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18/1977

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Arts

Department of Women's Studies

Annual Report 1976

1 (i) General

The Women's Studies course has just completed its first year. The main task was to establish an advanced level interdisciplinary course concerned with studying women in society from a variety of perspectives. Certain guidelines for the course had been established by The Women's Studies Committee of the Faculty of Arts, but the main task of devising the course and of working out its relationship to other courses and other Departments within the Faculty was left to the course co-ordinator, who was appointed on 1 January 1976.

During the year the course thus developed from a proposal, into a viable course. Assistance was given by The Women's Studies Committee, individual members of staff from throughout the University, and especially from the History Department to which the course co-ordinator is attached.

Considerable energies were expended on planning the course for 1977, and much attention was paid to the problem of gaining expert assistance from disciplines other than History, the co-ordinator's own discipline. The ongoing problem for Women's Studies rests with this issue: that of finding viable and continuing ways of gaining staff assistance.

(ii) Course

The course dealt with women in society primarily from anthropological and historical perspectives, though philosophical, sociological, demographic and legal perspectives were also used. About one third of the lectures were given by guest lecturers; the remainder were given by the course co-ordinator.

(iii) Enrolments and Examination Results

Enrolments were 38 at 30 April, with 32 examination enrolments. The withdrawal of these 6 students occurred steadily throughout the year. The reasons for withdrawal which were given to the course co-ordinator were mainly of heavy commitment in other subjects (in 3 cases in honours subjects). As a single subject Women's Studies is clearly somewhat vulnerable to student withdrawal on the grounds of commitment to the subject of their major(s) or of their honours work.

Assessment methods were proposed as being through 2 major essays and 3 short papers, and students were given the opportunity to vary these requirements, though few in fact did. The major essays were resubmittable, and 6 students resubmitted their first essay (4 of whom had failed it), and one student resubmitted the second and final essay.

There appeared to be high student satisfaction with the assessment methods.

The results were of very high standard, reflecting both a generally high level of student commitment to the course, and the fact that this was, in terms of past and concurrent results obtained by Women's Studies students, a very select group of generally high quality students. Details of the results are appended.

(iv) Student Participation

Two students were members of the Women's Studies Committee, but the relatively small size of the course meant that the main form of staff-student consultation was informal, occurring at the lecture, tutorial and individual level.

(v) Work of Graduate Students

Not applicable.

(vi) Staff

There was only one staff member in Women's Studies in 1976.

Lecturing Fellow	Ann Curthoys,	B.A. (Syd), Dip. Ed. (Syd), Ph.D (Macquarie).
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2. Publications

Curthoys, A. "Men and Childcare in the Feminist Utopia",
Refractory Girl, no.11, 1976

18/1977

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

ANALYSIS OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

1 <u>Subject</u> <u>or Unit</u>	2 <u>Enrolled as</u> <u>at 30.4.74</u>	<u>% of Number Enrolled</u>			<u>% of Number Sitting</u>						
		3 <u>Sitting</u>	4 <u>Wastage</u> <u>(i.e. 2-3)</u>	5 <u>Failure</u>	6 <u>Sitting</u>	7 <u>High</u> <u>Distinction</u>	8 <u>Distinction</u>	9 <u>Credit</u>	10 <u>Pass with</u> <u>Merit</u>	11 <u>Pass</u>	12 <u>Fail</u>
Women's Studies	38(100)	32(84)	6(16)	1(3)	32(100)	1(3)	9(28)	12(38)	-	9(28)	1(3)