

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research and Department of History**

**WS 2140/ HIS 2140 Women in Canadian History:
Changing Roles and Diverse Social Realities
2016**

Course Description

This course is designed to be an overview of women's history in Canada from the first days of European settlement to the end of the 20th Century. Its focus is social history, or examining the realities of women's everyday lives. One of the most informative and evocative ways of understanding women of the past is through biography, which will be a key theme throughout the course. At the end, students will have a sense of how women's diverse experiences have changed throughout Canadian history, and how they have remained the same. This course is taught online through OWL.

Required Texts

All the readings in this course are available online on OWL.

Evaluation

Online Discussion	20%	Ongoing
Midterm Take-Home Essay	25%	June 12, 2016
Oral History Assignment	25%	July 3, 2016
Final Take-Home Essay	30%	July 24, 2016

Online Discussion

Students are required to post ongoing comments in response to the course material, readings and relevant online sources noted in the lecture notes. The students will be evaluated on the thoughtfulness of their comments, their interaction with their fellow students and the professor, and for their integration of course material into their comments. The OWL bulletin board will be used for comments, and will be open for comments for one week. After one week, when the next unit begins, comments will be disabled. The students are expected to make at least two comments per unit.

Midterm Take-Home Essay

Due: June 12, 2016 (distributed June 9, 2016)

Oral History Assignment

This assignment requires students to interview a woman who is over the age of 70, and then to write an essay reflecting on how women's lives have changed over the course of her lifetime. Students will be evaluated on the strength of their thesis, and their use of examples from the interview, as well as examples from the course material and readings, to support their thesis.

Due: July 3, 2016

Length: minimum of 1,500 words

Final Take-Home Essay Assignment due July 24, 2016 (distributed July 21, 2016)

Detailed instructions about these assignments are available on the “Assignments” section of the course on OWL.

Policies

It is the expectation that students will submit assignments by, and sit tests and/or examinations on, the assigned dates; in the event that this expectation cannot be met, students are advised that the policies and practices of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Science will be followed.

Note: This outline is subject to change with reasonable notice.

Prerequisites

“Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.” (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>, and the 2007 Western Academic Calendar, p. 19.) Normally students taking this course are required to have completed their first year.

Scholastic Offences

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.” (See also <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>)

Late Policy

Assignments are due before midnight on the selected due date. Students will be deducted 3% per day for late assignments. No assignments will be accepted two weeks after the due date. It is the expectation, however, that students in Women’s Studies classes will submit assignments by, and sit tests and/or examinations on, the assigned dates; in the event that this expectation cannot be met, students are advised that the Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research follows the policies and practices of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Science.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and /or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty, and provide documentation. The instructor or department cannot grant academic accommodation. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, see <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

Distance and Continuing Studies

For general information regarding the logistics of the course, please see <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/pdfs/ptfwcalendar.pdf>

Unit Schedule

May 9 Unit 1: Introduction to Women's History

Readings:

"Introduction." In, eds. *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 3rd Edition, edited by Veronica Strong Boag and Anita Clair Feldman, 1-10. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Conrad, Margaret. "'Sundays always make me think of home,': Time and Place in Canadian Women's History." In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 1st Edition, edited by Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 67-81. Toronto: Copp Clark Pittman, 1986.

Discussion: May 9 to May 15

Judy Chicago's *The Dinner Party*

http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/dinner_party/home.php

May 16 Unit 2: First Nations and European Contact

Readings:

Leacock, Eleanor. "Montagnais Women and the Jesuit Program for Colonization." In *Women and Colonization: Anthropological Perspectives*, edited by Mona Etienne and Eleanor Leacock, 25-42. New York: Praeger, 1980.

Sleeper-Smith, Susan. "Women, Kin and Catholicism: New Perspectives on the Fur Trade." In *In the Days of Our Grandmothers: A Reader in Aboriginal Women's History in Canada*, edited by Mary-Ellen Kelm and Lorna Townsend, 26-55. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006.

Van Kirk, Sylvia. "'Women in Between': Indian Women in Fur Trade Society in Western Canada." In *Readings in Canadian History: Pre-Confederation*, 7th Edition, edited by R. Douglas Francis and Donald B. Smith, 64-76. Toronto: Thomas Nelson, 2007.

Discussion: May 16 to May 22

Based on the readings and lecture notes

May 23 Unit 3: Acadia and New France

Readings:

Landry, Yves. "Gender Imbalance, Les Filles du Roi, and Choice of Spouse in New France." In *Canadian Family History: Selected Readings*, edited by Bettina Bradbury, 14-32. Toronto: Copp Clark Pittman, 1992.

Noel, Jan. *Women in New France*. Ottawa: The Canadian Historical Association Historical Booklet No. 59, 1998.

Plamondon, Lilianne. "A Businesswoman in New France: Marie-Anne Barbel,

the Widow Fornel.” In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women’s History*, 1st Edition, edited by Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 45-58. Toronto: Copp Clark Pittman, 1986.

