In the Advanced Women's Studies seminar this term we will take up questions about the objectivity of science by focussing on the study of women in the family. We will especially consider the influence of political ideology and cultural assumptions on the treatment of this subject by the social sciences. It is hoped that students will gain background and perspective with which to examine critically their own disciplines.

We will be looking at some of the most influential modern approaches to understanding human interaciton - including those of Marx and Engels, Freud and Laing, and that of sociobiology - as they are applied to the family. We will also read feminist critiques of and contributions to these approaches on such topics as: the origins of divisions of labour in the family, the nature and value of motherhood, the development of masculine and feminine personalities in the family, the family's contribution to mental "illness", and the role of women's family work in the maintenance of both capitalist and socialist economies.

The seminar will meet for two 2 1/2 hour-long sessions per week. The instructor or guests may lecture from time to time. Students will be expected to take some responsibility for class discussions.

Readings:

1. Liberation and the Aims of Science: An Essay on Obstacles to the Building of a Beautiful World, by B. Baslea (selected parts).
4. The Politics of the Family, by R. D. Laing

A reprint package will be available at cost.

There will be an average of fifty to sixty pages reading per week.

Written Assignments:

Students will be asked to write a total of approximately 5000 words for the course in short essays, exams on pre-announced questions, and a final project. The project will require students to relate the work of the course to their major disciplines.

Prerequisite:

Completion of lower division requirements or permission of the Coordinator of Women's Studies and the instructor.