WOMEN'S STUDIES 100-4

PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN: AN INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

This course will be an introduction to some of the most fundamental and fascinating issues concerning women:

- Have women always and everywhere been subordinate to men?
- Does biology determine the work that women do and the power relations between men and women?
- How do parents treat girl children differently than boy children even if they think they're treating them the same?
- Why do women earn lower wages than men?
- How do women view pornography?
- What arguments have women made for changes in the private and the public spheres of women?
- Can feminism be traced as far back as the 15th century?

We will examine the complex means by which our culture "creates" the contemporary Canadian woman, and we will look also at efforts that women, personally and collectively, have made and are making to "recreate" themselves and a more equitable and humane society.

This course is designed for independent study and is interdisciplinary in nature. Readings range from philosophy to fiction, popular journalism and feminist scholarship. Assigned texts will be accompanied by a study guide, course readings, and audio cassette discussions. An on-campus one-day seminar is possible if students are interested.

REQUIRED READING

Phillips, Paul and Erin: Women and Work: Inequality in the Labour Market
Atwood, Margaret: The Edible Woman
Fitzgerald, Guberman & Wolfe, eds.: Still Ain't Satisfied! Canadian Feminism Today
Kome, Penney: Somebody Has to Do It: Whose Work is Housework?

ASSIGNMENTS

20% - two sets of answers to study guide questions
30% - mid-term exam
20% - 6-10 page essay
30% - Take-home final exam (to be submitted with a reading journal at the end of the term)