Discussion: May 23 to May 29

Based on the readings and lecture notes

May 30 Unit 4: Loyalists and Pioneers in the Maritimes and Upper Canada

Readings:

Hamilton, Sylvia. “Naming Names, Naming Ourselves: A Survey of Black Women in Nova Scotia.” In *We’re Rooted Here and They Can’t Pull us Up’: Essays in African Canadian Women’s History*, edited by Peggy Bristow, 13-40. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994.

McKenna, Katherine M.J. “Laura Secord (1775–1868): United Empire Loyalist and Heroine.” *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004. Available online through the UWO library.

McKenna, Katherine M.J. “Mary Brant (Konwatsi’tsiaienni Degonwadonti): “Miss Molly,” Feminist Role Model or Mohawk Princess?” In *The Human Tradition in the American Revolution*, edited by Nancy L. Rhoden and Ian K. Steele, 183-201. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 2000.

Potter, Janice. “Patriarchy and Paternalism: The Case of the Eastern Ontario Loyalist Women.” In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women’s History*, 2nd Edition, edited by Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 59-72. Toronto: Copp Clark Pitman, 1991.

Smith, Helen and Lisa Sullivan. “‘Now That I Know How to Manage’: Work and Identity in the Journals of Anne Langton.” *Ontario History* 87, 3 (September 1995): 253-269.

Discussion: May 30 to June 5

Based on the readings and lecture notes

June 6 Unit 5: Loyalists and Pioneers in the Maritimes and Upper Canada

Readings:

Chambers, Lori. “Chapter 1: ‘So Entirely under His Power and Control’: the Status of Wives before Reform.” In *Married Women and Property Law in Victorian Ontario*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press for the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1997: 14-27.

Errington, Jane. “Prologue: the Howling Wilderness and Fruitful Fields.” In *Wives and Mothers, School Mistresses and Scullery Maids: Working Women in Upper Canada 1790-1840*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s press, 1995: 3-24.

McKenna, Katherine. “The Role of Women in the Establishment of Social Status in Upper Canada.” *Ontario History* 83, No. 3 (1990): 179-206.

McKenna, Katherine. “Women’s Agency in Upper Canada: Prescott’s Board of Police Record, 1834-1850.” *Histoire Sociale/Social History* 36, No. 72, (2003): 347-70.

Discussion: June 6 to June 12

Based on the readings and lecture notes

June 13 Unit 6: The Settlement of the West

Readings:

- Carter, Sarah. "Categories and Terrains of Exclusion: Constructing the 'Indian Woman' in the Early Settlement Era in Western Canada." In *Telling Tales: Essays in Western Women's History*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Randi Warne, 60-81. Vancouver, UBC Press, 2000.
- Cavanaugh, Catherine. "Irene Marrat Parlby: An 'Imperial Daughter' in the Canadian West, 1896-1934." In *Telling Tales: Essays in Western Women's History*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Randi Warne, 100-122. Vancouver, UBC Press, 2000.
- Scheinberg, Ellen. "Bringing 'Domestics' to Canada: A Study of Immigration Propaganda." In *Framing Our Past: Canadian Women's History in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Sharon Anne Cook, Lorna R. McLean and Kate O'Rourke, 336-342. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.
- Sundberg, Sara. "Farm Women on the Canadian Prairie Frontier: The Helpmate Image." In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 1st Edition, edited by Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 95-106. Toronto: Copp Clark Pittman, 1986.

Discussion: June 13 to June 19

Based on the readings and lecture notes

June 20 Unit 7: Victorian Middle Class Women and Social Reform

Readings:

- McKenna, Katherine M.J. "'The Union Between Faith and Good Works': The Life of Harriet Dobbs Cartwright, 1808-1887." In *Changing Roles of Women Within the Christian Church in Canada*, edited by Elizabeth Gillian Muir and Marilyn Färdig Whitely, 284-298. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995.
- Prentice, Alison et al. "Chapter 7: The 'Woman Movement.'" In *Canadian Women: A History*. 2nd Edition. Toronto: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1996: 189-213.
- Strong-Boag, Veronica. "'Ever a Crusader': Nellie McClung, First-Wave Feminist." In *Rethinking Canada: the Promise of Women's History*, 3rd Edition, edited by Veronica Strong Boag and Anita Clair Feldman, 271-84. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Discussion: June 20 to June 26

June 27 Unit 8: Victorian Middle Class Women and Social Reform

Readings:

- Bradbury, Bettina. "Women's Workplaces: The Impact of Technological Change on Working Class Women in the Home and in the Workplace in Nineteenth-Century Montreal." In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 3rd Edition, edited by Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 154-69. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Myers, Sharon. "'Not to be Ranked as Women': Female Industrial Workers in Turn

- of-the-Century Halifax." In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 3rd Edition, edited by Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 216-37. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Strange, Carolyn. "City Work: Moral Dilemmas." In *Toronto's Girl Problem: The Perils and Pleasures of the City, 1880-1930*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995: 21-52.
- Sykes, Ella C. "Ella C Sykes, 1830-1939." In et al, eds. *Early Voices: Portraits of Canada by Women Writers, 1639-1914*, edited by Mary Alice Downie, 231-42. Toronto: Natural Heritage Books, 2010.

Discussion: June 27 to July 3

July 4 Unit 9: Breaking Through Barriers? Politics, Education and the World Wars

Readings:

- Crowley, Terry. "History and Human Agency: The Case of Agnes Macphail, Canada's First Woman Member of Parliament." *Labour/Le Travail*. 28 (1991): 12-15.
- Prentice, Alison, et al, "Chapter 8: Marching Into the Twentieth Century." In *Canadian Women: A History*, 2nd Edition, edited by Alison Prentice et al, 214-41. Toronto: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1996.
- Quiney, Linda J. "'Hardly Feminine Work!' Violet Wilson and the Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses." In *Framing Our Past: Canadian Women's History in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Sharon Anne Cook, Lorna R. McLean and Kate O'Rourke, 289-94. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.
- Wakewich, Pamela. "'The Queen of the Hurricanes: Elsie Gregory MacGill, Aeronautical Engineer and Women's Advocate In *Framing Our Past: Canadian Women's History in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Sharon Anne Cook, Lorna R. McLean and Kate O'Rourke, 396-401. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.
- Pamela Wakewich, Helen Smith and Jeanette Lyons. "Women's Wartime Work and Identities: Women Workers at Canadian Car and Foundry Co, Limited, Fort William, Ontario, 1938-1945. In *Framing Our Past: Canadian Women's History in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Sharon Anne Cook, Lorna R. McLean and Kate O'Rourke, 409-16. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.

Discussion: July 4 to July 10

July 11 Unit 10: Women in Consumer Society

Readings:

- Bishop, Mary F. "Vivian Dowding: Birth Control Activist 1893-?" In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, edited by Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 200-7. Toronto: Copp Clark Pittman, 1986.
- Pearson, Ruth Roach. "Sexuality." In *No Easy Road: Women in Canada 1920s to 1960s*, edited by Beth Light and Ruth Roach Pearson, 81-92. Toronto: New Hogtown Press, 1990, pp. 81-92.
- Strong-Boag, Veronica. "Home Dreams: Women and the Suburban Experiment in

Canada 1945-60." In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 3rd Edition, edited Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 375-401. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Strong-Boag, Veronica. "Keeping House." In *The New Day Recalled: Lives of Girls and Women in English Canada, 1919-1939*. Toronto: Copp Clark Pittman, 1988: 113-34.

Discussion: July 11 to July 17

July 18 Unit 11: Issues of Race and Ethnicity

Ayukawa, Midge. "Good Wives and Wise Mothers: Japanese Picture Brides in Early Twentieth-Century British Columbia." In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 3rd Edition, edited Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 238-52. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Bourassa, Carrie. "The Construction of Aboriginal Identity: A Healing Journey." In *Torn From Our Midst: Voices of Grief, Healing and Action from the Missing Indigenous Women Conference, 2008*, edited by A. Brenda Anderson et al, 75-85. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 2010.

Brand, Dionne. "'We weren't allowed to go into factory work until Hitler started the war.': The 1920s to the 1940s." In *'We're Rooted Here and They Can't Pull Us Up': Essays in African Canadian Women's History*, edited by Peggy Bristow et al, 171-91. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994.

Discussion: July 18 to July 24

July 25 Unit 12: The Second Wave of the Women's Movement

Bashevkin, Sylvia. "Independence Versus partisanship: Dilemmas in the Political History of Women in English Canada." In *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of women's History*, 2nd Edition, edited by Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, 415-45. Toronto: Copp Clark Pittman Ltd. 1991.

Cumming, Judi. "Women, Peace Activism, and the Environment: Rosalie Bertell and the development of a Feminist Agenda, 1970s-1990s." In *Framing Our Past: Canadian Women's History in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Sharon Anne Cook, Lorna R. McLean and Kate O'Rourke, 259-262. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.

Kome, Penny. "I Too Was a Women's Libber." In *Feminist Journeys Voies Féministes*, edited by Marguerite Anderson, 198-202. Ottawa: Feminist History Society, 2010.

Loewen, Candace. "Making Ourselves Heard: 'Voice of Women' and the Peace Movement of the Early Sixties." In *Framing Our Past: Canadian Women's History in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Sharon Anne Cook, Lorna R. McLean and Kate O'Rourke, 248-51. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.

Robertson, Heather-Jane. "1973: Then and Now." In *Speaking Truth to Power: A Reader on Canadian Women's Inequality Today*, edited by Trish Hennessey and Ed Finn, 81-90. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2010.

Speers, Kimberley. "The Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, 1967-1970: Liberal Feminism and Its Radical Implications." In *Framing Our Past: Canadian Women's History in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Sharon Anne Cook, Lorna R. McLean and Kate O'Rourke, 252-6. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.

Discussion: July 25 to July 29