WS 310-4: Special Topics: Women in Social Work

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This course will examine the impact of the social welfare state on women's individual and collective experiences in Canada, the history of social work as a gendered profession, and the influence of feminist theory on social work theory and practice. We will investigate the interaction between women and the welfare state, women's use of social services, and their complex relationships with social workers. In analyzing women's experiences within the context of the welfare state and welfare state policy, we will pay attention to class, race, ability, age and sexuality, among other factors. We will also examine how women have challenged oppression and inequality, and look at the role of social workers in this struggle.

Required texts:
Custom Courseware, available at the bookstore

Course requirements and grading structure:
Seminar Participation:
15% - Attendance and participation
10% - Seminar Presentation
20% - Final Exam (Take Home)

Social Action / Community work Project:
5% - Proposal
10% - Presentation

Final research paper:
10% - Paper Proposal
30% - Paper (10 to 12 pages)

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.