This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the roles of women in cross-cultural societies ranging from South Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe to Canada. Using feminist praxis, this course will generate multi-faceted approaches for examining women’s experiences and women’s lives in their historical and cultural contexts. We will attempt to examine how women’s lives have been affected by colonization/imperialism and how our production and reproduction are controlled by patriarchal practices. Through specific examples from different parts of the world, we will explore commonalities and rich diversities in women’s lives cross-culturally.

The objective of this course is to examine the variety of perspectives from which women can be studied: 1) as victims of oppression; 2) as contributors to society; and 3) as creators of survival skills and social networks.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS:
In addition, a set of readings will be placed on reserve in the library.

ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION:
1. Attendance & Participation 15%
2. Mid-term Examination 20%
3. Critical Analysis* (Two - approx. 1000 words each) 20%
4. Group presentation and written report** 20%
5. Final Examination 25%

* Critical Analysis
You should take at least two readings (articles) and explore an idea or issue that strikes you most (for example, gender relations; violence against women; globalization, etc.). You may express affinity or dissatisfaction with class discussion around the issue(s). You will have to be critical both about the readings and about your own point of view.

** Group presentation and written report
Working collaboratively is an important part of the feminist process. It gives people the chance to show their different knowledge in a public way, for the benefit of the whole class. Half of your mark (10%) will be based on the presentation itself. The other half of your mark (10%) will be based on a written report.

DESIGNATED CREDIT:
This course is designated as 3 lower division Sociology credits for this semester only.