

WS 3358F FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Prof. Katherine McKenna
Fall 2017 Monday 4:30-7:30
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Course Description:

Gender-based violence was one of the earliest issues identified by feminists as a focus for grass-roots organization and continues today to be an important subject for community work, research and political struggle. This seminar will provide an overview of both the theory and practice of feminist anti-violence work locally and globally.

Violence against women was a virtually invisible social problem until it was brought to light by feminist activists some 35 years ago. Since then, there have been a number of political and scholarly controversies surrounding this issue. This course will examine key aspects of these debates in Canada and the United States, as well as in other parts of the world. These theoretical issues will also be connected with practice, that is, with the front-line work that is undertaken in the community to counter violence against women and their children.

Course Objectives:

- To understand the historical background to contemporary issues of violence against women and the many different forms it takes
- To learn about the broad systemic nature of gender-based violence while at the same time how it effects women differentially due to their multiple identities (such as race, class, ethnicity, etc) and locations globally and in North America
- To analyze and understand research trends and debates on this subject
- To examine and evaluate the different theories of the root causes of gender-based violence
- To become informed about the many ways in which the community, particularly grass-roots feminist organizations respond to abused women and children
- To consider what would be necessary to ensure a violence-free future

Assignments and Evaluation:

Students will be assigned readings for each class based on their preferences (readings will be provided in digital format) and will present these to the class and introduce discussion. These presentations should not be detailed summaries of the readings, but rather overviews raising major points and discussion questions. The following week students will be expected to submit an 7-8 page paper based on these readings.

There will also be a research paper of approximately approx. 3000-3500 words (12-14 pages) on a topic of the student's choice connected to violence against women. Students are required to submit for approval a proposal for their essay by November 13, and are strongly encouraged to consult with the professor about their topic before this date. The proposal should consist of a 1-2

page outline of the essay with an annotated bibliography including a minimum of 8-10 sources. The annotations should consist of a short paragraph stating the main points made in each source along with a statement of how it is relevant to your paper. The final paper is due in hard copy in the final class of term, and also must be submitted electronically to turnitin.

Class participation and preparation by completing the assigned readings will be expected. 10% of the participation grade will be based on the class presentation and 20% on participation. An additional 5% is allocated to a class assignment which will require each student to make a short 2-3 minute presentation on a community agency working to end violence against women. These agencies must be selected in consultation with the professor. This course does not have a final exam. Persistent absenteeism may be rendered grounds for failure in the course, in accordance with the policy of the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research.

The mark breakdown will be as follows:

Essay based on class readings	20%	approx. 1,800 words (7-8 pages)
Class Participation	35%	
Essay proposal and annotated bibliography (Due November 13)	10%	8-10 sources (approx. 5 pages)
Final Research Paper (Due December 8)	35%	approx. 3000-3500 words (12-14 pages)

Course Website:

All course information and readings will be posted on the course website at <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>.