WS 3358F FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Prof. Katherine McKenna
Fall 2015 Tuesday 1:30 - 4:30 pm STVH 3166
Office Hours: TBA
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This outline will be subject to revisions prior to September 2015.

Course Description:

Gender-based violence was one of the earliest issues identified by feminists as a focus for grassroots 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 globally.

Violence against women was a virtually invisible social problem until it was brought to light by feminist activists some 35 years ago. Since then, there have been a number of political and scholarly controversies surrounding this issue. This course will 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 violence against women and their children.

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, 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 grassroots 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. Doubling up and dividing readings for the presentations will be allowed, but each student must submit their own essay based on all of the readings for that week.

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 violence against women. Students are required to submit for approval a proposal for their essay by November 5, and are strongly encouraged to 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 a minimum of 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 hard copy in the final class of term, and also must be submitted electronically to turnitin.

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. An additional 5% is allocated to a class assignment which will require each student to make a short 2-3 minute presentation on a community agency working to end violence against women. These agencies must be selected in consultation with the professor. 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 Women’s Studies and Feminist Research.

The mark breakdown will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Approximate Words/Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay based on class readings</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1,800 (7-8 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay proposal and annotated bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5 (8-10 sources)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>3,000-3,500 (12-14 pages)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course Website:

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

Policies:

It is the expectation that students will submit assignments by, and sit tests and/or examinations on, the assigned dates; in the event that this expectation cannot be met, students are advised that the policies and practices of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities will be followed. Short extensions of a week or less can be negotiated on a case-by-case basis with the professor.

Prerequisites:

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.” (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf, and the 2007 Western Academic Calendar, p. 19.) The prerequisites for this course are WS 2220E or WS 2256E or WS 2257E or permission of the Department.

Turnitin:

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under licence to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licencing agreement currently between the University and
Scholastic Offences:

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf.”

Students with Disabilities:

Please contact ws-ugrad@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

Course Schedule:

1. September 15 Introduction

Video: Status Quo? The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada

2. September 22 Historical Roots of Violence Against Women

Video: The Burning Times

Reading:


3. September 29 The Normalcy of Everyday Violence Against Women

Video: Killing Us Softly 4

Reading:


4. October 6 Theories of Violence Against Women

Reading:


5. October 13 The Multiple Intersections of Violence

Video: Finding Dawn

Reading:


6. October 20 Sexual Assault and the Legal System

Reading:


7. October 27 Intimate Partner Violence: Gender Symmetry?

Reading:


Video: Sin By Silence

8. November 3 Pornography and the Media

Assignment:

Each student will be required to bring to class some examples from the mainstream media of images which might promote violence against women.

Video: The Price of Pleasure

Reading:


9. November 10 Prostitution: Sex Workers or Victims of Abuse and Trafficking?

Video: Buying Sex

Reading:


10. November 17 Violence Against Women as a World-Wide Political System

Assignment:

Each student will be required to bring to class an example of a recent international incident outside of North America relating to violence against women.

Video: TBA

Reading:


11. November 24 Masculinity: Why are Some Men Violent?

Reading:


Video: Tough Guise 2

12. December 1 Community and Institutional Responses to Violence Against Women


Assignment:

Students will be asked to bring information to class on agencies involved in working to deal with the issue of violence against women.

13. December  Looking to a Violence-Free Future


Research Paper Due