This course will investigate the development of harassment as a public issue. What is harassment? A joke, a comment, a touch? What are the consequences for individuals and institutions? What are the interactions of sexism and racism that become explicit in harassment?

Students will gain an understanding of the Human Rights Code of Canada and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as legislative policy employed to protect victims from harassment in the workplace and in academic institutions. Cases before the court(s) will be presented as examples of change taking place in the legal system.

We will examine the diversity of Human Rights policies and workplace policies across Canada. For example, sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of harassment in British Columbia but this is not true of all provinces. As such, policies will be examined as to their limitations as a means to change attitudes and behaviours in society.

Finally, students will examine harassment from a preventative approach to social change, in part by setting boundaries in our work and personal relationships.

REQUIRED READINGS:

A collection of articles from the following books:

Amber Coverdale Sumrall & Dena Taylor (eds.), 1992


The Canadian Human Rights Act.


Human Rights Codes, Provincial Differences.

The Lecherous Professor.

A Chilly Climate on Campus.

ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Three research papers and presentation on the following topics:
   i. evaluation of harassment policies.
   ii. development of preventative approaches to changing attitudes and behaviours - institutional strategies.
   iii. creating a safe place.

B. Diary: Identification of harassment issues within the class. Exercise on taking action - personal strategies (daily entry).

C. Participation: Video and reading discussions.

Papers: 60% (20% each paper)
Presentation: 15% (on one of the papers)
Diary action plans: 15%
Participation: 10%

Students may apply to the Sociology Department to have this course designed as credit toward the Sociology major requirements.

Students may apply to the Canadian Studies Department to have this course designated as credit toward the Canadian Studies major requirements.