Library Resources Review

For the course: Gender Politics: Women and Peace (POL 140)

This report was written up in response to an agenda item for the UEPC. The current POL140 is requesting to have an additional .25 credits added to the course, specifically adding a community-based research element. There has been no formal request for a library resource review from the Politics department.

It is essential that the Library be told of changes to courses that involve a research element. This allows the Library to expand their collection in the proper ways to aid the students in their individual research needs. This is an attempt to put together such a report to address this issue.

I. Library Resource Needs

A. Faculty Course Preparation: Dr. Longo provided a reading list of books for the class.

B. Reserve Readings and film/videos for reserve: Several are recommended on the class schedule

C. Types of materials needed for student assignments. The syllabus indicates that there are two papers and a journal for written assignments.

II. Currently Available Library Resources

A. Reference Materials: The Library provides general resources on developing countries with such titles as Women and Politics Around the World (2009), Encyclopedia of Women in American Politics (1999), and the Encyclopedia of Women in Today’s World (2011). The Library also has access to online reference encyclopedias through Gale Virtual Reference Library, Oxford Reference Online, and Sage e-Reference. The reference collection is adequate for the needs of this course, based upon the information received about them.

B. Books: The Library has a general collection of books and other materials relating to gender, women, and politics, both for the U.S. and also globally. In addition, the Library is a part of the Link+ network to retrieve more specific materials not owned by SMC. The Library’s collection should be adequate for the needs of this course.

C. Periodical Indices: The Library subscribes to many on-line periodical indices, with some including full access to a wide variety of articles. These include: Academic OneFile, Women’s Studies International, CIAO, Hispanic American Literature Index (HAPI), Academic Search Complete, Lexis-Nexis Academic (for newspaper articles from 1980 to the present) and PAIS International. These indices should be sufficient for the research paper indicated in the syllabus.

D. Periodicals: Examples of periodicals that the Library subscribes to include: Feminist Studies, Resources for Feminist Research, Women’s
Studies International Forum, Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy, and Women & Politics. These periodicals, amongst many others not mentioned, should be sufficient based on the information received about the course.

E. Media/Videos: The Library subscribes to two online streaming video collections: Academic Video Online (VAST) and Films on Demand. Both offer films relating to women, gender, and politics. In addition, the Library has the videos indicated in the class schedule. Some of the formats are older (VHS) and need to be replaced to a more modern format.

F. Electronic Resources: In addition to the sources already mentioned, it is possible to get general resources relating to these subjects in the following databases offered at the Library:

- Women’s and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000

G. Additional Periodicals as requested
None

III. Opportunities to Develop Information Literacy Skills
A. This course offers excellent opportunities to develop information literacy skills, but it is unclear if the two papers mentioned are research oriented, or based upon readings in class. If there is original research needed for the students, it is essential that I be included in the discussion so that the proper resources can be made available for student needs.

Susan Birkenseer
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