WS 202-3: History of Women in Canada, 1920-present

Larissa Pettillo

By examining the history of gender relations in Canada we will develop an understanding of its continuity with contemporary gender relations. How does the invention of the birth control pill coincide with current developments in reproductive technologies? How have women’s roles as social reformers been carried into an era of activism? And, to what degree have technological advances influenced home life in both the industrial and post-industrial nation? We will explore the degree to which the relationships among state, industry, and domesticity function to reinforce divisions of race, class, gender and sexuality. Additionally, we will question how we access women's history and how we can represent historical experiences? Literary texts as well as notable historical scholarship will inform our inquiry into a history which is distinctively Canadian and gendered.

Required readings:
A custom courseware package will be available at the university bookstore.
Selected novels to be read will be announced shortly.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
15% - class participation
5% - library project
15% - article critique
5% - essay draft and peer review
20% - midterm exam (in-class)
10% - student presentation/evaluations
30% - research paper
and a journal, which is required but not graded

Prerequisites:
WS 101 or WS 102 – may be taken concurrently

Lecture: Wednesday, 1:30-3:20
Tutorial: Wednesday, 3:30-4:20

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.