

May 4, 1992

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to the faculty of UAH to introduce you to an academic initiative recently underway, and to ask for your help, comments and suggestions in shaping our efforts. WSIG (Women's Studies Interest Group) is an open group of UAH faculty, staff and students interested in promoting Women's Studies at UAH. Formed in Fall, 1990, WSIG has focused mainly on coordinating women's studies efforts around campus, bringing people together to share information, and stimulating further interest in Women's Studies. Our purpose in writing this letter is to ask if you are teaching or planning a course which you believe would be relevant to Women's Studies. If so, we would appreciate hearing about it, so that we can include it in our list of course offerings, which we are continually updating. Specifically, we seek the following information:

- 1) Course number and title
- 2) When taught (term, year)
- 3) A brief description of the course
- 4) Why you think it is relevant to Women's Studies (keeping in mind the criteria listed below), and
- 5) Any comments or suggestions you have to offer regarding the criteria themselves, ideas for courses, and/or the development of Women's Studies at UAH.

The Curriculum Committee plans to make immediate use of the information we receive as a result of this mailing. We will design a pamphlet promoting course offerings in Women's Studies at UAH which will be placed at Registration and distributed to the Huntsville community. In addition, on-going discussions regarding the development of a curriculum for a minor or Cognate are currently underway.

We have already identified several courses taught on the UAH campus which are relevant to Women's Studies. At this time, we have adopted the following criteria for identifying courses (adapted from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County):

- 1) Is a central focus of the course gender roles, women's issues, and/or the status or portrayal of women in history, arts, sciences? Please explain.
- 2) Does the course material reflect knowledge of contemporary feminist scholarship about women?
- 3) Why to you feel that this is a Women's Studies course rather than just a course about women?

**In order for us to promote courses, we are asking that you respond as quickly as possible, returning all information by May 20. Please respond by campus mail, to: WSIG, Room 216 Morton Hall.**

Contact persons for the Curriculum Committee are Dr. Sandra Carpenter, Chair, and Dr. Mary Lynne Dittmar (both at 895-6191).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
WSIG Curriculum Committee

P.S. WSIG also publishes a quarterly newsletter of events, speakers, and conferences on Women's Studies. If you are not currently receiving this newsletter and would like to be, please contact Nancy Finley (6190) or Rose Norman (6320).