WOMEN’S STUDIES PROGRAM

FALL 1991

W.S. 302-3

WOMEN AND THE LAW

We will be examining the way that the law influences women’s lives and the decisions we make. In particular, we will be discussing the following areas:

1. the Canadian legal system, an introduction and overview of traditional and contemporary attitudes towards women as observers of and participants in the system, themes and theories of our place in the system.
2. women and equality - feminist and other theories of equality, pre- and post-Charter law of equality, the future of equality.
3. the law’s view of women’s bodies – including childbirth and midwifery, abortion, the effects of new reproductive technologies, legal status of the fetus.
4. women and family law - particularly divorce, maintenance for spouses and children, property division and standards of care for children.
5. woman and criminal law – including sexual offences, prostitution, violence against women in the home and outside of it, pornography and censorship.
6. women and employment including issues such as affirmative action, employment equity, sexual harassment.
7. other issues of interest to the class members as time permit.

REQUIRED READING

M.J. Dymond, The Canadian Women’s Legal Guide
Catherine A. MacKinnon, Feminism Unmodified
Carol Smart, Feminism and the Power of Law
Reprint package to be purchased from bookstore.

RECOMMENDED READING
Fineman and Thomadsen (eds.), At the Boundaries of Law: Feminism and Legal Theory

ASSIGMENTS

20% Take home mid-term exam
20% Oral Presentation, 15-20 minutes
15% Classroom Participation
45% Paper, 12-15 typed pages, or equivalent

Prerequisite: 60 credit hours or WS 100

THIS COURSE IS APPLICABLE, UNDER UPPER DIVISION GROUP B, FOR PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS IN CRIMINOLOGY

STUDENTS MAY APPLY TO THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OR TO CANADIAN STUDIES TO HAVE THIS COURSE DESIGNATED AS CREDIT TOWARD THEIR UPPER DIVISION POLITICAL SCIENCE OR CANADIAN STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS.

THIS COURSE MAY BE APPLIED TO THE CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL ARTS

TUTORIALS WILL BE HELD DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES