

Women's lit course offered

By JANE MUSALA
Collegian Staff Writer

George Eliot, the famous British novelist, was a woman.

If you find that statement surprising, you might blame it on the fact that for years the literary contributions of women have not been properly recognized. However, a University professor is trying to end that.

Professor Audrey Rodgers, working with the Committee on Women and Literature, has initiated a new course titled "A Century of Women Writers."

The course will be offered for the first time Winter Term.

Temporarily catalogued as English 198, it will deal with short fiction, poetry, novels and plays written or published between 1870 and 1970.

Some of the works reviewed will include Edith Wharton's "The Age of Innocence," Doris Lessing's "The Golden Notebook," poetry of Nikki Giovanni, and Lorraine Hansberry's play "To Be Young, Gifted, and Black."

"I feel personally that the reading list is interesting, thought provoking, and respectable in terms of literature," Rodgers said.

"Women have made a significant contribution to literature," she added, "and students should understand the nature of that contribution."

Rodgers said many universities have created courses dealing with the image of women, but noted that they include works by both male and

female authors. While the new course will consider the image of women, Rodgers stressed that it is primarily a literature course.

"We are not choosing works that do not have literary merit. Naturally, we want to see how women wrote about everything—the society in which they lived, the status of women, the problems of males and females."

The image of women certainly will be presented. But the works were not selected on that basis. They were selected on the basis of the women authors," Rodgers said.

In justifying the need for the new course, she said, "We understand that all writers have a unique perspective, but the female's viewpoint has not been given recognition."

"We want to observe everything the woman sees. How does she view her world? We are assuming that she sees it differently than a man," Rodgers said.

Citing the success of the Women's Studies course, Rodgers said she felt there is a genuine interest in this area. She also expressed hope that men will enroll in the course.

The course is the product of two years of work by the Committee on Women and Literature, comprised of men and women from University Park and the Commonwealth Campuses.

"This is not a 'quickie' course in terms of planning," Rodgers said.

Continuation of the course will be determined

by enrollment, student evaluations, and the instructor's reactions. "If everyone is happy—the instructor, the students, the department—the course will be offered again in the future," she said.

Although the course is presently listed as English 198 for the purpose of Winter Term registration, if approved it will be permanently catalogued as English 150.

"Of course, it takes a long time for a course to be approved by the University. But once it is—and there's no reason to assume it would not be—English 150 will be a regular literature course," Rodgers said.

Rodgers was quick to stress that the course will include "a great deal of discussion." In addition, some background material will be given in lecture. Two essay examinations and two short papers also will be required.

"The overall success of the course depends upon the understanding, the appreciation, and the discussion of women's work," Rodgers said.

The course is not listed in the Winter Term class schedule or any supplements, but will be available at Winter Term registration. It will be offered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, fourth period. The class tentatively is located in 366 Frear.

Students interested in further information should contact the English office in 117 Burrows.

Israeli defense deal hinted

LONDON (UPI) — The United States has hinted at a defense guarantee to Israel in return for territorial concessions to the Arabs but the Israelis are not keen on the idea, Middle East diplomats said yesterday.

They said the possibility has been raised in various forms, including a treaty guarantee for Israel. But nothing firm has been offered so far and the prospect had aroused little enthusiasm among Israelis. They say international guarantees have done little for them in the past and they prefer to rely on their own security arrangements.

Arab politicians apparently are not particularly worried about an American guarantee for Israel and feel they can get a Russian guarantee to match it, if necessary, the sources said.

The question of superpower guarantees for a Middle East settlement has been raised several times since last year's October war. Its proponents argue that any settlement would require some such safeguards to pre-

vent another war. One possibility mentioned was a joint American-Soviet guarantee. But the Americans showed little enthusiasm for the idea and the Israelis rejected it on grounds that Russia would have a veto against any action in support of Israel in the event of violation of any eventual settlement.

The sources said even an exclusive American

guarantee is not likely to induce the Israelis to pull back toward its 1967 borders, unless they feel their security safeguarded by their own effort and by adequate Arab commitments.

At any rate an American defense treaty with Israel would be no easy matter for the Ford Administration to decide upon and get through Congress, they said.

Blue Band voice still ageless

By SHERRIE SPANGLER
Collegian Staff Writer

"Variety is the spice of life" — so goes the old saying. The voice of an ardent follower of that philosophy is heard at every home football game.

It belongs to Hummel Fishburn, announcer of the Penn State Blue Band's home game performances.

A glimpse into Fishburn's past leaves no doubt in mind that his life is filled with variety.

Fishburn has been active since 1918 in various facets of Penn State's music program. He also has been involved with numerous other organizations from fraternities to the University Senate.

In 1929, Fishburn taught in Penn State's newly formed music department, and also directed the Penn State Symphony, Women's Chorus and Men's Glee Club.

Big changes took place in the Blue Band when he became director in 1938. He vitalized it by devising intricate formations for the half-time shows, and quickening the pace.

"The former director had been an army man, and he figured if a slower pace was good enough for the army, it

was good enough for the Band," he said. He also made band members audition every year, and allowed underclassmen to try out.

Fishburn retired as Blue Band director in 1965, when he became announcer.

Born in Washington D.C. on March 18, 1901, he was introduced to music at a young age. He studied at a music conservatory, and later at Penn State, earning his B.A. in commerce and finance in 1922 and his Masters in psychology in 1925.

While an undergraduate at Penn State, he wrote his first show. It was for the Thespians and entitled "King Pomp Pompous." Fishburn's other musical accomplishments at the University include the organization of the Women's

Symphony Orchestra, Band Day and the creation of the course, Music 5.

At this year's Syracuse game Fishburn was presented with an award from the National Band Masters Fraternity, Phi Beta Mu, for "outstanding contributions to bands."

From the announcer's booth, Fishburn said he can't really see what's going on in the stands. But the crowds don't seem to change much, he said. The one thing that did change, is the drinking in the stands. "We didn't drink at all at games," he said. "I went to

school during the Prohibition."

Music hasn't been his only interest at Penn State. Over the years he has been a judge at Penn State track meets, a chapter adviser and a national officer for Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, and Alpha fireman and a Rotarian. He has served on the University Senate, the Thespians' board of control and the University's Athletic Advisory Board. He also started the "Fishburn Invitational" golf tournament, an annual affair held at his summer home for the past twenty-five years.

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