WS 201-3  Women in Canada:  1600-1920

Rosemary Gagan

Following a chronological and thematic approach that encompasses the diversity of Canadian Women’s historical experiences as a consequence of gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, age, disability and region, this course will explore women’s domestic, social, economic and political roles during four centuries of our past. When appropriate, the course will place Canadian women’s experience within a broader international context, in particular, with reference to feminist activities in the late nineteenth century. As a way to emphasize Canadian women’s diversity, the course will draw on diaries, literary material, statistical data, government documents, oral history and videos. Special attention will be directed to the problems of researching and writing about women’s lives in the past.

Classes will consist of a lecture and discussion of assigned readings, relevant videos, and a guest lecturer or two. To facilitate discussion, students are expected to keep up with the readings which will be within a reasonable limit. Students will also present in class a very brief oral progress report on their research essay.

Required readings:

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Biographical assignment (3 pages) 15% Due: September
Term test (4-6 pages) 15% Due: October
Major research paper (10-12 pages) 30% Due: November
Class participation 15%
Final exam – take home (6-8 pages) 25% Due: Noon - December

Prerequisites:
WS 101 or WS 102. May be taken concurrently.

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.