FEMALE ROLES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

This course will look at women's roles as reflected in contemporary fiction (largely Canadian and American) in light of contemporary feminist psychological and psychoanalytic theory about how these roles have evolved and are maintained and/or changed. The novels to be studied include depictions of women's roles within patriarchal society as well as alternatives to these conventional roles. Related issues involving class, race, women's silence, women's use of language, and women's ways of knowing will also be discussed.

REQUIRED READING

Rhys, Jean *Wide Sargasso Sea*. (Penguin)
Thomas, Audrey, *Intertidal Lives*. (General)
Robinson, Marilynne, *Housekeeping*. (Bantam)
Morrison, Toni, *Sula*. (New American Library)
Marlatt, Daphne, *Ana Historic*. (Coach House)

RECOMMENDED READING

Gilligan, Carol *In a Different Voice*. (Harvard University Press)
Eichenbaum, Luise & Orbach, Susie *Understanding Women*. (Basic Books, for Chapter 2, "Construction of Femininity"
Dybkowski, Ann, et al., eds. *In the Feminine*. (Longspoon)
Marks, Elaine & de Courtivzon, Isabelle, eds., *New French Feminisms*. (Schocken Books)

Note: The above are on reserve in the Library

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Classes will be structured as lectures with questions and discussion. Students will be asked to present short papers for critique and discussion in their tutorials. Active participation and willingness to explore the assigned readings and respond to other student's ideas are primary requirements for this course.

ASSIGNMENTS

30% class participation
30% term paper
20% mid-term
10% short essay
10% short essay
Class participation: this includes attendance and participation in both lectures and tutorials and also includes two prepared presentations in tutorial based on the assigned reading. These presentations should be about 10 minutes long.

Term paper: This 6-8 page paper will be on a topic related to issues raised by any of the novels, as refracted through theoretical reading in the required or recommended texts. Students may select their own topics but are asked to check these with the instructor before beginning work.

Mid term exam: This exam will comprise a take-home essay on a topic assigned two weeks before the exam and an in-class essay on a topic presented at the beginning of the exam.

Short essays: These 2-3 page essays will be take-home assignments based on the required reading. Students will choose their topics from a list presented at the beginning of the course.

Prerequisites: WS 100 (may be taken concurrently, with the approval of the Coordinating Committee)

NOTE: This course may be designated as 3 100 level English credits for students who obtain permission for this from the English Department

THIS COURSE MAY BE APPLIED TO THE CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL ARTS