WS 203-3 FEMALE ROLES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

This course is an interdisciplinary and multicultural investigation of the definitions of self/other as derived from sex roles. We will examine the portrayal of women in six novels and autobiographies, exploring through supplementary readings the cultural, authorial and historical contexts in which each piece was written. In their examinations of social prescription and institutional policy these works can help explain the acquisition and maintenance of various sex role behaviors.

Every culture encourages women to acquire as individuals and to perpetuate historically-specific and often politically-expedient sets of so-called natural or traditional gendered behaviors. So, of special interest in the course is the relationship between the reproduction of societies, most importantly through their institutions, and the socialization of women into gendered roles.

REQUIRED READING:

Chopin, Kate. The Awakening, 1899.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Valverde, Mariana. Sex, Power & Pleasure.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Tutorial Participation and General Class Attendance 15%
Critical Review Essay, 5-7 pages (due 5th week of classes) 25%
Final Paper, 9-12 pages (due 11th week of classes) 35%
Final Exam, Take-Home Comprehensive, 4-6 pages 25%

This course may be applied toward the Certificate in Liberal Arts, Certificate in Family Studies and the Certificate in Native Studies.