WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPRING 1989
HARBOUR CENTRE/DAY
(SENIOR CITIZEN'S COURSE)

W.S. 203-3

FEMALE ROLES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

This course will focus on an overview of the socialization of women throughout the lifespan. Topics in the first unit will include theories and mechanisms of socialization: infant, pre-school, school age, and adolescent socialization. Topics in the second and third units will focus on issues of importance to women throughout adulthood. These will include women's roles as partner, parent, worker, and friend; health, poverty, violence against women, and visions for the future. For each of these topics the concerns and experiences of older women in Canada will be highlighted.

COURSE STRUCTURE

For the first unit classes will be structured as lectures with questions and discussion. The instructor will present research and theoretical information important to understanding the socialization of women. The mid-term exam will cover the information from the first unit. The second and third units will be conducted in more of a seminar format. In addition to the information the instructor presents, the students will be expected to come to class prepared to criticize and explore the assigned readings.

REQUIRED READING


ASSIGNMENTS

Mid-term exam (20% of final mark)

This exam will be part take home and part in class. One essay question will be given out two weeks before the mid-term exam. Students will be expected to write on this question for one-third of the exam. The other essay question and several short answer questions will make up the other two-thirds of the exam.

Class participation (20% of final mark)

Evaluation will be based on attendance and participation in the seminars and tutorials throughout the term. Students are encouraged to read the assignment before the tutorial so that the discussion can focus on the material assigned.
Paper (30% of final mark)

A short (6-8 pages) paper on a topic of the student's choice. The topic must be discussed with the instructor before work is begun. Outside reading (that is, outside the assigned class readings) for the paper should not be extensive. For example a student may choose to focus on one book or a few journal articles for the paper. Readings assigned for the class may be used in the paper. The important part of the paper is not to survey a large amount of information but rather to think about and work with a small amount of information critically.

Short Essays (30% of final mark)

For the second and third units two short take home essays (2-3 pages each) will be assigned. Each essay will count for 15% of the final mark. A list of several essay questions will be provided at the beginning of the units. The student may choose any two questions from the list of questions provided.

Prerequisite: Women's Studies 100 (may be taken concurrently with the approval of the W.S. Coordinating Committee)