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Women's Studies Student Questionnaire

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Women's Studies Student Questionnaire

The Women's Studies program needs your ideas and opinions in order to make progress. Our goal is to get as many survey responses as we possibly can from our current Women's Studies majors and minors. Survey answers are completely anonymous so that you will feel free to express yourself candidly.

We think that you will find the survey thought-provoking, and well worth the 30 minutes it will take to complete it. By filling this survey out and returning it by February 24, you will be letting us know what the Women's Studies program has meant to you, and doing your part to improve it for students to come.

Please seal your completed survey in the enclosed envelope and return it by Friday, February 24, 1995, to :

Secretary/Receptionist
Department of English
Ryland Hall, Room 301

Returning your survey makes you eligible for our separate \$50 lottery.

Please answer as many of the following questions as you can. Thank you.

1. Please check the reasons you took your first Women's Studies (WS) course. (Check boxes for all that apply).

- A friend recommended it.
- It was one of the few courses open at the time I wanted.
- I was curious about Women's Studies courses.
- I wanted to be a Women's Studies major/minor.
- The subject matter intrigued me.
- I wanted to take a course with that professor.
- It was listed jointly with another department.
- It was required for Women Involved in Living and Learning (WILL).
- Other (please explain):



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Written by Lucretia McCulley, Director of Public Services, Boatwright Memorial Library
and Dr. Patricia Patterson, Assistant Professor of Political Science

2. Please indicate your class standing by checking a box:

- First-year student
- Second-year student
- Third-year student
- Fourth-year student
- Other (please explain):

3. In what year do you expect to graduate? _____

4. What is/are your major(s)?

5. Are you a member of Women Involved in Living and Learning (WILL)? (Please check).

- Yes
- No

6. We'd like to know why you became a Women's Studies (WS) major/minor?

(More answer space in original)

7. What comes to mind when you think of the word "feminist"?

(More answer space in original)

8. Which of the following WS courses have you completed? (Please check in the box provided).

(Checklist was included in original, on page 3)

9. Please check the WS courses in which you are currently enrolled:

(Checklist was included in original, on page 4)

10. Thinking about all the WS courses you have taken, please answer the following questions by circling a number on the scale. (1=not at all, 5=very much)

	Not At All		A Fair Amount		Very Much
	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent is the University of Richmond (UR) WS program important to you?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent has the program increased your interest in the course material?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did you find yourself motivated to do reading beyond course requirements?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did you discuss course material outside of classes?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did course content actually affect your life?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did you learn to think about problems from different theoretical viewpoints?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did you learn to think about problems from different political viewpoints?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did these courses take a feminist approach?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did the courses address questions of race and ethnicity?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did the courses address questions of social class?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did the courses address gay and lesbian issues?	1	2	3	4	5

11. Thinking about those same WS courses, how often did the following occur? (1=never; 5=always)

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Always
	1	2	3	4	5
How often did course content relate to you personally?	1	2	3	4	5
How often in the classroom did it feel acceptable to relate course material to your personal life?	1	2	3	4	5
How often did you feel encouraged by the instructor to relate course material to your personal life?	1	2	3	4	5
How often did you wish there were more male students in WS courses?	1	2	3	4	5

12. How well has the WS program developed your abilities in the following areas?

(1=not at all; 5=very well)

	Not At All	Not Well	Fair	Well	Very Well	No Opinion
Writing	1	2	3	4	5	0
Designing Research	1	2	3	4	5	0
Library Research	1	2	3	4	5	0
Critical Thinking	1	2	3	4	5	0
Artistic Appreciation	1	2	3	4	5	0
Scientific Inquiry	1	2	3	4	5	0
Quantitative Skills	1	2	3	4	5	0
Literary Analysis	1	2	3	4	5	0
Social Analysis	1	2	3	4	5	0
Historical Studies	1	2	3	4	5	0
Oral Presentation	1	2	3	4	5	0
Career Planning	1	2	3	4	5	0

13. How well has the WS program helped you to develop your understanding in the following areas?

(1=not at all; 5=very well)

	Not At All	Not Well	Fair	Well	Very Well	No Opinion
Ethical Standards	1	2	3	4	5	0
Multicultural Relations	1	2	3	4	5	0
Women's History	1	2	3	4	5	0
How social change is made	1	2	3	4	5	0
The purposes of education	1	2	3	4	5	0

Thinking over all of the WS courses you have taken:

14. If you had to describe this course of study to a friend, what three adjectives would you use?

15. What are the three most significant things you have learned in your WS courses?

16. Please list up to three specific courses that you have taken and would recommend to other students (see lists on pages 3 and 4). Why would you recommend them?

