WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

FALL 1990
EVENING

LYNNE HISSEY
Lec. Mon. 18:30-20:20
Tut. Mon. 20:30-21:20

W.S. 301-3
WOMEN AND THE MEDIA: WOMEN AND THE NEWS

The daily news provides us with "cultural maps" of the world: it defines the terrain of the social and political world and it offers us preferred routes for navigating this terrain. As one vehicle for the social construction of reality the news plays a prominent role in shaping our definitions of our world and ourselves.

This course critically examines the news, its production and consumption, from a feminist perspective, attending particularly to issues of women and the news. The course is organized around the following questions. What are the characteristics of the world as depicted by mainstream news media? What are the ideological implications, especially for feminism, of this vision of reality? How does the news portray women and how does this relate to our real lives? As women members of the audience, how does the news position and address us? What happens when a woman writes the news (newspapers) and when a woman reads the news (TV). What might alternative, feminist news look like?

The course will focus on mainstream newspapers and television news. Students will be expected to keep a "news diary" containing regular observations on the news of the day. As well, students will work in groups for the term project which has two components: a formal critical analysis of a selected day's newspaper edition and a TV broadcast; and a re-representation of this news from a feminist perspective.

REQUIRED READING

Gaye Tuchman: Making News.

Selected articles on reserve in the library.

ASSIGNMENTS

20% News "journal", 8-10 pages
10% Tutorial Participation
20% Mid-term Examination, 5-7 pages
50% Term Project (25% + 25%), 20 pages plus oral component

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours or WS 100

THIS COURSE MAY BE USED AS 3 UPPER DIVISION CREDITS IN COMMUNICATION.

TUTORIALS WILL BE HELD DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES