WS 314-4 Race, Class and Gender Relations

Larissa Petrillo

We will examine the central categories of race, class and gender in our analysis of socio-economic inequalities in North America. We will look at the ways in which the category of ‘woman’ is constituted through social and cultural discourses, as well as examining the interconnections among racism/classism/sexism. How is power manifested in the daily material conditions of all individual lives? In addition to immigration and work, we will look at how oppressions are institutionalized in the health, legal and education systems. Particular emphasis will be placed on Canadian social relations, with a weekly case study on First Nations issues. We will ultimately consider how individuals derive agency, or act in their best interests, while also claiming an identity that might be rooted in the socially constructed categories of race, class and/or gender. Proposed Topics: Understanding Race, Class, Gender. Gender/sexism. Ethnicity/Racism. Class/Classism. Feminisms. Migration and Work. Production and Reproduction. Interlocking Oppressions. Case Studies: The Legal System. The Health System. The Education System. Identity and Agency.

Required readings:
A custom courseware package will be available at the university bookstore. The courseware will include readings selected from these, and other, texts:
Serials: Race, Gender and Class and Canadian Woman Studies

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Class participation 15%
Internet and Database Project 5%
In-class exam 20%
Essay proposal and annotations 15%
Essay draft 5%
Student presentation/evaluations 15%
Final essay 25%

Prerequisites:
Six credits in Women’s Studies, including WS 101 and/or WS 102. Students who have taken either WS 301 or WS 310 as Special Topic: Race, Class and Gender may not take this course for credit.

THIS COURSE CAN BE USED TOWARD THE LABOUR STUDIES MINOR AND THE LABOUR STUDIES CERTIFICATE

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.