This course will offer an opportunity to examine historically, the political, cultural and socio-economic factors that contribute to the social control of women who use illicit (and licit) drugs. The impact of feminism, and the data and theory related to female drug users will be examined. The fictional line separating licit and illicit drugs, drug categories, the pharmaceutical industry and the ‘war on drugs’ will be explored. The construction of female drug use and maternal drug use as a social problem will be analyzed from a critical feminist perspective merging research on reproductive autonomy, familial ideology, and critical perspectives on the criminalization of drugs. A purely legal model fails to address how women are controlled through the medical and social service professions, therefore, the impact of ideologies and both formal and informal social control will be examined. The ‘criminalization of pregnancy’, fetal rights and neonatal abstinence syndrome will be discussed. The effect of moralism, and race, class, and gender will be considered in relation to criminalization and drug policy. In addition, this course will explore how social attitudes towards women who use illicit drugs have implications for all women. The social control of women who use drugs will be examined from a Canadian perspective, although research and policy from the USA, and abroad, will also be included to gain a global perspective.

**Required Texts**

Reserve readings.

**Course Evaluation**
The final grade will be determined as follows:
- Participation: 15%
- Reading Review and Presentation (2 pages): 20%
- Midterm Exam: 30%
- Term Paper (12 pages): 35%

Women’s Studies Graduate courses are offered in conjunction with undergraduate courses. Graduate students are requested to meet with the instructor to discuss the increased workload and grading expectations.