

6-3-1985

## Women's Studies Center Annual Report 1984-1985

Center for Women's and Gender Studies, Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/cwgs-annualreports>

---

### Recommended Citation

Center for Women's and Gender Studies, Florida International University, "Women's Studies Center Annual Report 1984-1985" (1985). *Center for Women's and Gender Studies Annual Reports*. 17.  
<https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/cwgs-annualreports/17>

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Women's and Gender Studies Annual Reports by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [dcc@fiu.edu](mailto:dcc@fiu.edu).

# FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM

TO Provost Altman  
Academic Affairs

FROM Marilyn Hoder-Salmon, Director  
Women's Studies Center

SUBJECT Annual Report 1984-85

DATE June 3, 1985

This is the third annual report of the Women's Studies Center since its inception in 1982. This report marks a change from a calendar to a fiscal time-frame, and includes, therefore, program activity from January 1984 through June 1985.

## Women's Studies Courses and Certificate Program:

The core of our program is the development and maintenance of academic women's studies. Each semester faculty offer a variety of courses in the disciplines. Students may take the courses as electives and earn a certificate if they choose.

### Spring Semester, 1984

LIT 3383 Women in Literature: The American Eve  
HUM 4920 Women, Men, and Culture  
MAN 4781 Women in Management  
ANT 3302 Male and Female Sex Roles  
FRW 4583 French Women Novelists  
PUP 4323 Women and Politics  
CCJ 4663 Women and Crime

(Student enrollment - 197, courses - 8)

### Summer Semester, 1984

MAN 4781 Women in Management  
SOP 3742 The Psychology of Women  
PAD 5435 Administration and the Role of Women

(Student enrollment - 115, courses - 3)

### Fall Semester, 1984

LIT 4001 Women and Violence in the 19th Century Novel  
EII 4692 Women and the Labor Movement  
ENG 4132 Women and Film  
PHM 4123 Women and Philosophy  
MAN 4781 Women in the Management of Business Organizations

(Student enrollment - 108, courses - 5)

Women's Studies Courses and Certificate Program cont.

Spring Semester, 1985

IDS 3930 Introduction to Women's Studies  
ENL 4303 Major British Writer: George Eliot  
MAN 4781 Women in Management  
LIT 3383 Women in the Renaissance  
CCJ 4663 Women and Crime  
ANT 3302 Male and Female Sex Roles

(Student enrollment - 118, courses - 6)

Total Enrollment: 538, Courses: 22

This year three new courses were offered; Women in Philosophy, Michelle Beer; Women in Film, Ken Johnson; and Introduction to Women's Studies, Marilyn Hoder-Salmon. Course enrollment reflects university-wide patterns. For example, "Women in Management" courses have waiting lists, while a course such as "Women in the Renaissance" may have from 10 to 18 students.

The certificate committee (current list attached) meets regularly to plan and assist in development. The support for a coordinated multi-departmental program requires diverse activity. As a non-departmental unit we rely on continual independent effort to inform students about our program: fliers, signs, articles, letters to targeted groups, and other means are used to combat the effect of separateness.

Statistics are not a reliable index of our program. For example, we have more students, 28, enrolled in the certificate program at the present time than will actually complete the six required courses. This is primarily due to the lack of elective opportunity in many FIU majors. From another perspective, we enroll fewer students than are interested. As some have indicated, their faculty advisors discourage them from taking women's studies courses. Our response is to persevere. In keeping with the development of national progress in this area, bolstered by the recognition of women's studies research as among the most significant of contemporary discoveries, these courses provide an important opportunity. Many students recognize that their career choice and future depend on knowledge of women's experience and culture, as well as of changing gender roles. We want to work toward making women's studies an accepted and integral part of a student's education.

Our structure has additional implications. An example, the offering in Spring semester of the "Intro" course, a women's studies basic course, depended on the good-will of the Liberal Studies Department, and in Fall of '85 will be offered at BVC with a Humanities program number. We are seeking ways to use state system numbers in women's studies that also satisfies FIU format. This is needed for our program's continuity and growth.

Women's Studies Courses and Certificate Program cont.

A further concern that has surfaced this year is the departure of faculty who teach women's studies courses. Two Arts and Sciences faculty, whose courses are both requirements of our certificate (Political Science and Psychology) have left. Since we use primarily informal means to develop and promote our program, it is not clear how the objective of replacing faculty can be met.

I do believe that within the context of structural difficulties our unit has continued to prosper. We are a positive visible presence not only on campus, but in the community. The Women's Studies Center is still the only formal academic women's studies program in South Florida. This requires a commitment to a progressive academic stance that, while often misunderstood, or even unacknowledged, provides interested faculty and students an important and exciting intellectual opportunity.

Faculty Development:

In addition to specific programming, such as the colloquia, we regularly share research resources with individual faculty, advise and encourage individual projects, maintain a small collection of materials, disseminate bibliographies and related materials, and write letters of recommendation.

This year we inaugurated a series of professional development seminars for faculty women. On October 23 Lynn Berk and Florence Yudin spoke on the "Politics of Academe for Women," and "Developing Academic Credentials." Then, on November 6 Ann-Marie Rizzo and Betty Morrow spoke on "Time Management for Women" and "Managing Your Resources." The seminars were very well attended, and suggestions were made that we continue this series.

We also hold occasional informal meetings to promote faculty cohesiveness. In September a meeting featured a presentation by Theatre Department faculty member Patrice Bailey, "By and About Women: An Interpretive Response." During Fall semester '84, Joyce Peterson and Mary Free conducted a joint lecture on their NEH summer seminars on "Women in Early Modern Europe" and the "Woman Question in Western Thought."

Another event was a talk on the status of women in academe from the Washington perspective by Dr. Bernice Sandler, who was here to conduct seminars on sexual harassment.

Faculty Development cont.

The membership of the "Women In Administration at FIU" group was expanded, and is now meeting regularly both to "network" and as a vehicle for programs of specific interest.

The library has agreed to maintain a modest budget for women's studies research materials not covered by departmental ordering, and we have petitioned for additional journal subscriptions.

We do an annual faculty survey to solicit both evaluation and ideas; this information is used in program planning.

Women's Studies Colloquia:

- I. Spring Semester, 1984 - February 6, March 8 and April 12  
(Brochure attached)

This annual event continues to promote faculty research, university wide participation, and community interest. Faculty report they find it rewarding to share research with colleagues, students appreciate the opportunity for an extra-curricular interchange of ideas, and community residents indicate that the intellectual stimulation is unique and significant. For a modest outlay of funds, we are able to attract and hold interest over a three month period, although, that does take an extended effort in terms of media and related communication planning. In addition to spurring papers for the colloquia itself, faculty have gone further with their research. For example, Carmela Pinto has expanded her research on Josephine Lawrence and will present a paper at MLA, Ken Johnson published his Hitchcock research in a well-respected journal, Helicon Nine, Susan Waltz published her paper on Tunisia in a journal of International Relations and Yvonne Guers-Villate taught a course on French women writers in connection with her research on Marie Chaix.

The colloquia has also spawned an Occasional Paper Series; the first edition included papers by Steve Fjellman, Mary Free, Hugh Gladwin, Susan Waltz and Yvonne Guers-Villate. We have a standing editorial committee, Mary Jane Elkins, Bill Beesting, Nancy Wellman, Joyce Peterson and myself. In addition to local distribution, we mailed fliers announcing the series to a select national distribution and we have received orders from women's studies programs and university libraries. We found that the quality of the series is appreciated, and that those directly involved find the experience and exposure most worthwhile.

Women's Studies Colloquia cont.

II. Spring Semester, 1985 - January 30, February 19, March 12,  
and April 10 (Brochure attached)

As always we developed the colloquia with an interdisciplinary faculty committee whose primary task is to select papers and assist in promotion. This year's colloquia expanded the format of previous years. We scheduled four evenings, for example, to include an original film by FIU faculty member Kathleen Abrams on Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie Carr. Because of costs and other concerns we did not do a mass-mailing this time, instead, relied on placing brochures in libraries and other places where potentially interested people would see them. This seemed to work, as all the colloquium were well attended. The April 10 colloquium on women in business received national notice, of which a consequence has been requests for copies of the papers.

This year we plan to continue the Occasional Paper Series. At this early stage submitted papers are circulating among the committee. We plan for publication by late August.

Lecture Series:

We continue to supplement the academic program with a series of lecturers on diverse issues that relate both to women's studies and women's interests. By relying on informal means and national networking to draw in interesting people who have ties in South Florida, we implemented a lecture series with very conservative fund expenditures. Including the colloquia, a conservative estimate of attendance at the public events mentioned in this report numbers 1,500.

I. Spring Semester, 1984

February 16 - Helen G. Edmonds. Dr. Edmonds, a distinguished historian spoke on the research for her forthcoming book, The American Black Woman in the Political Process Since 1900. This event was a co-sponsorship with the Black History Week Committee, and drew a diverse and appreciative community audience.

April 9 - Katherine Brady. Ms. Brady is an author and activist on sexual abuse; she spoke on "Child-Abuse, Incest, and Rape Prevention." Well-known for her book, Fathers Day: A True Story of Incest, Ms. Brady spoke to a capacity audience of interested individuals and professionals in the field. In addition to the talk itself, the evening provided an opportunity for professionals, victims, and university personnel to meet and share resources.

## II. Fall Semester, 1984

October 4 - Joan Jacobs Brumberg. Dr. Brumberg, a Cornell historian, spoke on "Fasting Girls: A Social History of Anorexia Nervosa, 1870-1980." This lecture, co-sponsored with the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, had more than 150 people in attendance.

November 15 - Alix Dobkin. Ms. Dobkin, a highly regarded composer and performer presented her original program, a multi-media presentation on "Women-Hating, Racism and Violence in the Top 40." This was a most popular event, the extent of the audience and media interest were both unexpected.

## III. Spring Semester, 1985

February 8 - Primarily organized by the Center for Labor Research and Studies, we co-sponsored a lecture and film, "Union Maid," with 1930's labor organizer, Vicki Starr.

March 7 - Alison Lurie. Ms. Lurie is an esteemed scholar on the faculty of Cornell and a well known author (Pulitzer Prize in fiction, 1985). She gave an original lecture based on her book, The Language of Clothes, that was both amusing and informative. She spoke to a capacity audience in the theater, and we held a reception and book-signing afterwards.

March 25 - Luz María Umpierre. Dr. Umpierre, a scholar of Caribbean Latin American literature at Rutgers University and a poet, gave two presentations. One for faculty and students on the poet Julia de Burgos, and the other, an evening lecture for the campus and community on "Hispanic Women Writers in the USA: A Poetics of Defiance." The presentation was superb, Dr. Umpierre both lectured and read her own poetry. We were disappointed by the size of the audience. It was a rare opportunity to learn about a neglected artistic minority.

### Specific Student Services:

In co-sponsorship with Student Affairs, we offered an all-day "Seminar on Career Skills Exploration for Women" on March 31, 1984. The program relied on university staff to present topics, and with approximately 55 women in attendance proved to be a valuable experience.

During February '85, we held a "Reentry Women Student Workshop" with fiscal support from Counseling Services. Coordinated by adult education intern Bernadine Smith, and using such university staff and faculty as Ann-Marie Rizzo, Judith Blucker, and Ana Sarasti, we presented a four hour workshop for more than 50 students. The evaluations were very appreciative, and all involved agreed that such events should become part of an on-going program for returning women students.

Specific Student Services cont.

During Fall semester a weekly discussion peer-group for women students, titled "Women Talk", met under the auspices of our unit. It too proved to be a needed campus support activity. The major problem revolved around the issue of a permanent advisor to the group as opposed to a self-run orientation.

For Fall semester we held a weekly Monday-noon film series in cooperation with Prof. Ken Johnson. This feminist film series was built around a combined lunch, viewing, and discussion agenda. Attendance varied, however, we would like to repeat such programs in the future. They allow us to take advantage of already available resources and provide opportunity for exposure to important films rarely shown.

General University Services:

During this period we helped to design the Policy to Prohibit Sexual Harassment and developed materials to inform the university community on this issue. The Policy to Prohibit Sexual Harassment is now under the management of the Division of Human Resources; our role has become informal, including referrals and cooperative planning, particularly for the task of educating students.

Our campus role is extremely diverse and my agenda reflects that reality. I continue to counsel students and community women when asked, attend various campus meetings, lecture on women's studies for classes and units, meet with campus visitors interested in women's affairs, participate in programs, such as moderator for the UN Day Seminar on Women in International Affairs, and speaker at the "Women in the Caribbean" Forum.

Community Component:

Our arrangement with the "Two Hundred-A Professional Women's Group" sponsorship of an endowed scholarship fund is on-going. This year's fund-raiser was held in December. The 1984 award was given to a student in Computer Science, and the 1985 award will be to a student in Public Affairs.

I also attend various community functions such as meetings of the National Organization for Women, Miami-Dade CCEW (Advisory Committee member), Women's Chamber of Commerce, Florida Women's Network and other groups. Periodically I appear on public affairs programs, such as a three-part series for Channel six. I am asked to comment



Community Component cont.

on women's issues for such radio stations as WINZ. In addition, I sometimes respond to issues with commentary for the Miami Herald and other media.

We also do periodic community out-reach programs, such as a mailing to local junior and high school principals and social science educators to share resources in regard to National Women's History Week.

National:

I attended several major conferences, one at the University of Connecticut on "Women, Work and Technology," the annual Berkshire Conference on Women's History, and the National Women's Studies Association Meeting. This month I will present a paper at Hofstra University for the New York Historical Consortium on an early twentieth-century suffrage and trade union organizer and author.

The Occasional Paper Series and the exchange of other informational pieces have contributed to a growing recognition of our program.

Administrative:

During this period our office relocated; we find that we have less student traffic now, however, we see more faculty. Also, the conversion from part-time to full-time secretarial support is a most positive asset.

Conclusion:

This unit depends on the interest and volunteer effort of many faculty, staff and students. As I have summarized our combined activity in this report, let me summarize appreciation by noting that the achievements of academic year 1984-85 reflect a keen satisfaction. We will continue to build, to change, to work together, and most of all, to foster awareness that women's equity is a challenge of higher education, not an accomplishment.

Attachments: Selected examples; i.e., brochures, fliers, publicity and correspondence.