WOMEN'S STUDIES 203-3

FEMALE ROLES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Fall Semester/1982
Downtown/Evening

Professor Meredith Kimball

Course Outline:

In the first part of this course we will focus on psychological and biological sex differences with an emphasis on critical evaluation of the research in the area. In the second part of the course we will look at women's lives from childhood to old age. Among the questions we will look at are: How are girls socialized into their roles as women? How are issues around motherhood, marriage and labour force participation dealt with by young women? What are special concerns of middle-aged women? What special problems do aging women face? In the final part of the course we will look both at some issues of general concern to women such as the mental health system, female sexuality, and violence against women; and at some of the special concerns of minority women.

Required Readings:


A required package will also be available at cost to students.

Assignments:

1. Mid-term exam. There will be a take-home essay mid-term exam. The exam will be handed out in class and will be due two weeks later. Students will be expected to answer two out of the three questions provided (Approximate length of each question: 2-3 pages). All questions can be answered using only the assigned reading material and information presented in the lectures.

2. Final-exam. The final-exam will also be a take-home essay exam. It will resemble the mid-term exam in format but will vary in length from one to three questions (each 2-3 pages) to be chosen from five possible questions. The number of questions answered will depend on the percent of the final grade the student chooses the exam to count for (see below).

3. Tutorial Participation. Each student who chooses to be evaluated on tutorial participation will be expected to lead a discussion on a topic of their choice for one of the tutorials. Tutorial marks will be based both on the presentation and on the quality of tutorial participation in general.

4. Term paper. Students may choose to do a research paper on a topic of their choice. The paper length will vary from short (5-8 pages) to long (15-20 pages) and should: a) review and integrate the material available on their topic and b) present a critical analysis of the material. The
length of the paper will depend on the percentage of the final grade chosen for the paper (see below).

The final grade will be divided up as follows:

1. Mid-term exam: 30%
2. Tutorial participation: 0-20%
3. Final exam: 0-50%
4. Term paper: 0-50%

Everyone must write the mid-term and it will count for 30% of the final grade for everyone. At the time of the mid-term or before each student will complete a contract indicating how they want to divide up the other 70% of their mark among the other options. For example, one might choose to have tutorial participation count for 10%, the final exam for 30% and the term paper for 30%; another might choose to do the final exam for 30% and the term paper for 40%; another might choose the tutorial for 20% and the term paper for 50%. Although there is no fixed rule for how long the term paper or final exam will be a term paper that will be worth 50% of the final mark will obviously be both more extensively researched and longer than one that will be worth 10% of the final mark. Likewise, the number of questions answered on the final exam (if this option is chosen) will vary with the percentage chosen. The purpose of this grading system is twofold: 1) to allow students to divide up their final grade among either three or four assignments, and 2) to allow students to concentrate more on a form of learning that works best for them. Students will see the results of their mid-term before making final choices about how the rest of their grade will be determined.