In this course we will examine the social and economic history of women during Canada’s early development and settlement. We will begin with native women and women of New France, and then move to the many groups of settlers and immigrants that came to make new lives for themselves and their families in the new colonies and later the new nation of Canada. By exploring broad themes within a loose chronological framework, we will cover a variety of topics including religion in the women’s lives, marriage, and employment. We will pay special attention to changes over time including changes in women’s domestic lives, educational opportunities, and working for pay. We will also give special attention to successive waves of migrant and immigrant groups and explore how they preserved their cultural identity while adapting to their new and changing circumstances.

**Required reading:**


**A selection of additional readings will be available on reserve in the library, including:**


Calliste, Agnes. “Race, Gender and Canadian Immigration Policy: Blacks from the Caribean, 1900-1932.”

Carter, Sarah. “First Nations Women of Prairie Canada in the Early Reserve Years, the 1870s to the 1920s: A Preliminary Inquiry.”


Shadd, Adrienne. “‘The Lord seemed to say “Go”’: Women and the Underground Railroad Movement.”

Swyripa, Frances. “Failing to Measure Up: The Peasant Immigrant.”

Valverde, Mariana. “‘When the Mother of the Race Is Free’: Race, Reproduction and Sexuality in First Wave Feminism.”

**Recommended texts:**


**Course Requirements:**

- 20% tutorial participation
- 20% 2 short papers - primary document analysis (5 pages each)
- 30% essay (10 pages)
- 30% final exam