Women's studies probe role of today's woman

BY MERRY BATeman
Of The Gamecock staff

How do you think the image of women in the past effects the role of women in the present? What is the need for women's studies? What does it say about today's society? These were the two questions posed the first day University 111 met this fall. Answers were as diverse as the students and visitors there with different degrees of enthusiasm, ranging from low to raving. University 111 is a new venture in interdisciplinary work on women.

The idea of women's studies came during the Jones Administration when it was encouraging innovative teaching. Former USC President Thomas F. Jones appointed a committee of faculty and students to compose a women's studies committee. The committee saw the need of courses on women because of the increasing interest and influence of the women's movement. It also saw the need for good courses for anyone to elect to take, especially freshmen, as a variety in the approach to the humanities.

With the work of the committee, chaired by Linda Maloney, and such people as Phyllis Fleishel (the new director of Contemporary University) proposals were written for the two new courses, University 111 and University 112. These were accepted after going through the various procedures which new courses must in the university system.

University 111 is not a spiritual, political rap session or consciousness raising group. It is a chronological study of women in religion, art and literature. Team teaching is used with a representative from religion, art and English.

The new chairman of the women's studies committee and the male leader of University 111, Kevin Lewis of the Religion Department, feels women's courses need to have men in them. That is one of his reasons for helping teach 111. The course has one man enrolled and several male auditors. "I am committed professionally to experimentation in interdisciplinary team teaching. This is what my area is all about: religion, culture, literature, art. I am a person interested in the cause of women," he said.

"I think what the women's movement is doing for society is important. I have come to know the movement intellectually and feel it intuitively. Women do get a bad deal. They fall prey to Catch-Continued on Page 12

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