WS 303-4: Women and the Law - Women and the Legal Process in Canada

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This course explores the complex relationship between women and the Canadian legal system. A multidisciplinary approach will be taken and both historical and contemporary issues will be addressed. We will analyze gender issues from a variety of feminist perspectives with an emphasis on issues of sex, marriage and family law, employment and equality. By the end of the course students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the way the legal system and its components have developed and changed in response to developing understandings of women's roles and needs

Required readings:

Other short readings will be distributed in class.

Recommended Texts
Carol Smart, Feminism and the Power of Law
Law Society of B.C., Gender Equality in the Justice System
Sherene Razack, Canadian Feminism and the Law
Sherene Razack, Looking White People in the Eye: Gender, Race and Culture in Courtrooms and Classrooms

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
20% - Mid-term exam
15% - Lead in class discussion of readings (2)
10% - Classroom participation, incl. attendance
40% - Major essay, 12 - 14 typed pages (includes proposal, progress report and final paper)
15% - Presentation in class of essay

Prerequisites:
Six credits in WS including WS 101 or WS 102

Lecture: Tuesday, 9:30-11:20
Tutorial: Tuesday, 11:30-13:20

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.