17. How have your political beliefs and actions changed, if at all, as a result of your WS courses?

18. What other courses have you taken at the University of Richmond (UR) that included substantial discussion of gender issues?

19. Turning to your **NON-Women's Studies** courses at UR, please answer the following questions by circling a number on scale. (1=not at all, 5=very much)

	Not At All		A Fair Amount		Very Much
To what extent did you find yourself motivated to do reading beyond course requirements in those non-WS courses?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did you discuss course material outside of class?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did course content actually affect your life?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did you learn to think about problems from different theoretical viewpoints?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent did you learn to think about problems from different political viewpoints?	1	2	3	4	5
To what extent do you expect your non-WS courses to include the study of women?	1	2	3	4	5

20. When you think about your **NON-Women's Studies** courses, how often did the following occur? (1=never; 5=always)

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Always
How often did course content relate to you personally?	1	2	3	4	5
How often in the classroom did it feel acceptable to relate course material to your personal life?	1	2	3	4	5
How often did you feel encouraged by the instructor to relate course material to your personal life?	1	2	3	4	5

21. We're interested in your views on a number of subjects. We'd like to know a little about your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements. (Please circle a response).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Women no longer face discrimination in the workplace.	1	2	3	4	5
I support the goal of women's equality.	1	2	3	4	5
A woman must marry in order to have a full and happy life.	1	2	3	4	5
I think it is OK for a person to have a child without a long-term partner.	1	2	3	4	5
Females are not as capable of college teaching as their male counterparts.	1	2	3	4	5
I support the aims of feminism.	1	2	3	4	5
Individuals can't do much to change social structures.	1	2	3	4	5
I consider myself a feminist.	1	2	3	4	5

22. If you identify yourself as a feminist, are there one or two experiences at UR that most influenced your feminist consciousness?

23. Please answer the next set of questions, once again keeping in mind all of the WS courses you have taken.
(Circle the number in the appropriate column).

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Always
How often would you say you know fellow students by name in your WS classes?	1	2	3	4	5
How often would you say you make new friendships with fellow students in WS courses?	1	2	3	4	5
How often do students in WS classes engage in class discussion?	1	2	3	4	5
How often have WS professors <u>discouraged</u> students from expressing their own points of view?	1	2	3	4	5
How often do WS professors present varied points of view within class lectures?	1	2	3	4	5
How often have students disagreed with each other in your WS classes?	1	2	3	4	5
In WS courses, how often have you felt pressured to think in a certain way?	1	2	3	4	5
How often have you felt that your voice would be respected if you had something to say in a WS class?	1	2	3	4	5

24. Now we'd like to ask you a few questions about WS-related events.
(Please differentiate them from WILL events as best you can).

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Always
How often have you participated in activities sponsored by WS (lectures, plays, concerts, etc.)?	1	2	3	4	5
How often have you been involved as a planner, presenter, or moderator in WS-sponsored activities?	1	2	3	4	5
Whether you have been involved or not, how often have you had the opportunity to become involved in such activities?	1	2	3	4	5

25. Which were the most significant WS-related events that you remember attending, and why?

26. What effect did your involvement in WS-related events have on your understanding of gender, race, sexual orientation, and class? (Please feel free to write on the back of the survey).

Now we have some questions about goals. Some of the goals of the WS program are:

- a. To inform students about women's contributions to knowledge.
- b. To provide a demanding intellectual experience for students.
- c. To facilitate students' personal development.
- d. To develop students' understanding of how political and social change affecting women is accomplished.
- e. To provide a critical framework through which to view knowledge.
- f. To encourage research by and about women.
- g. To encourage the UR community to think critically and sensitively about gender.

