WOMEN’S STUDIES DEPARTMENT

FALL, 1993

FRANCES WASSERLEIN
Sem: Tuesday, 12:30-17:20

W.S. 300-5 LESBIAN STUDIES

This course will consider a wide range of issues affecting lesbian life today, including: the history of the identities lesbian, lesbians of colour and two-spirited or First Nations lesbian; political history pre-Stonewall and in the gay liberation movement; the Women's Liberation Movement and the "lavender menace"; issues in personal (and sometimes public) life including literature and music. It is hoped that there will be some initial level of agreement about the differences in power relations among groups in European dominated societies and the effects of racism, heterosexism and classism on lesbians and lesbians of colour.

The classes will be divided into several sections each week. There will be a lecture and response section at the beginning of each topic division. Students will be responsible for reading in the required texts and from a selection of articles placed on reserve in the Library. A tutorial section during which the written comments on the week's readings will be taken up through oral discussion about the material and the arguments presented by students will be a part of each class. Presentations will be made by outside speakers, in particular on literature, on music, on coming out, and on politics. In addition, each student will be responsible for a presentation of one of the texts on a reading list prepared by the instructor, and augmented by students. These student presentations will be made in weeks 4 through 12. Presentations may be done by individuals or groups, depending on the text chosen and the time constraints.

The e-mail facilities of SFU's computing services will be used to facilitate written communication among students. It is my intention that students use weekly written commentaries on readings as a basis for a dialogue in text. If it is possible there will also be a space where anonymous postings can be left. Students will develop their skills in writing, analysis, and use of computing services.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

10% Attendance and participation in class discussions

50% Final paper, 15-20 pages (250 words per page, typewritten, and double-spaced) on a subject related to the course material chosen in consultation with the instructor. This can be a research paper, or an analysis and presentation of interview(s) among other things. The methods used in the development of this work will include attention to the personal connection to the material, i.e., writing from the self.

25% Weekly written comments on assigned readings. These will be submitted by e-mail to the class mailing list at least 24 hours before the class meets. Students will be expected to read the comments of others, and to contribute to the text-based class dialogue, and to the oral discussion of these materials in tutorial sessions.

15% Class presentation. 2-3 pages (500-700 words) written synopsis and analysis of a text chosen from reference list. This will be prepared and distributed through the e-mail mailing list at least 2 days before the date of presentation. Students will present the material, and lead a discussion with other class members on the text. These will be scheduled in some accord with the course outline where possible, and texts will be chosen by Week 3. The methods used in the development of this work will include attention to the personal connection to the material, i.e., writing/speaking from the self.
REQUIRED READING:

[Subject to some alteration, if I find there's something new, wonderful (operative word) and Canadian].


A package of articles selected from current publications to be held on reserve in the Library.

The instructor will make available, at the first class, a reading list from which texts will be chosen for class presentations. This list will include writings by lesbians of colour, Canadian material, and monographs and anthologies which address current theoretical issues of importance to the study of lesbians/lesbianism. Student input will be encouraged in the further development of this list.

It is my intention that the tutorial period of the first meeting of the class be taken up with dealing with Computing Services and making sure that everyone in the class has a computing account for the semester, and at least a rudimentary understanding of how to sign on the system and use e-mail. I will have consulted with Computing Services on the construction and maintenance of a WS300-5 specific mailing list to which no one else will have access.

This course may be applied to the Certificate in Liberal Arts.