

Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research

**WS 2220E: FEMINIST THEORY & PRACTICE
ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES (2018-19)**

INSTRUCTORS:

1st Term:	Andie Shabbar	661-2111	FNB 4050	ashabba@uwo.ca
2nd Term:	Crystal Gaudet	661-2111	LH 3249	cgaudet5@uwo.ca

LECTURES: Thursdays 10:30am-1:30pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How have feminists working across the disciplines changed the ways we see, read, and think? Against what traditions have they resisted, and in what new directions do their works lead us? What are the relationships between feminist analyses, artistic/imaginative production, research methodologies and tabulations, the politics (even *violence?*) of representation, and ... *our gendered material realities?* How does theory inform practice, and vice versa? What are the ethical implications – and responsibilities – of feminist writing, innovation, and research?

Studying feminist articulations on the (de)construction of historically raced, classed, and gendered/sexed subjectivities (and working with a diverse range of theoretical approaches in the various disciplines of the arts, social sciences, sciences, media, medicine/health studies and the law), this course explores how the practices of producing knowledge have real-life effects. Attentive to the ways feminist in(ter)ventions at once resist, expand, and explode conventional approaches and ways of knowing, we will examine the implications of feminist analyses and methods, with a focus on ever-creative feminist resistance and recuperation.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Ongoing:

Participation 10%

Term 1:

Critical Reading Response** (3-4 pages)	10% (Due Sept. 27)
Application Essay (5-6 pages)	15%. (Due Oct. 25)
Mid-Term Exam (Format: TBA)	20% (Dec. Exam Period)

Term 2

Key Terms: Feminist Encyclopedia Entry (1.5-2 pages) 5% (Due Feb. 7th)

Longer Application Essay (7-8 pages)	20% (Due Mar. 14 th)
Final Exam (2 hours; short answer & essay format)	20% (Apr. Exam Period)

TEXTS:

Course readings will be posted on OWL Sakai; please also purchase the following text for term Term 1: Joan Crate's, *Pale as Real Ladies*; Term 2: Maria Cambell's *Half-Breed*. These texts are available at/through the University Bookstore. Please bring a hard copy of required readings to class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Work in WS 2220E should enable students to:

- ❖ recognize and critically engage some of the major feminist approaches and debates (across research, theory, and practice) in various academic disciplines;
- ❖ understand how theory and its practices across disciplines are shaped by the intersecting axes of race, class, sexuality, gender, and (dis)ability;
- ❖ develop nuanced awareness of how socio-political and historical factors (in addition to the above) impact canonical and other understandings of cultural, theoretical, and aesthetic “value”;
- ❖ reflect, both personally and analytically, on the implications of feminist theory and its applications in relation to our gendered material and everyday realities;
- ❖ improve oral and written communication;
- ❖ augment proficiency in critical thinking, research, and analytical skills.

Please note: The Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research recognizes the First Nations territory on which the University stands. As the University acknowledges, UWO is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples “who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada”

(<http://indigenous.uwo.ca/universitywide/Indigenous%20Strat%20Plan%20-%20Draft%20V9.pdf>)