This course presents a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to understanding violence against women and children. Drawing upon a wide range of academic and community resources, the course traces the historical development and construction of violence as a social issue. Feminist and anti-racist theories examining the use of violence as a means of social control will be studied, as will the various forms of resistance to violence developed by women at the local and global levels.

This course has been developed in partnership with the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children, and will draw upon the Centre’s accumulated knowledge of community based, participatory action research. Guest speakers and films will be used to supplement lectures, and participants will be encouraged to translate critical thinking skills into a concrete action plan for resisting violence against women.

Required readings


Recommended readings


Course Assignments:
- Group Action Plan 30%
- Book Review 20%
- Final Paper 30%
- Course Participation 20%

Women’s Studies graduate courses are offered in conjunction with undergraduate courses. Graduate students are requested to meet with the instructor to discuss the increased workload and grading expectations.