W.S. 203-3

WOMEN’S ROLES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Instructor: Bonnelle Strickling

We will examine factors that influence women's lives and women's life decisions. Thus we will be discussing the family, work, money, sexuality and, especially, the factors that influence the psychological development of women. In addition to the text, which provides a general survey of factors influencing women’s lives, we will read selections from the works of psychologists whose work has particular relevance to the question of the psychological development of women: Sigmund Freud, Emma Jung, Nancy Chodorow, Dorothy Dinnerstein, Lawrence Kohlberg and Carol Gilligan. There will also be supplementary readings on sexual aggression (violence against women, incest), women as psychiatric patients, and sexuality.

Required reading

Marlene Mackie, Exploring Gender Relations: A Canadian Perspective

A reprint package to be purchased at cost the first day of class.

Assignments

- 2 short papers, each worth 20%
- mid-term take-home exam, worth 30%
- long final paper, topic of student's choice, worth 30%
  (this is not a research paper, but a paper in which the student approaches some question, theory or limited body of work critically and analytically)