APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

1. Submitted by the College of Arts and Sciences Date Dec. 4, 2001

Department/Division offering course Women’s Studies Program

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course:

(a) Prefix and Number WS 610
   *NOTE: If the title is longer than 24 characters (including spaces), write
   a sensible title (not exceeding 24 characters) for use in transcripts:

(b) Title* Women and Madness

(c) Lecture/Discussion hours per week 3

(d) Laboratory hours per week

(e) Studio hours per week

(f) Credits 3

(g) Course description: This course explores the social construction of mental illness as it pertains to gender. We will consult narratives from different disciplines: Literature, Psychology, Cultural Studies, Anthropology, History and Feminist Theory. Our focus will concern the ways in which all women are constructed as “sick” as well as the perspectives of women who feel a sense of psychic dislocation and disability in their lives. Readings by women of color and lesbians will suggest the particular ways culture defines such women as “abnormal.”

(h) Prerequisites (if any):

(i) May be repeated to a maximum of n/a (if applicable)

4. To be cross-listed as:

Prefix & No. Signature, Chairman, cross-listing department

5. Effective Date: Fall 2002 (semester and year)

6. Course to be offered (a) Fall (b) Spring X (c) Summer

7. Will the course be offered each year? (a) Yes (b) No X

(Explain if not annually):

Every other year, moving to annual offering if enrollments warrant and staffing permits.

8. Why is this course needed: All women (but particularly poor women, women of color, lesbians differently abled women, etc.) are vulnerable to being defined as “different.” If one pushes this “difference” at all, it can become “oddness” or “eccentricity” just a short hop from insanity. Moreover, women’s relative lack of resources makes them prone to loss of self-determination as a result of being characterized as “insane” whether they suffer from psychic disability or not.

9. (a) By whom will the course be taught? Janice Oaks (WS and English), Joan Callahan (Philosophy), Virginia Blum (English) but not limited to these faculty.

(b) Are facilities for teaching the course now available? (a) Yes X (b) No

If not, what plans have been made for providing them?
APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

10. What enrollment may be reasonably anticipated? 15

11. Will this course serve students in the Department primarily? (a) Yes X (b) No
Will it be of service to a significant number of students outside the Department? (a) Yes X (b) No
If so, explain.

The Women's Studies Program is interdisciplinary in nature and consequently we solicit students campus wide.

Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course? (a) Yes (b) No X
If yes, under what Area?

12. Check the category most applicable to this course:

_____ traditional, offered in corresponding departments elsewhere;

_____ relatively new, now being widely established

_____ not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities

13. Is this course part of a proposed new program? (a) Yes (b) No X
If yes, which?

14. Will adding this course change the degree requirements in one or more programs?* (a) Yes (b) No X
If yes, explain the change(s) below:

15. Attach a list of the major teaching objectives of the proposed course, outline and/or reference list to be used. Attached.

16. If the course is a 100-200 level course, please submit evidence (e.g., correspondence) that the Community College System has been consulted.

17. Within the Department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed course?
   Name/e-mail: Joan Callahan
   Phone Extension: 257-1388

*NOTE: Approval of this course will constitute approval of the program change unless other program modifications are proposed.
**APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE**

**Signatures of Approval:**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department Chair</td>
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<td>Dean of the College</td>
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<td>*Senate Council</td>
<td>Date of Notice to Univ. Senate</td>
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*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate*

**ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL:**

Rev 11.98
WS 610 Women and Madness

Teaching Objectives:

- To see “madness” as a social construction
- To appraise texts, both fictional and non-fictional, which articulate an array of female images of “difference.”
- To interrogate patriarchal visions of female “abnormality.”
- To create original arguments dealing with gendered constructions of “madness.”
SYLLABUS
WS 610 WOMEN AND MADNESS

Hoily Riffe 257-2665
Jan Oaks 257-668 (home 606-744-1561)

Jan. 22 Introduction to the Course
Jan. 29 Due: "The Yellow Wallpaper," "Woman Hollering Creek"
Biographies: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Sandra Cisneros

Feb. 5 Due: WOMEN OF THE ASYLUM
Feb. 12 Due: SISTERS OF THE YAM--chapters 2 & 5, "American Horse"
Biography: bell hooks, Louise Erdrich
Feb. 19 Due: BASTARD OUT OF CAROLINA
Biography: Dorothy Allison
Feb. 26 Due: "My Man Bovanne," "Old Woman Magoun"
Biographies: Toni Cade Bambara, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman

