WS 101-3 (B-Soc)*  Introduction to Women's Issues in Canada  
*This is a designated Social Sciences Breadth Course

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Lectures: Thursday, 1:30 – 3:20 pm  
Tutorial Assistants: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This introductory Women's Studies course is an interdisciplinary examination of the work, status and lives of Canadian women, the social and cultural construction of gender, and the way that ideas about gender shape systems of knowledge, social institutions, and social policy. We will examine the interconnections of gender with race, ethnicity, class and sexuality, address how women's lives and identities are shaped by the intersection of oppression and privilege, and discuss the history and future of feminist activism. This course is designed to help students develop critical and analytical skills by investigating popular stereotypes and assumptions about sexual difference and the effects that such assumptions have had within social institutions, such as law, politics, work, religion, media and the family. We will study popular and controversial debates that have been central to the development of women's studies, including topics such as pornography, cultural representations of women, sexual violence, and women's and human rights in a transnational context. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze how the lives of women have been shaped by individual and institutional power relations.

REQUIRED READINGS
Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale (available in bookstore, but you may use any edition)  
Custom Courseware package, available for purchase at the university bookstore.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE
Essay Proposal and Annotated Bibliography  10%  
Research Essay  25%  
Mid-term test  15%  
Final Exam  25%  
Tutorial Participation  10%  
Tutorial Debates  10%  
Reading Responses  5%