

2270B: Women, Law, Social Change

The University of Western Ontario

London, Ontario, Canada

Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Winter 2027

The department would like to recognize that we are located on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples.

Course Description: In this course, we will explore the importance of key issues, theories and debates surrounding particular spheres of law in relation to gender and sex. Specifically, we will focus on the ways in which gender, sex and law interact on the domestic Canadian and international legal system. Questions for consideration include: how does the law affect women and members of the 2SLGBTQI+ communities? What important legal changes have such marginalized folks fought for and achieved? What is the relationship between law and social change? The course will begin with an overview of law and society considering intersectional feminist theories. We will explore, among other issues and debates found in a range of disciplines, the following: employment law, Indigenous law, sexual and gender-based violence, international law, and environmental (in)justice. In considering these issues, we will focus on how aforementioned marginalized folks (who differ on many dimensions, such as, but not limited to, class, race, sexual orientation, and geography) impact law and policy-decision making.

Class: Tuesdays 4:30-7:30 PM

Professor: Dr. Katrina Younes

Email: kyounes@uwo.ca

Office Hours and Location: TBD

Learning Objectives and Learning Outcomes/Transferable Skills:

- Demonstrate an understanding of feminist intersectional theories and methodologies
- Examine historical domestic and international roots of modern gender/sexed legal and social systems
- Identify, summarize, and have an in-depth grasp of key policies, topics, debates and legal cases
- Construct, develop and clearly articulate in both speaking and writing arguments on issues pertaining to gender, race, class, sexual orientation, and so on, through a comprehensive theoretical and empirical methodological approach
- Develop your ability to understand the importance of the intersection of gender and sex with respect to the legal systems, particularly the ways in which such systems regulate society based on social differentiation

- Develop your analytical skills by expressing ideas, using appropriate textual evidence and scholarly criticism/theoretical frameworks
- Edit, proofread and revise written work based on feedback
- Display academic integrity in all research processes

Assignments (subject to change prior to the start of the term)

- In-class participation (15%)
- In-class handwritten analysis 1 (15%)
- In-class handwritten analysis 2 (15%)
- Take-home analysis *or* Creative assignment + 2-page outline for either choice (20%)
- In-person cumulative final exam (35%)