

\* Original must be submitted

(R)

# Approval Form

Proposal Title: Stamen in Volume

Sponsor(s) JAC Blake Dept.: History Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  Course  Specialization  Concentration  Minor  Achievement Certificate  
 Certification Program  Major Program  Minor Change (please name deletion or credit/title/catalog change)

Undergraduate  Graduate  Credit Hours

<p><b>Step 1 (Department)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Approved _____ Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p>_____ Dept. CC Chairperson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed _____ Date _____</p> <p>_____ Dept. Chairperson</p>	<p><b>Step 2 (Receipt)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCC# <u>93-44-53</u></p> <p>Proposal Received _____ Date _____</p> <p><u>5-15-94</u></p> <p>_____ SCC Chairperson</p>	<p><b>Step 3 (School CC)</b></p> <p>Reviewed <u>5/2/94</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><u>Joanne Scott</u> School Curr Comm Chairperson</p>
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**Step 4 (Academic Dean)** **Comments:**

Recommend  Not Recommend  Conditionally Recommend (see comments)

Reviewed 5/2/94 Date \_\_\_\_\_

MAY 1994

[Signature]  
Signature, Dean of School

**Step 5 (SCC)**

Open Hearing 5/1/94 Date \_\_\_\_\_  Approved by Senate Curriculum Committee 5/11/94 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Returned to sponsor(s) for the following reasons:

**Step 6 (Senate)**

Presented to Senate 5/1/94 Date \_\_\_\_\_  Approved  Not Approved

Notification to Executive Vice-President/Provost 5/1/94 Date \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Signature SCC Chairperson

**Step 7 (Executive V.P./Provost)**

Received 6/2/94  
Date

Approved  Yes  No

If no, reasons are as follows:

Student credit hours 3 ch

Faculty load hours \_\_\_\_\_

Equalized credit hours \_\_\_\_\_

Official copy and approval sheet filed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Donald L. Costello  
Signature, Executive Vice-President/Provost

**Registrar**

Approved course description received 22 Aug 94  
Date

Hegis Taxonomy and Course Number assigned 22 05, 305

B. F. Kelsey  
Signature, Registrar

22 Aug 94  
Date

**Notification forwarded:**

- Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson
- Department Chairperson(s)
- Academic Dean(s)
- Registrar
- Sponsor(s)

1. 17 1995  
Kee  
10/12/95

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

1. Details

- A. Women in Islam
- B. Dr. Corinne Blake and the History Department
- C. 3 Credits
- D. Course Level: 300 level
- E. Curricular Effect: Major elective
- F. Prerequisites: "Islamic Civilization" or "Modern Middle East" or permission of instructor
- G. Time of Implementation: Spring 1995 to be offered every other year

H. Dr. Blake will teach the course. She has taught courses on Islamic Civilization (one of the lectures for this course deals with women and family life in Islamic societies) and the Modern Middle East at Rowan College. She became familiar with the basic works in this field as a graduate student, and has received an SBR grant to advance and update her knowledge in preparation for teaching this course.

Our library holdings need to be improved. Savitz contains scholarly books on a variety of topics relevant to women's history in general, but fewer books are available on women in Islam, women in the Middle East, etc. Dr. Blake is currently ordering more library books in this field.

Classroom space is available.

2. Rationale

This course is designed as an upper level course for history majors; it would also serve as an elective for students pursuing a concentration in Women's Studies. History students may take this course to fulfill upper level requirements (majors are required to take 4 upper level courses). The course also fulfills the History Department's requirement that each student take one upper level global course.

This course will broaden the History Department's menu of upper level courses which are currently in short supply. More importantly, it will add to the department's global upper-level offerings, which are expanding, but still limited.

Since the History Department, the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Rowan College are committed to diversifying our curriculum and expanding our global offerings, this course furthers the goals of the Department, the School, and the College.

### 3. Essence of the Course

#### A. Objectives

"Women in Islam" would aim to acquaint students with the role of women in Islam as a religion, to familiarize them with the wide range of women's experiences in different periods of history and in diverse Muslim societies, and to introduce them to a variety of works and approaches to the field, including primary and secondary sources.

The course would be divided into three main sections. The first section would concentrate on women's legal status in Islam. We would begin by examining Islamic religious sources: reading passages in the Qur'an about women as well as relevant Hadith (reported sayings of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions). We would also focus on Islamic law, the Shari'ah, to learn about the different rules and provisions that affect women.

