The pornography industry has grown at an unprecedented rate in recent years. Along with it there has been a proliferation of pornographic images linking sex with violence, women and children. Pornography has also become a prominent social issue in the 1980's, raising important moral, ethical, and legislative questions for all members of the public.

This course will examine pornography in its status as both a social phenomenon and a social issue. It will focus on pornography's relationship to women, concentrating not only on how women are depicted in pornography but on what pornography means for women. We will address the following questions: How can we come to understand and make sense of these images that bombard us in our daily lives? Where do these images come from? How do they effect us? How can we attempt to gauge pornography's impact on the self-perception of women, on the development of women's sexuality, and on the relationships of women to each other and to men. And, finally, what can be done about pornography?

The course will be divided into three sections. The first will explore the complex reality of pornography itself. We will review various perspectives on what pornography is, what it does, and how it functions. These perspectives will include social scientific studies, positions from the philosophical right and left, and feminist views. The second section will explore strategies for dealing with pornography. We will examine the issues of censorship and freedom of speech. We will also discuss alternative strategies for addressing the problem of pornography and we will assess their limitations and implications for women. In the third section we will explore the relationship between pornography and female sexual identity. We will examine various feminist perspectives on sexuality and we will look at how pornography constructs female sexuality. Finally we will review and discuss alternative feminist erotica and its role in relation to pornography.
REQUIRED TEXTS


2. Varda Burstyn (ed.), *Women Against Censorship* Douglas & McIntyre


5. David Copp and Susan Wendell (eds.), *Pornography and Censorship* Prometheus Books

and on reserve are the following:


RECOMMENDED READINGS will be on reserve. List available in class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be asked to write three take-home essay-type assignments (5-7 pages each) each of which will count for 25% of the final mark. An in-class presentation and class participation will count for the final 25%.

PREREQUISITES: 60 credit hours

COURSE MAY BE APPLIED TO THE CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL ARTS