GSWS 3362F FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
Prof. Katherine McKenna
Fall 2023 Tuesday 1:30-4:30
Lawson 3270B
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Subject to revision by September 2023.

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 also 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. Although this course focuses on Canada, it will also 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 gender-based violence, particularly male violence against women.

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, sexuality 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 gender-based violence. Students are required to submit for approval a proposal for their essay by October 30, 2023, and must 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 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 the final class of term, submitted to assignments in OWL.

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. 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 Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies.

The mark breakdown will be as follows:

- **Class Presentation** 10%
- **Essay based on class readings** 20% approx. 1,800 words (7-8 pages)
- **Class Participation** 25%
- **Essay proposal and annotated bibliography** 20% 8-10 sources (approx. 5 pages) (Due October 30)
- **Final Research Paper** 25% approx. 3000-3500 words (12-14 pages) (Due December 5)

Course Website:

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