Course Description:

Gender-based violence was one of the earliest issues identified by feminists as a focus for grassroots 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 40 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, sexuality, 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 grassroots 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 to provide an overview and introduce the discussion on the readings for one class based on their preferences. These presentations should not be detailed summaries of the readings, but rather overviews raising major points and discussion questions. The following week they will be expected to submit a 10 page paper based on the class readings.

There will also be a research paper of approximately approx. 3750-5000 words (15-20 pages) on a topic of the student’s choice connected to gender-based violence. Students are required to submit for approval a proposal for their essay by November 16 and must consult with the professor about their topic before this date to ensure they are on the right track. The proposal
should consist of a 1-2 page outline of the essay with an annotated bibliography including a minimum of 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 will be due in Assignments in OWL on December 10 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 reading presentation and 20% on overall class 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. The mark breakdown will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay based on class readings</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>approx. 2500 words (10 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short in-class Presentation on a community resource</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Introduction</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay proposal and annotated bibliography (Due November 16)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10 sources (approx. 6 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>approx. 3750-5000 words (15-20 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Due December 10)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(3000-3500 words (12-14 pages))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Website:

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

Policies:

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student’s home program.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
Accessible Education Western (AEW) Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

Course Schedule:

1. September 14 Introduction

Video: Status Quo? The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada  (NFB.ca)

Background Reading:


2. September 21 Sexual Assault on University Campuses”

Video: The Hunting Ground

Available on-line through Weldon Library. (If you wish skip from 59 minutes to 1:27 which is more applicable to the US) Note- this video may be upsetting for some since it speaks so directly to the university context.
Reading:


3. September 28 The Normalcy of Everyday Violence Against Women

**Video:** *Killing Us Softly 4* Available on-line through Weldon Library.

Reading:


4. October 5 Theories of Violence Against Women

Reading:


5. October 12 Violence Against Indigenous Women and Children

**Video:** *Finding Dawn*

Available through Weldon Library or at nfb.ca

**Reading:**


6. October 19 The Multiple Intersections of Violence: Race, Class and Sexual Identity


For information purposes only:


7. October 26 Intimate Partner Violence: Gender Symmetry?

**Video:** *Sin by Silence*

Available on-line through Weldon Library

**Reading:**


November 2 Reading Week

8. November 9 Sexual Assault, Rape Myths and the Legal System


For information only:


9. November 16 Violence and Sex Work

Video: Buying Sex
Available on-line through nfb.ca

Note: This film is important for understanding the Canadian legal background to our current laws on sex work. Everyone should view it and be prepared to discuss in class.


Essay proposal and annotated bibliography due

10. November 23 Violence Against Women as a World-Wide Political System

Video: Umoja: No Men Allowed posted on course page

Note: It is important to view this video to understand the Askew review.
Reading:


11. November 30 Toxic Masculinity: Why are Some Men Violent?

**Film:** *Tough Guise 2*  **Note:** 0:48-1:08 can be skipped.

Available on-line through Weldon Library


For information only:

# Call it Femicide: Understanding Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls in Canada 2019. Canadian Femicide Observatory.

12. December 7 Community and Institutional Responses to Violence Against Women

In this class, each student will be required to present a short report (3 minutes) on an agency doing community work on gender-based violence. It should be a description of the agency and
the work they do- why is it a useful organization/service? How does it work toward prevention of gbv? This can be based in any community globally. To avoid overlap, students must clear their topic with the professor ahead of time.