LESBIAN STUDIES

Lesbian Studies will rely not only on the growing body of scholarly literature about lesbian life produced by lesbians, but will also incorporate our own stories and the cultural products of our community. The consequences for lesbians of differences in race and class and of heterosexism will be an integral part of our studies and discussions. The experience of lesbians resident in Canada will be our primary focus, with attention paid to the international context of our lives.

We will consider topics including the following: Our Stories, Community, Health Issues, Domesticity, Partnership, Culture, Sexuality and Politics - Personal and Public. We will draw on material from the disciplines of history, psychology, sociology, the study of literature. We will use our own experience and that of others as well as analyses drawn from critical and oppositional points of view.

There are three required texts, and there will be additional readings on reserve in the Belzberg Library. Each week one or more students will be responsible for the preparation and presentation of one or more readings assigned for that week. All students will be expected to have read the readings assigned.

REQUIRED READING

Stone, Sharon Dale, ed., Lesbians in Canada
Silvera, Makeda, Anthologist, Piece of my Heart: A Lesbian of Colour Anthology
Hoagland, Sarah Lucia, Lesbian Ethics: Toward New Values

There will also be required readings placed on reserve in the Belzberg Library at Harbour Centre

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

10% Attendance and participation in class discussions.
15% Oral presentation of at least one of the assigned readings.
25% Article review, or issue description. A written analysis of a relevant piece of theoretical writing, 5-8 pages. An examination of a particular issue relevant to lesbians, drawing on a wide variety of sources, for example, oral accounts, periodicals and film or video, 5-8 pages.
50% Final paper - 15-20 pages on a subject related to course material chosen in consultation with the instructor.

STUDENTS MAY APPLY TO CANADIAN STUDIES TO HAVE THIS COURSE DESIGNATED AS CREDIT TOWARD THE CANADIAN STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS.