

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

Distance Studies - May-July 2021  
Dr. Katherine McKenna  
Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies  
Office Hours: Scheduled On-line Q&A on Zoom and also by appointment TBA  
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This is a draft syllabus which may be revised by the time the course begins. Please see the course OWL site for the final syllabus.

**Course Description:**

A survey of Canadian women's history from first European contact to the 1960s, with a focus on the realities of women's lived experience.

**Antirequisite(s):**

History 2182A/B, History 2208E; Women's Studies 2139A/B; Women's Studies 2140

**Course Syllabus:**

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, that is, examining the realities of women's everyday lives. Emphasis will be placed on examining a variety of historical sources. Factors such as race, class, ethnicity and sexuality will be important themes. At the end, students will have a sense of how women's diverse lived experiences have changed throughout Canadian history, and how they have remained the same.

The course learning objectives are:

- To gain an understanding of a broad Canadian women's history from before the arrival of Europeans until today with an emphasis on social history and the lives of both ordinary and extraordinary women
- To learn how to extract historical meaning from diverse sources
- To gain an understanding of how women's roles and gender roles changed and developed over time
- To understand how factors such as class, race, sexuality and ethnicity effected women's historical realities over time

**Course Materials:**

All course materials will be posted in Resources in OWL or be available on-line

## **Methods of Evaluation:**

On-line Class Discussion	20%
Oral History Essay (5-6 pages or approx. 1250 words) Due June 11 by 4 pm.	15%
Video Responses 4 x 500 words each (approx 2 pages) Due May 28, June 25, July 9, July 23 by 4 pm	40%
Take-home Final Exam Due July 30 by 4 pm	25%

The on-line class discussion will be held on the course webpage in OWL. There will be 11 weeks available to post discussions. Students will be assigned two marks for each week they post a relevant comment based on the assigned reading, up to a total of 20%. (You can miss one week's discussion without penalty.) Discussion forums will be open on Monday 9 am and close Friday at 4 pm. Questions will be given every week to guide you in your posts.

The video response assignments will consist of short responses to one of the videos on a list that have been assigned for viewing in previous weeks. There will be four of these short assignments during the term. They will require you to reflect on what have you learned about the social history of women in Canada from watching a particular video.

The oral history assignment will require you to undertake an oral history project by interviewing a woman over the age of 70 and writing an essay reflecting on if and how women's lives have changed over the course of her lifetime.

Students will be provided with more detailed instructions about all of these assignments.

## **Course Schedule:**

Unit 1 May 3- 7 Introduction to Women's and Gender History

Unit 2 May 10-14 First Nations and European Contact

Unit 3 May 17- 21 Women of Acadia and New France

Unit 4 May 24-28 Loyalists and Pioneers in the Maritimes and Upper Canada  
Video Response Assignment #1 due 4 pm Friday May 28.

Unit 5 May 31- June 4 Gender and Class Conflict on the Frontier

Unit 6 June 7-11 June Middle Class Womanhood and Social Reform  
Oral History Essay Due Friday June 11 by 4 pm.

Unit 7 June 14-18 The Settlement of the West

Unit 8 June 21-25 The Struggle for the Vote and the New Woman of the 20th Century  
Video Response Assignment #2 due Friday June 25 by 4 pm.

Unit 9 June 28- July 2 Breaking Through Barriers? Politics, Education and the World Wars

Unit 10 July 5-9 Women in Consumer Society  
Video Assignment #3 Due Friday July 9 by 4 pm.

Unit 11 July 12-16 Issues of Race and Ethnicity

Unit 12 July 19-23 The Second Wave of the Women's Movement  
Video Assignment # 4 due Friday July 23 by 4 pm.  
Take-home final exam will be posted on OWL 4 pm Friday July 23.