WS 302-4: Special Topic - Women of Colour in Canada
WS 824-5: Graduate Seminar on Women & Social Policy – Women of Colour in Canada

Habiba Zaman

The objectives of this course are:
(i) to review the existing literature on women of colour and feminism in Canada,
(ii) to investigate how age, class, race, gender, dis/ability, and sexual orientation intertwine to shape the lives of women of colour, and
(iii) to construct knowledge that will enhance our understanding of the experience, empowerment, struggles, and community-building of women of colour in Canada.

This course will highlight the following issues from socio-historical and feminist perspectives:
- media and popular images of women of colour;
- construction and reconstruction of identity and how identity interacts with material and social circumstances;
- the role of the state and the feminization of migration in the 20th and 21st centuries;
- immigration history and experience from women’s perspectives;
- how family and paid work intersect in the lives of women of colour;
- barriers women of colour face in the Canadian labour market, and
- the extent and nature of women’s empowerment as a group.

In addition, this course will explore an important but little-addressed question: to what extent may the women’s community be both a source of strength and a source of oppression.

Required readings:

Custom Courseware available from the SFU bookstore.

Recommended Reading:

Course requirements & Grading Structure:

**WS 302:** Two short papers (6 pages each; 250 words per page) 40%
Research paper & presentation (10-12 pages: 250 words per page) 40%
Attendance & class participation 20%

**WS 824:** One short paper (8 pages: 250 words per page) 25%
Research paper & presentation (14-15 pages; 250 words per page) 45%
Attendance, participation and presentation 30%

Prerequisites:
For WS 302: 6 credit hours including WS 101 or WS 102.

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.