WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPRING 1990
EVENING (Section E1)

W.S. 301-3
WOMEN AND WORK

This course will focus primarily on the experiences of women in the paid workforce in Canada today. The persistent segregation of women into a limited range of occupations and the undervaluing of women's work will be examined from a number of perspectives. These include an analysis of the contribution of gender ideology, labour process theory and segmentation theory to an understanding of women's "unequal" work experience, a review of the domestic labour debate, and an assessment of the importance of class and racial differences in determining women's employment opportunities. The course will also include an analysis of the employment related strategies and policies that have been put forward by the feminist movement over this century, and a critical evaluation of their impact on state sponsored legislative initiatives, union priorities and business practices.

These topics will be explored with reference to the concrete experience of women working in a variety of traditional and non-traditional occupations and will include an historical review of how women's labour force experience in Canada has both changed and stayed the same over time. As a major part of the course requirements, students are encouraged to do original qualitative workplace research, develop a policy analysis or write a more theoretical paper.

REQUIRED READING

Beechey, Veronica, Unequal Work (London: Verso, 1987)
Lowe, Graham S., Women in the Administrative Revolution (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987)

RECOMMENDED READING

Lewis, Debra, Just Give Us the Money: A Discussion of Wage and Discrimination and Pay Equity (Vanc.: Women's Research Ctr, 1988)

ASSIGNMENTS

15% Short paper based on an interview (5 pages)
10% Class presentation (5 pages)
10% Class participation
40% Major term paper (12-15 pages)
25% Take-home essay exam

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours