

**NB: This syllabus is provisional and subject to change. Finalized syllabus will be provided by the first day of class**

**The University of Western Ontario (Western University)  
London Canada  
Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research**

**WS 1020E 002 – Introduction to Women's Studies**

Lecture: Thurs 4:30-6:30pm

Location:

Tutorial: WS 1020E includes a weekly tutorial

Instructor: Professor Cayen

E-mail: lcayen2@uwo.ca

Office hours:

Office number:

TA: Information to be posted on OWL

### **Course Description**

This course is an introductory and interdisciplinary survey of the status of women and the diverse and changing roles of gender around the globe. Together we will examine how gender differences are established through various institutional practices, and will strive to make connections between our own lives, changing global dynamics, and the existences of international feminist movements. One of our primary objectives is to introduce you to many of the central ideas of feminism(s) and to challenge some of the preconceptions you may have about feminism.

In 2018-2019 we will explore, among other issues, the following: gender stratification; femininity, sexuality, and the female body (particularly in relation to sexual identity and “coming out,” reproduction, eating disorders, and perceptions of beauty); masculinities; men in feminism; intersexuality and transgender locations; women and work in historical and cross-cultural contexts; intersections of race, class, sexual orientation, and (dis)ability with our gendered experience in the world; global feminism; and activism for gender equality/equity/freedom across classes, nations, and ethnicities.

### **Learning Objectives**

This course will enable students to:

- gain a perspective on women's and feminist history, and the issues facing women today, both locally and globally;
- understand how women are represented in disciplines such as philosophy, literature, science, and in popular culture and media;
- consider how gender operates as a site of social and political control for men and women;
- identify key theoretical debates, differences and similarities in feminist thought;

- recognize how the social construction of gender is related to sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, (dis)ability and age;

In addition, the course will assist students in developing aptitude in:

- analytical/critical thinking;
- oral and written communication skills; and
- research.

### Student Evaluation

Tutorial Attendance and Participation	10%
Short Essay (3-4 pages; Due Oct 25)	15%
Midterm Test (short answer and essay format; 2 hours Nov 22)	15%
Annotated Bibliography and Thesis Statement (3 sources; Due Feb 7)	10%
Research Essay (6-7 pages; Due March 28)	20%
Final Exam (short answer and essay format; 3 hours)	30%

More details for assignments will be given in class. Final Exam will be during the April exam period; date and location TBA.

Midterm Test: during class time on Nov 22; no exam in the December exam period

### Class Readings

All readings are found through the “Course Readings” link on OWL unless otherwise noted. The reading for week 1 can be read after class; all other readings through the term should be completed prior to lecture.