27. Which two of these goals are most important to you? (Please list two letters from the list above).

28. Which do you feel you have been accomplishing as a student in the WS program? (Please list the letters for all that apply).

29. What impact, if any, do you believe the WS program has had on UR? (Please continue your answer on the back of the survey).

30. What changes would you make in the WS program to enhance it (additions, changes, deletions, etc.)?

31. What else would you like to communicate to us about the WS program at UR?

Now we'd like to ask a few questions about yourself. Please check your answers in the following section. Remember that your answers are completely anonymous and optional.

32. Which of the following race groups do you identify with and feel you belong to? (Check all that apply).

- Native American
- African-American (or Black)
- Asian
- Caucasian (or White)
- Other

33. Do you consider yourself Hispanic?

- Yes
- No

34. Here are some income groups. Where would you say your family's income level was last year, to the nearest thousand dollars? (Please check a box).

- \$0 - 20,000
- \$21,000 - 40,000
- \$41,000 - 60,000
- \$61,000 - 80,000
- \$81,000 - 100,000
- \$101,000 - 120,000
- \$121,000 - 140,000
- \$141,000 - 160,000
- \$161,000 - 180,000
- \$181,000 - 200,000
- \$201,000 or more

35. How sure are you about your answer to the last question? (Please check a box).

- Sure
- Pretty Sure
- Not Too Sure
- Not Sure At All

36. Do you think of yourself as having been raised in a particular social class? (Please check a box).

- Yes (go to question 36A)
- No (go to question 36B)
- Maybe (go to question 36B)

If you answered "Yes":

36A. In which social class were you raised?

- Lower Class
- Working Class
- Middle Class
- Upper Middle Class
- Upper Class

If you answered "No" or "Maybe":

36B. Many people say they were raised in one of the social classes below.
If you had to make a choice, which social class would you say you were raised in?

- Lower Class
- Working Class
- Middle Class
- Upper Middle Class
- Upper Class

37. Do you have (a) close friend(s) or family member(s) who you know to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

38. Do you consider yourself to be:

- Gay/Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Straight
- Uncertain about your sexual preference

		Not at All					Very Much				
39.	On a scale of 0-4, how emotionally attracted are you to men? (Please circle a number).	0	1	2	3	4					
40.	On a scale of 0-4, how emotionally attracted are you to women?	0	1	2	3	4					
41.	On a scale of 0-4, how sexually attracted are you to men?	0	1	2	3	4					
42.	On a scale of 0-4, how sexually attracted are you to women?	0	1	2	3	4					

43. How much education was completed by your parent who went to school longer? (Please check the one box that represents the highest level of education that parent achieved).

- Less than high school diploma
- High school diploma
- Some college, but no degree
- Two-year college degree
- Four-year college degree
- Some graduate school
- Graduate school (doctor, lawyer, Ph.D., etc.)
- Other, beyond high school

44. Additional information about yourself you would like to share with us:

Finally, we'd like to ask a few questions about your plans.

45. After graduation do you plan to attend graduate or professional school? (Please check a box).

- No
- Yes
- Don't Know

45A. If yes, of which type?

46. Other than further education, what experiences will you be seeking after graduation?
How does being a WS student influence your plans?

47. Do you think you will be able to apply what you learned as a WS student to your work and/or further education? (Please check a box).

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

47A. If yes, how? If no, why not? Please elaborate.

48. When you think about your future, how likely is it that you will be able to apply what you learned in WS courses...

	Not Likely	Likely	Very Likely	Don't Know
...to your work?	1	2	3	0
...to further education?	1	2	3	0
...to your social life?	1	2	3	0
...to friendships?	1	2	3	0
...to intimate relationships?	1	2	3	0
...to relationships with children?	1	2	3	0

Thank you for your time. We need and welcome your comments about the Women's Studies program as we plan for the future.

Please seal your completed survey in the enclosed envelope and return it by Friday, February 24 to :

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