

New minor offered for YSU students

By JOHN NEPHEW
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After years of negotiations a woman's studies minor will be offered to YSU students. A new course entitled "Introduction to Women's Studies 590," which will be taught for the first time next quarter, will be a prelude to this minor.

Dr. Alice Budge, English, will instruct this class. The only prerequisite is "English 550." Classes will meet from 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. every day except Wednesday.

Some key concepts examined will be women and education, health and the work field. Sexism, racism, ethnicity, class distinction and their effects on the contemporary woman will be stressed.

Main objectives in this course are to apply feministic analysis to personal lives, cultures and social policy, but most importantly to help the students

become aware of the differing life experiences many women face.

Courses which can be applied to the women's studies are available from several departments. English offers "Introduction to Women's Studies" and "Women in Literature." History has "History of Women in the United States." Psychology and Philosophy study women in respect to their academic discipline. A variety of seminars and selected topic courses in these and other departments complete the women's studies course offerings.

When asked why students should take woman studies as a class, Dr. Budge answered, "There are several reasons why I feel very positive about this new course. The first is it is exciting for a teacher to undertake new teaching ventures. The second is because the nature of this course is interdisciplinary and will involve



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The members on the women's studies advisory committee are left Dr. Barbara Brothers, Dr. Patricia Gilmartin-Zena, Dr. Alice Budge. Not pictured are Dr. Glorianne Leck and Dr. William Jenkins.

guest speakers. The third is because this course signals the beginning of our new women's studies minor focusing on women's realities and women's choices."

The word feminism evokes fear and many people erect a defensive barrier, according to the text book entitled *An Introduction to Women's Studies*. The book goes further to explain how the word feminism derives from womanism, pointing out how feminists value women and take pride in being a woman. They reject the image of being weak, petty, incompetent and irresponsible. Feminists value self-government or autonomy, according to the text.

Feminists reject the practice of separating male qualities from female qualities, the text points out. For example, Dr. Patricia Gilmartin-Zena,

sociology, asked the question why males and female differ in doing the same routine. She pointed out how male carry books at their side and females toward their chest. Even in looking at their fingernails or striking a match they use a different method, Gilmartin-Zena pointed out.

These differences are another reason why this course is being offered to all students, whether male or female. Dr. Barbara Brothers, English, said "We need women's study

courses because mainstream history in literature, psychology, the arts and social studies has often been written from a man's perspective which has traditionally regarded women's work, issues and perspective as insignificant or unimportant."

Courses in this minor are not entitled "Women Supremacy" or "How To Pick Up Girls" for good reasons. They are not the goals of women's studies. The text book summarizes how the goals

of women's studies is the creation of true friendships between males and females and ending the "battle of the sexes." As a result of these studies one should have a renewed sense of human worth and replace cruelty with kindness, discrimination with justice and hatred with love, the text explained.