**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**University Curriculum Committee**

**Contact: Nevil Speer**

DATE: March 1, 2011

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| Type of Item | Description of Item |
| Action | Proposal to Revise a Program  Item: Women’s Studies (Ref. # 494)  Contact: Jane Olmsted  [jane.olmsted@wku.edu](mailto:jane.olmsted@wku.edu)  Phone: 745-5787 |

Proposal Date: January 28, 2011

**University College**

**Women’s Studies Program**

**Proposal to Revise A Program**

**(Action Item)**

Contact Person: Jane Olmsted, jane.olmsted@wku.edu, 5787

**1. Identification of program:**

* 1. Current program reference number: 494
  2. Current program title: Women’s Studies Program
  3. Credit hours: 21

**2. Identification of the proposed program changes:**

2.1 Change name to Minor in Women’s & Gender Studies, change course prefix from WOMN to WGS, revise electives (deleted and added, based on availability).

**3. Detailed program description:**

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| Women’s Studies Program  Mission Statement:  The Women's Studies Program broadens women's and men's knowledge of gender dynamics, globally and historically, with an emphasis on issues central to women's lives. Through an interdisciplinary classroom experience, community outreach, and special events, the Women’s Studies Program advances understanding of the social and cultural institutions and practices that affect us.  Goals:   * sharpen ability to critically analyze gender issues * encourage the practice of feminist scholarship * enhance intellectual and personal growth * foster an atmosphere in which diversity is valued * advocate ethical conduct, social justice, and responsible global citizenship   The interdisciplinary minor (reference number 494) requires 21 semester hours. Course requirements include a 6-hour core composed of Introduction to Women’s Studies (WOMN 200) and Western Feminist Thought (WOMN 400) and fifteen hours of electives in the humanities, the sciences, or social sciences. Students select an area of concentration by taking nine hours in Category A or B; the remaining six are then taken from the other category. No more than six hours may be taken in any one department. Because new courses are added and occasionally dropped from the categories below, students should consult the latest information, on the website (www.wku.edu/womensstudies) or in the Women’s Studies Center.  Category A (Sciences and Social Sciences): CFS 495, PS 373, 374, PH 464, PSY 430, SOCL 355, 359, 362, 435, 466, SWRK 325, WOMN 421.  Category B (Humanities): ANTH 343, ENG 360, 386, 387, 488, 496, 497, FLK 371, 480, HIST 446, 453, PHIL 201, RELS 333, WOMN 321.  Category A or B: WOMN 375  Additional offerings include special topics courses in various disciplines. | Women’s **& Gender** Studies Program  Mission Statement:  The Women's **& Gender** Studies Program broadens women's and men's knowledge of gender dynamics, globally and historically, with an emphasis on issues central to women's lives. Through an interdisciplinary classroom experience, community outreach, and special events, the Women’s **& Gender** Studies Program advances understanding of the social and cultural institutions and practices that affect us.  Goals:   * sharpen ability to critically analyze gender issues * encourage the practice of feminist scholarship * enhance intellectual and personal growth * foster an atmosphere in which diversity **and sustainability are** valued * advocate ethical conduct, social justice, and responsible global citizenship.   The interdisciplinary minor (reference number 494) requires 21 semester hours. Course requirements include a 6-hour core composed of Introduction to Women’s **& Gender** Studies (**WGS** 200) and Western Feminist Thought (**WGS** 400) and fifteen hours of electives in the humanities, the sciences, or social sciences. Students select an area of concentration by taking nine hours in Category A or B; the remaining six are then taken from the other category. No more than six hours may be taken in any one department. Because new courses are added and occasionally dropped from the categories below, students should consult the latest information, on the website (www.wku.edu/womensstudies) or in the Women’s **& Gender** Studies Center.  Category A (Sciences and Social Sciences): CFS 495, PS 373, 374, PH **365,** 464, PSY **345, 355,** 430, SOCL **353,** 355, 359, 362, 435, **446,** 466, **~~SWRK 325,~~** **WGS** 421.  Category B (Humanities): ANTH 343; **DANC 360;** ENG 360, ~~386,~~ 387, **~~488, 496~~,** 497; FLK **280,** 371, 480; HIST **335, 420,** 446, 453; PHIL 201, **212;** RELS 333, **408; WGS** 321.  Category A or B: **WGS** 375  Additional offerings include special topics courses in various disciplines. |

**4. Rationale for the proposed program changes:**

The proposed name change reflects a growing trend among women’s studies programs in the United States to include the categories of gender and/or sexuality in the titles of their programs. Over its forty years history as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry, women’s studies scholarship has established gender and sexuality as fundamental categories of social and cultural analysis. Increasingly, feminist scholarship embraces the study of how ideas about gender and sexuality shape roles, identities, and social norms in a broad range of geopolitical and historical contexts. Consequently, the name “women’s studies” is too narrow to describe the contemporary field. A changing theoretical landscape requires a broader naming of the field to include queer theory and critical theorizing on masculinity.

At WKU, the Women’s Studies Program has incorporated the growing scholarship on gender and sexuality studies in its curricular offerings. Many of the distribution requirements for the minor in women’s studies reference “gender” or “sexuality” in the title of the course: ANTH 343 “Anthropology of Gender,” ENG 360 “Gay and Lesbian Literature,” PHIL 212 “Philosophy and Gender Theory,” and SOCL 355 “Sociology of Gender.” In addition, the Women’s Studies Program now offers WOMN 375 “American Masculinities” every spring semester. Changing the program name to Women’s & Gender Studies conveys the important connotation that identities are not fixed and that marginal identities that do not fit neatly into majority categories are worthy of exploration and research. This name change will follow the trend in Kentucky as women’s studies programs at University of Kentucky and at Berea College have recently made a similar change.

The changes in electives are based on whether or not the course continues to be appropriate as an elective for the minor. In some cases, faculty who originally proposed the course and included a significant component on women and/or gender have left WKU or are no longer offering the course. New courses have been added to reflect curricular revision across campus.

**5. Proposed term for implementation and special provisions (if applicable):** Fall 2011

**6. Dates of prior committee approvals:**

Women’s Studies Program: \_\_\_January 28, 2011\_\_\_\_

University College Curriculum Committee February 28, 2011

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

University Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment: Program Inventory Form**