WS 202-3  Women in Canada 1920-2001:  
New Women: Old Problems  

Rosemary Gagan

Using a broad chronological and thematic approach that recognizes the diversity of Canadian women, this course will explore how gender, class, ethnicity, race, age, dis/ability, and geography have intersected with Canadian women’s private and public experience from 1920 to the present. We will examine women’s responses to institutions and systems that have constrained and challenged them. When appropriate, the course will consider Canadian women’s activism within the international context of twentieth century feminism. Special attention will be directed towards understanding how gender has defined the lives of British Columbian women.

As a way to highlight the many experiences of Canadian women, the course will draw on many sources: fiction, diaries and other literary materials, statistical data, government documents, videos, and popular culture. Students will be introduced to historical methodologies and the unique problems of researching and writing women’s lives.

Sessions will consist of a lecture, perhaps a guest speaker, appropriate videos, followed by discussion of assigned readings from the required texts and some reserve articles in the library. To facilitate these exchanges, students must be prepared to keep up with the reading which will be kept within a reasonable limit. In the last three weeks, students will present very brief oral progress reports related to the research essay.

Required readings:

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Biography (3 pages)  15%  due February
Term Test (4 - 6 pages)  15%  February
Major Research Essay (10-12 pages)  30%  due March
Class Participation  15%
Final Exam – take home (6 – 8 pages)  25%

Prerequisites: Ws 101 or WS 102 – may be taken concurrently

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.