward reality and may even be in next year's catalog.

The women's studies program

has been approved by a preliminary advising committee and a tentative schedule of women's studies courses to make up a minor (21 hours) is presently under construction.

"First a preliminary survey had to be done to find out and identify available courses in

women's studies," said Barbara Brothers, English dept. chairperson. The demand and interest has been visible among students and especially faculty, according to Brothers.

Even though there is not a women's studies program outlined in the catalog as yet, there are

various classes offered. "Introduction to Women's Studies" offers a look at "major issues relevant to the status and roles of contemporary — American women." "Women in Literature" concentrates primarily on American and English writers who were women.

History, philosophy and psychology departments also offer diversified looks at women. "History of Women in the United States" focuses on the contributions of women in American history.

"Women: A Philosophical  
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Study" offers a look at writings contributed by prominent women philosophers and also at women's rights and examines "the psychology of women including questions of her social and personality development."

A minor in women's studies would serve as important background information, especially in the fields of English, history, psychology and sociology.

"Women's studies has been growing rapidly since the 1920's," said Dr. Mary Budge, English dept. "Personally and professionally, it is an important dimension."

Some instructors feel that women's studies is merely a fad stemming from the present interest in women's issues. Obviously not everyone is in favor of a women's studies program. One reason proposed is that some have a "conservative and traditional" view of education and that it should only include "important" subjects.

"Women's studies has been around far too long to be considered a fad," Budge said. "It will never be subdued again."