WOMEN'S STUDIES 400-5
ADVANCED WOMEN'S STUDIES

SPRING SEMESTER 1984

INSTRUCTOR: B. STRICKLING

This course will center on questions about the objectivity of science, especially the social sciences. In this connection, we will concentrate on the study of women in the family, and the major theories that have contributed to modern views on human interaction. We will be particularly concerned with Marx and Engels, Freud, Laing, and sociobiology. We will read both feminist critiques of and contributions to these approaches on such topics as: the origins of division of labor in the family, the nature and value of motherhood, the development of masculine and feminine personalities in the family, the family's contribution to mental "illness", and the role of women's family work in the maintenance of both capitalist and socialist economies.

The aim of the course is to introduce students to various theoretical approaches which will in turn provide them with the background and perspective to develop critical approaches to their own disciplines.

Course Requirements

Students will be asked to do a considerable amount of reading, and to write approximately 5000 words. The written work will be weighted as follows:

30% two short papers worth 15% each
40% mid-tern and final exams on pre-announced questions worth 20% each
20% final project, relating the work of the course to the student's major discipline
10% class presentations

Readings (Books available from the University Bookstore. There will also be a reading packet available at cost from the general office.)

B. Easlea, Liberation and the Aims of Science: An Essay on Obstacles to the Building of a Beautiful World
F. Engels, Socialism: Utopian and Scienzaetifie
R. D. Laing, The Politics of the Family
Adrienne Rich, Of Woman Born