Mar. 4 Due: SILENCING THE SELF
Mar. 11 SPRING BREAK
Mar. 18 Due: THE SNAKE PIT
Biography: Mary Jane Ward
Mar. 20 & 22R Viewing Schedule: 2:00-4:30 pm, 7:00-9:00 pm
Mar. 25 Discussion: Film--THE SNAKE PIT

Apr. 1 Due: WE HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN THE CASTLE
Biography: Shirley Jackson
Apr. 8 Due: "Solitaire." "I Have a Life...," DAYS OF MASQUERADE, Case Studies
Apr. 15 Due: "To Room Nineteen," "No Name Woman"
Biographies: Doris Lessing, Maxine Hong Kingston
Apr. 22 Due: Draft #2 (4 copies), Peer Review in Class
CLASS WRAP-UP, COURSE EVALUATION
Apr. 29 DUE BY NOON: MAJOR PAPER (2 COPIES) IN 671 P.O.T.
WOMEN AND MADNESS

TEXTBOOK

A QUESTION OF POWER (Bessie Head)
Heineman 1974
0-435-90720-4

WOMEN OF THE ASYLUM (Geller)
Doubleday 1995
0-385-47423-7

WOMEN, MADNESS, AND MEDICINE (Denise Russell)
Blackwell 1992
07456-1261-x

SILENCING THE SELF (Dana Jack)
HarpC 1993
0-06-097527-x

EVA'S MAN (Gayl Jones)
Beacon Press 1987
0-8070-6319-3

EXPOSURE (Kathryn Harrison)
Warner 1994
0-446-67023

SURFACING (Margaret Atwood)
Bantam 1996
0-553-37780-9

JANE EYRE (Charlotte Bronte)
any publisher

BASTARD OUT OF CAROLINA (Dorothy Allison)
Plume 1993
0-452-26957-1

ANNIE JOHN (Jamaica Kincaid)
Plume 1986
0-452-26356-5

WOMEN AND MADNESS: The Incarceration of Women in Nineteenth Century France
Yannick Ripa (translated by Catherine du Peloux Menage')
Univ. of Minn. Press 1990
0-8166-1929-8

THE LOONY-BIN TRIP (Kate Millett)
Touchstone (Simon and Schuster) 1990
0-671-74028-8
SHORT STORIES

"The Yellow Wallpaper" (Charlotte P. Gilman) and "Angel at the Grave" (Edith Wharton)
"American Horse" (Louise Erdrich) and "Woman Hollering Creek" (Sandra Cisneros)
"To Room Nineteen" (Doris Lessing) and "No Name Woman" (Maxine Hong Kingston)

NON-FICTION

selections from:
SISTERS OF THE YAM: Black Women and Self Recovery (bell hooks)
FATAL WOMEN: Lesbian Sexuality and the Mark of Aggression (Lynda Hart)

NOVELS:

WUTHERING HEIGHTS--anorexia (Emily Bronte)
WIDE SARGASSO SEA--abandonment (Jean Rhys)
MRS. DALLOWAY--psychosis
TO THE LIGHTHOUSE--psychosis (Virginia Woolf)
THE FOUR-GATED CITY--hysteria
THE EDIBLE WOMAN--split self
THE BELL JAR--depression (Sylvia Plath)
THE BLUEST EYE--child sexual abuse (Toni Morrison)

FILMS

POSSESSED (1947)
THE SNAKE PIT (1948)
BASIC INSTINCT (1992)
SINGLE WHITE FEMALE (1992)
THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE
THE BAD SEED (1956)
LEAVE HER TO HEAVEN (1945)
FATAL ATTRACTION (1987)
PLAY MISTY FOR ME (1971)
THE SNAKE PIT (Mary Jane Ward) 1946
THE LOONY-BIN TRIP (Kate Millet) 1990
THE BELL JAR (Sylvia Plath) 1963
THE WOMAN OF BREWSTER PLACE (Gloria Naylor) 1983--one story
THE DYNAMICS OF FEMINIST THERAPY (Doris Howard, ed.) 1986
MATERNITY, MORTALITY, AND THE LITERATURE OF MADNESS (Marylin Yalom) 1985
MADNESS AND SEXUAL POLITICS IN THE FEMINIST NOVEL (Barbara Hill Rigney) 1978
THE FEMALE MALADY (Elaine Showalter) 1985
DISORDERLY CONDUCT
CHANGING THE STORY (Gayle Greene) on my shelf
HORRORS OF THE HALF-KNOWN LIFE (G. J. Barker-Benfield)
EARTHLY POSSESSIONS (Anne Tyler) 1977
ANAGRAMS (Lorrie Moore) 1986
RAPE AND REPRESENTATION (Lynn R. Higgins and Brenda R. Silver eds.) 1991