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Author/Institution: Mary Goodwin, Iowa State University

Other Authors/Institutions: Carolyn Heising Iowa State University

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Abstract: WOMEN AND MEN IN THE ENGINEERING WORKPLACE

An undergraduate engineering diversity course, entitled: "Women and Men in the Engineering Workplace", was offered as an experimental course in the spring semester of 2003 in the College of Engineering at Iowa State University. The course was cross-listed with the ISU Women's Studies Program, and is believed to be the first such engineering diversity course in the nation, and perhaps the first women's studies course to be offered by an engineering college. The students were "recruited" by the instructors representing the college's eight engineering departments, and were predominantly upperclasspersons. In order to ensure a gender balance in the class itself, the enrollment was 'engineered' so that half of the class were men, and half women. Although the course was centered on increasing gender diversity in the historically male dominated profession of engineering, race and class aspects of diversity were also dealt with in the class. Topics included studying masculinity in America, how gender is constructed in our society and the history of engineering education with regards to gender.