GSWS 311-4: Modernizing Women: Canadian Women in Historical Perspective, 1870s-1970s

Professor: Dr. Willeen Keough  
Office: AQ 5096  
Email: wkeough@sfu.ca  
Office hours: Tuesdays 13:00 – 14:00 or by appointment  
Lecture: Thursdays, 13:30-17:30; BLH 10021

Course Description:
This course examines the historical development and contested understandings of women’s roles, experiences, and identities in Canadian society from the 1870s to the 1970s. Together, we will study the ways in which gender, ethnicity, race, class, and sexuality shaped women’s experiences, how women and femininity were imagined in relationship to men and masculinity, and the changes and continuities in the history of work, domesticity, sexuality, politics, and activism. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Think critically about how class, race, ethnicity, gender, region, sexuality, and religion have shaped Canadian women’s history
- Explain the methodologies and vocabulary of Canadian women’s history
- Analyze primary historical documents
- Understand how historians utilize gender as a category of analysis
- Present and clearly articulate an understanding of women’s history in oral, visual, and written form

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Margaret Mitchell, *No Laughing Matter: Adventures, Activism, and Politics*. Vancouver: Granville Island Publishing, 2007. (Copies will be provided by GSWS to students registered in this course.)
- Additional required readings, unless otherwise specified in the syllabus, will be available through SFU’s new learning management system, Canvas.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Reading responses: 15%
- Class participation: 15%
- Essay Proposal/Annotated bibliography: 10%
- Term paper: 30%
- Final exam: 30%

Prerequisite: 15 units. Students who have taken GSWS 202 (WS 202) may not take this course for further credit.