WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

FALL 1990 EVENING

W.S. 205-3
WOMEN AND POPULAR CULTURE

In North America, popular culture is often defined in terms of mass consumer culture. This course will define it differently, beginning with the assumption that women are continually creating and re-creating popular cultures. We will look at the varying efforts of women to claim space in and outside the commercial mainstream, redefining themselves and their cultures in the process. We will also address the continual tension between women's creation and its appropriation in mass consumer culture.

Using examples from music, sport and literature (including guest presentations) we will examine how women's creativity contributes to a deeper understanding of issues in the social sciences. How are women redefining notions of the body and of a female presence, and in extension, of audience? How do women's messages counter ideas of hierarchy and hegemony? What do women's forms of organization reveal about our understandings of social organization?

REQUIRED READING

Note: A reader will be prepared for the course which will be available in the library reserve section. It will include texts (readings, video-tapes, films, audio-tapes) from several sources, from a cross-cultural perspective within Canada and internationally.

RECOMMENDED READING


ASSIGNMENTS

15% Participation, Lecture and Tutorial
10% Outline for Final Project, 1-2 pages
35% Final Project and Presentation, 20-30 minutes
40% Paper, an 8-10 page research paper
Collaboration will be encouraged.

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