WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SUMMER SEMESTER 1990

MARGARET BENSTON
Distance Education

WOMEN'S STUDIES 100-4
PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN: AN INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

This course will be an introduction to some of the most fundamental and fascinating issues concerning women:

- Have women always and everywhere been subordinate to men?
- Does biology determine the work that women do and the power relations between men and women?
- How do parents treat girl children differently than boy children even if they think they're treating them the same?
- Why do women earn lower wages than men?
- How do women view pornography?
- What arguments have women made for changes in the private and the public spheres of women?
- How are women working together to improve the economic and political situation of women in Canada?

We will examine the complex means by which our culture "creates" the contemporary Canadian woman, and we will look also at efforts that women, personally and collectively, have made and are making to "recreate" themselves and a more equitable and humane society.

This course is designed for independent study and is interdisciplinary in nature. Readings range from philosophy to feminist scholarship, popular journalism and fiction. Assigned texts will be accompanied by a study guide, course readings, and audio cassette discussions, and a teleseries on the Knowledge Network (the schedule of showings is available in the course materials package you receive after registering in the course).

REQUIRED READING

Kome, P. Somebody Has To Do It: Whose Work Is Housework?, McClelland & Stewart (1982). Photocopy available through Centre for Distance Education.
Working For A Living, Room of One's Own (1988). Available through Centre for Distance Education.

ASSIGNMENTS

30% Two sets of answers to study guide questions
20% Take-home exam due in week 6
25% Take-home exam due in week 13
25% One 6-10 page essay

THIS COURSE MAY BE APPLIED TO THE CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL ARTS