In this course, students will study from an interdisciplinary perspective, the role of Indigenous women in Canadian society. While materials will include various Indigenous groups, special emphasis will be paid to the First Nations of British Columbia. Central to this critical analysis will be the ongoing impact of issues of racism/Eurocentrism, sexism and classism, as well as the ways in which Indigenous women have negotiated the changes, expressed agency, and organized/resisted the imposed changes. Resources will include academic and popular literature, community resource people, videos, and community events. And attention will be paid to the information gathered by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

The course objectives are:

- To examine the colonial process, including systematized and institutionalized forms of cultural assimilation
- To explore neo-colonialism, including ongoing systemic and institutionalized forms of racism, classism and sexism and its affects on contemporary Indigenous women.
- To develop a critical analysis of the current socio-political and economic hierarchies as these pertain to Aboriginal women.
- To explore the ways in which Indigenous women have organized in various communities, towards decolonization and self-determination, and resisted discrimination and other forms of abuse.
- To understand the ways in which culture, tradition and spirituality have worked to shape and support the organizing efforts of current-day Indigenous women.
- To explore the prospects of alliances and coalition-building between Indigenous women and feminists and other non-Aboriginal progressive groups.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

There will be no required texts. Selected readings and books available on reserve and/or a package of readings will be available to purchase.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

- Term Paper Proposal: 5%
- Term Paper: 30%
- Class presentation: 10%
- Essay of Presentation Topic: 20%
- Attendance and Participation: 10%
- Take-Home Examination: 25%

**DESIGNATED CREDIT:**

Students can apply this course toward 3 upper division credits in the Liberal Studies Certificate or may be applied toward 3 upper division Sociology/Anthropology credits.