The second section of the course would be devoted to examining the history and lives of women in medieval Muslim societies. We would cover a variety of topics including women's economic activities, women's relation to political institutions (especially during the "sultanate of the women" in the 17th century Ottoman empire), women's social life, and women in medieval Islamic culture (including women and mysticism). In addition to articles and books, we would read a variety of translated poetry and prose that sheds light on how women were viewed in different Muslim societies.

The third section of the course would focus on women in different Muslim societies today. This part of the course would be organized around case studies of women in a variety of Muslim societies, including the Arab world, Iran, Turkey, sub-Saharan Africa, India/Pakistan, and Indonesia. We would compare the experiences of women in these diverse regions, looking at the lives of women from different socio-economic levels--peasant women, nomadic women, urban working and middle class women, upper class women, etc. We would concentrate on understanding how women from these diverse areas and social groups have been viewed and treated, and how Islam has and has not shaped their lives. Wherever possible, we would use first hand accounts.

#### B. Topical Outline/Content

Outlined above in Section A: "Objectives".

#### C. Evaluation of Students

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a midterm, a book review, two essays, and class presentations and participation.

#### D. Evaluation of Course

As an upper level course, "Women in Islam" will be evaluated every three years as part of the departmental review. It will also be evaluated the first three times it is taught by the History Department Curriculum Committee, using peer observation and student evaluations. Subsequently, it will be assessed by the History Department Curriculum Committee every other year.

#### 4. Results of Consultations

A. No other departments offer courses with similar contents or titles. The history department offers a course on Islamic Civilization that deals with women and family in Islamic societies in one lecture. Other departments offer courses such as "Anthropological Approaches to Kinship and Sex Roles" and "Third World Women" that may deal with the topic on occasion.

B. The Women's Studies Program is interested in expanding course offerings on women, especially women in non-western societies. "Women in Islam" is also of interest to the religion department.

Dr. Kochis from the Women Studies Concentration and Dr. Diane Ashton from the Religion Department were consulted about this course. Their statements are attached.

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course aims to acquaint students with the role of women in Islam as a religion. It focuses on the wide range of women's experiences in different periods of history and in diverse Muslim societies, and introduces students to a variety of works and approaches to the field, including primary and secondary sources.

The course is typically offered every other year.



# Rowan College of New Jersey

25 Mullica Hill Road  
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1201

January 31, 1994

Dr. Corinne Blake  
History Department  
Robinson Building  
Rowan College  
Glassboro, New Jersey

Dear Corinne,

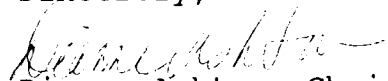
I am delighted that you are proposing a course on 'Women in Islam.' I can think of few topics as misunderstood by non-Muslims as the role of women in Islamic religion and Islamic societies. It will certainly be an important addition to the multicultural/global offerings on our campus. We need upper level courses in this area. It will also expand the courses in Women's Studies.

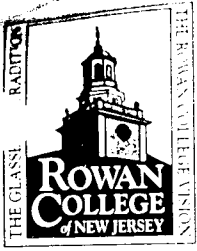
Your proposal appears well thought out. I am especially pleased to see that you will be using primary sources. I think that these materials are crucial in helping our students move beyond the one dimensional and overly smooth presentation of the world usually found in text books. I am also glad to see that you will be expecting students to do their own research. I am convinced that that sort of experience is where real learning goes on.

The course, as you present it, will also dovetail nicely with the course on Islamic civilization and in Anthropology. Students ought to be well prepared for the course on Women in Islam. It will also benefit students interested who enroll in Religions of the World and Religion in America.

I applaud your effort and wish you success.

Sincerely,

  
Dianne Ashton, Chair  
Philosophy & Religion



## Rowan College of New Jersey

201 Mullica Hill Road  
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1701 • (609) 863-7176

*Law/Justice Department*

Feb. 7, 1994

Dear Dr. Blake,

I am writing to you on behalf of Women's Studies at Rowan College. Without question, more women focused courses are needed in all areas of study. Your proposed course, "Women in Islam" certainly appears to be an appropriate course for inclusion in our concentration requirements.

The only question I might pose is whether or not an upper-division History course would affect a large number of students. Ideally we would like to see more general education approved Women's Studies courses made available to a variety of majors. Perhaps, as a "global" course, Women in Islam may benefit students on multiple levels.

Good luck with your course development and implementation. Please contact Women's Studies regarding approval and course scheduling.

Sincerely,

Donna S. Kochis, Ph.D.  
Coordinator, Women's Studies