

Introduction to Women's Issues in Canada

Women's Studies 101

Section: LA02

Term: 2009 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Lara Campbell

Discussion Topics: This introductory Womens Studies course is an interdisciplinary examination of the work, status, and lives of Canadian women, the social and cultural construction of gender and sexuality, and the way that ideas about femininity and masculinity shape systems of knowledge, social institutions, popular culture, and social policy. We will examine the interconnections of gender with race, ethnicity, class and sexuality, address how womens lives and identities are shaped by the intersection of oppression and privilege, and discuss the history and future of feminist activism.

This course is designed to help students develop critical and analytical skills by investigating popular stereotypes and assumptions about sexual difference and the effects that such assumptions have had within social policy, work, media and the family. We will study such issues as pornography, prostitution, cultural representations of women, sexual violence, and womens human rights. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze how the lives of women have been shaped by individual and institutional power relations.

Grading: Essay Proposal and Annotated Bibliography\%09\%0910%

Research Essay\%09\%09\%09\%0925%

Mid-term test\%09\%09\%09\%0915%

Final Exam\%09\%09\%09\%0925%

Tutorial Participation\%09\%09\%0910%

Reading Responses:\%09\%09\%095%

Participation in tutorial debates:\%0910%

Required Texts: \%09Roberta Hamilton, Gendering the Vertical Mosaic: Feminist Perspectives on Canadian Society (Pearson Education, 2005, 2nd edition)

\%09Custom courseware package, available at the University bookstore

\%09Margaret Atwood, The Handmaids Tale (available at the bookstore, but you may use any edition)

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Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None

Notes:

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