WS 302-4: Special Topic: Immigrant Women and Economic Security in Canada - 
The Role of the State

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This course attempts to explore socio-economic-political conditions required for immigrant women’s economic security in Canada and vital for the growth and “integration” of these women in the society. The concept of immigrant will be used in a comprehensive way that surpasses both legal frameworks and societal perceptions. By investigating the role of Canada as a welfare state, this course examines the restructuring of immigration and settlement policies since the 1960s and how immigrant women have been affected. Key objectives of the course are to:

(i) Examine immigration policies in an era of “non-discrimination”;
(ii) Investigate settlement policies, including language/job training;
(iii) Analyze immigrant women’s access to, and mobility within, the labour market;
(iv) Evaluate the federal and provincial governments’ efforts to recognize immigrants’ credentials from countries of origin;
(v) Look at how changes in labour market policy, especially in BC, affect immigrant women in terms of wages, income, benefits and conditions of work;
(vi) Investigate immigrant women’s access to childcare, public transport, and housing;
(vii) Explore effective strategies for facilitating the full participation of immigrant women in the wider society.

Required Texts:

Recommended Text:

Assignments and Evaluation:
Book report and presentation (1500 words; 6-7 pages) 25%
Research essay & presentation (11-12 pages; 250 words per page) 35%
Final exam (take-home; two short essays out of four) 30%
Class attendance and participation 10%

Prerequisites: Six credits in Women’s studies including WS 101 and/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.