In this course we will examine the way the law influences women's lives and the decisions we make. We will also examine the influence of women on the legal system. In particular, we will be discussing the following areas:

1. The Canadian legal system, an introduction and overview of traditional and contemporary attitudes toward 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.
5. Women 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. Immigration and several international issues.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Law Society of B.C. Gender Equality in the Justice System
Carol Smart. Feminism and the Power of the Law.
Other readings to be distributed in class.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Take home mid-term exam 20%
Oral presentation, 10-15 minutes 20%
Classroom participation 15%
Paper, 12-15 typed pages, or equivalent 45%

DESIGNATED CREDIT:

This course is applicable under upper division Group B for partial fulfillment of major requirements in Criminology.
Students may apply to the Canadian Studies Department to have this course designated as 3 upper division credits toward the Canadian Studies major requirements.
This course can be applied to the Liberal Arts Certificate.