ENGL 4360 – Literature & Gender Three Semester Hours

An introduction to literature that explores issues of gender and sexuality. The course examines questions of canonicity, difference, equality, and sexuality, and how these issues are represented in literary and other cultural contexts. Special attention will be paid to the intersections of gender with sexuality, race, class, ability, and nationality. Sample topics include women’s literature, queer literature, literature and masculinity, or desire in literature. Prerequisite: Three hours sophomore literature or consent of instructor. Course may be repeated for credit when topics vary.

Justification for the addition of a new course to the catalog:

Currently there is no course offering in English at TAMU that provides students the opportunity to study gender and sexuality in literature. There is a Master’s level course (ENGL5321) in the catalog called “Gender Studies.” This course is only available to students of graduate standing, however, so the proposed course 4360 would offer similar goals of study at the undergraduate level. The addition of the new course will not only offer an introduction to an important and growing area of literary study, but it will also offer students an opportunity to examine issues of gender, sexuality, and sexual orientation while fostering the type of social awareness and diversity that are valued by our university.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. analyze the cultural, social, and historical aspects of gender in literature;
2. explain how the gender and sexuality of authors impact literary output;
3. interpret texts through close readings;
4. identify connections between literary periods, writers, writings, and themes;
5. write papers that effectively address purpose, style, and content of literary works;