

# Women's Studies and Gender Studies

## Majors and Honours in Gender Studies

The university offers an interdisciplinary Major and an interdisciplinary Honours Programme in the area of gender studies. The gender studies committee, currently chaired by Dr. Peter Weeks, has identified faculty advisors who are available to serve as Programme Directors for students who wish to pursue such a course of studies:

### Women's Studies and Gender Studies Faculty

Dawne Clarke, MA, Sociology  
Rosemary Clews, PhD, Social Work  
Stewart Donovan, PhD, English  
Suzanne Dudziak, PhD, Social Work  
Cécilia Francis, PhD, French  
Jeannette Gaudet, PhD, French  
Tammy Greer, MA, Sociology  
Sylvia Hale, PhD, Sociology  
Nancy Higgins, PhD, Psychology  
Jane Jenkins, PhD, Romance Languages, Science and Technology  
Colm Kelly, PhD, Sociology  
Laurel Lewey, MSW, Social Work  
Gayle MacDonald, PhD, Sociology  
Marylea MacDonald, PhD, French  
Peter MacDonald, PhD, Sociology  
Sara MacDonald, PhD, Political Science, Human Rights  
Susan Machum, PhD, Sociology  
Kathleen McConnell, PhD, English  
Joan McFarland, PhD, Economics  
John McKendy, PhD, Sociology  
Adele Mueller, PhD, Sociology  
Norma Jean Proffitt, PhD, Social Work  
Suzanne Prior, PhD, Psychology  
Marilee Reimer, PhD, Sociology  
Karen Robert, PhD, History  
Ilkay Silk, English  
Deborah van den Hoonard, PhD, Gerontology  
Peter Weeks, PhD, Sociology

### Major in Women's Studies and Gender Studies

A Major in Gender Studies consists of 36 credit hours of course work beyond the 1000 level. These consist mostly of the cross-listed courses below.

### Honours in Women's Studies and Gender Studies

An Honours in Gender Studies consists of 48 credit hours of courses beyond the 1000

level, of which 6 credit hours must be in theory or methods. In addition, an Honours thesis valued at 6 credit hours is required. These courses should include an Honours thesis seminar or workshop of 3 or 6 credit hours, depending on the discipline offering the course.

## Minor in Women's Studies and Gender Studies

A Minor in Gender Studies consists of 18 credit hours of Gender Studies courses taken from at least two disciplines. Although students must devise their own plans, the University has designated the following courses as appropriate for gender studies. The notation (GEND) appears after the titles of these courses as they appear in the description of courses for respective departments.

### Courses in Women's Studies and Gender Studies

#### **GEND 2013. Introduction to Women's Studies and Gender Studies**

This is the introductory course for the interdisciplinary field of Gender Studies. It is based upon the new scholarship in women's and men's studies, and encompasses a range of disciplines. The basis of femininity and masculinity is examined in the context of wider social relations, the historical subject, literature and literary voice, political economy, and social movements. 3 credit hours.

#### **GEND 3013. Gender Studies Methods**

This is a foundational course in Gender Studies methodology. It examines the feminist critique of positivism, the development of feminist research methodologies and the use of these methods in a range of disciplines. 3 credit hours.

#### **ANTH 2533. Women in Cross-cultural Perspective**

This course examines male and female roles in a number of different cultural settings, especially non-Western societies. Particular attention is given to the cultural expectations of gender behaviour, the structure of economic opportunities for males and females, and how shifts in opportunity structures impact gender roles. Various examples illustrating the roles of males and females in the context of marriage, domestic group organization, economic decision making and political decision making, will be presented. 3 credit hours.

#### **ECON 2303. Women in the Third World (SOCI 2623)**

This course will critically examine the role of women in the Third World. It will concentrate largely on the changes in these roles and their correspondence with the transition from traditional to new forms of economic organization, production, and power. 3 credit hours.

#### **ECON 2223. The Political Economy of Women (SOCI 2643)**

This is a seminar course examining, in depth, selected topics on the political economy of women. Potential topics include women as paid workers, domestic labour, and women and poverty. 3 credit hours.

#### **ENGL 2583. Women Writers I**

This course will introduce the student to a wide range of women writers from the 14th to the 20th centuries, from Julian of Norwich to Jamaica Kincaid, from Britain, United States, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa. There will be a selection of novels, short stories, essays, and poetry by women. In-class essays will form a major part of the evaluation of the course. The primary text is *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women*. 3 credit hours.

#### **ENGL 2593. Women Writers II**

This course will focus on a limited number of women writers, and the examination of these

writers will be more in-depth than in Women Writers I. Feminist literary criticism will be studied and practised. Authors to be included are Austen, Bronte, Christina Rossetti, Emily Dickinson, Dorothy Parker, Flannery O'Connor, Anne Sexton, Sylvia Plath, Nadine Gordimer, Margaret Atwood, Elisabeth Harvor, Jamaica Kincaid, and Lorrie Moore. In-class essays will form a major part of the evaluation of the course. The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women will be supplemented with other texts. 3 credit hours.

### **GERO 3083. Gender and Aging**

This course examines issues involving how one's gender affects one's experience of aging. It looks at how the field of gerontology has traditionally dealt with the concept of gender as well as the feminization of old age, and how this has affected both women's and men's experiences of aging. 3 credit hours.

### **HIST 2886. Women in Canadian History**

This course looks at the history of Canada from pre-colonial times to the present day from the perspectives of women of the time. Discussion and independent study on topics of interest to the students will be encouraged. Previous courses in Canadian history will be useful but are not essential. 6 credit hours.

### **HIST 3613. Gender and Power in Latin American History**

Why did the Cuban revolution set out to create a 'new man'? How did Eva Perón become the world's most powerful first lady? Why have women led most human rights movements in Latin America? These are some of the questions to be explored in this course which examines historical relationships between men and women and ideas about masculinity and femininity in Latin America. 3 credit hours.

### **HIST 3863. Canadian Women and the World**

This course will examine the role of Canadian women as interpreters of Canada to the rest of the world and their efforts to cross national and ethnic boundaries during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Topics will include the contribution of women to early travel books and immigrant literature, women novelists, poets and performers who sold their work outside the country, women missionaries, women's role in international politics, including the international women's movement, communism, pacifism and the League of Nations, and women journalists whose sphere extended beyond Canada. This will be primarily a directed research course, requiring student reports and papers, rather than a lecture course. Prerequisite History 2886 or History 2813 & 2823. 3 credit hours.

### **POLS 1113. Politics and Women**

This course is concerned with women's approach to democratic citizenship. It establishes the historical and conceptual basis of the problem of citizenship for women against which it discusses women's political participation and the feminist critiques of it. 3 credit hours.

### **PSYC 3523. Psychology of Gender and Gender Relations**

An introduction to contemporary issues related to differences in the experience and behaviour of females and males. Prerequisite: PSYC 2023 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

### **PSYC 4483. Seminar in the Psychology of Women**

This course is designed to examine women's experiences and the treatment of women in psychological research, theory, and applied practice from a feminist perspective. This will involve analyzing psychological concepts of women and gender, examining the impact of our culture on our understanding of womanhood and femininity, reflecting on our own experiences, developing critical thinking skills, and understanding the diversity of women. Topics may include feminist approaches to research, stereotypes, sexuality, childhood, violence against women, and women and health. Prerequisite: PSYC 2013 and 2023, or

permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

### **RELG 2233. Women and Religion**

This course aims to study how i) women in history and in modern times respond to socio-cultural restrictions, and their attempts to create spiritual and social alternatives; ii) how notions of ascetism and sexuality are utilized as liberating and prescriptive modes. It will examine feminist critiques to classical, medieval, and current texts and thinkers. We will closely look at the assumptions that guide both classical texts and modern critiques. 3 credit hours.

### **RELG 3653. Christianity and Feminism in Conversation**

How do women name the divine? Can a male saviour save women? What is the Christian understanding of humanity? How do women experience sin and grace in their lives? Is the bible really Good News for women? What do feminist spiritualities look like and what aspects of the human do they celebrate? These questions are at the heart of traditional Christian teaching: the doctrine of God, Christology, anthropology, ethics, ecclesiology, biblical interpretation, and spirituality. They have inspired lively conversations among contemporary Christian theologians and laity throughout the world, and have contributed towards the growth of a substantial body of literature. By addressing the above questions and studying related texts, this course will consider the impact of feminist consciousness on the development of Christian theology. 3 credit hours.

### **SCWK 3213. Women and Social Work\***

This course is designed to enable students to examine critically first, the oppression of women in our society, in particular as consumers of social services; second, the developing literature, theory, and practice of "feminist counselling" as a significant new approach to working with women; and third, the position and status of women within the social work profession. 3 credit hours. \*Please check with professor for prerequisites.

### **SCWK 3713. Fields of Practice**

This course involves an in-depth examination of a particular field of practice, (e.g., mental health, corrections, child welfare) based on student and instructor interest. The focus of the course will be examination and analysis of unmet needs in the field, and professional response to them. 3 credit hours.

### **SCWK 4713. Feminist Counselling**

This course will provide an in-depth critique of traditional approaches to helping women; will explore the theory, ethics, and practice of feminist counselling, and will provide students with the opportunity to learn the skills and techniques of feminist counselling. Prerequisites: Scwk 3213 and Scwk 3123. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2313. Deviance**

Review of theory and research, with a focus on the social basis of deviance, deviance construction, and the consequences of social reactions to selected forms of deviance. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2416. Inequality in Society**

This course explores existing patterns of social inequality and debates concerning the possibility and desirability of greater equality. Taking a theoretical and historical focus, we examine the changing nature of inequality in contemporary Canadian society in the context of globalization. Throughout, we develop our understanding of how different forms of inequality - particularly social class, gender and race - intersect. One section of the course may have a service learning requirement, where students engage in volunteer work in the community, and then reflect upon their experiences through reading, writing,

and discussion. 6 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2423. Social Problems I — Sociological Perspectives**

The various perspectives used by sociologists to examine social problems will be described and evaluated. Concrete social problems will be examined to illustrate the use of these perspectives. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2433. Social Problems II — Canadian Social Problems**

Several current Canadian social problems will be examined from the above perspectives. Problems include poverty, minorities, Canadian identity, the effects of urbanization and technology, etc. Prerequisite: SOCI 2423. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2523. The Sociology of Aging (GERO 2113)**

This course will explore the comparative situation of older women and men in different cultures and different historical periods within western societies. The cultural and social-structural determinants of their changing status will be examined through alternative theoretical perspectives within sociology. The social construction of 'elderly' as a status will be explored through how older people are perceived, described, talked about, and interacted with, in everyday behaviour and how these relations may be 'negotiated' by the elderly themselves. The political-economy of aging focuses upon disparities of income, and the determinants and effects of poverty on the lives of older people. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2613. Sociology of Gender**

This course will focus, in depth, on particular aspects of the social processes shaping, and shaped by, female and male roles such as gender and power, gender and social structure of work, and feminist social movements. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2623. Women in the Third World (ECON 2303)**

This course will critically examine the role of women in the Third World. It will concentrate largely on the changes in these roles and their correspondence with the transition from traditional to new forms of economic organization, production, and power. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2633. Sociology of the Family**

A critical analysis of various conceptual frameworks in family research, and a cross-cultural analysis of marriage and the family, both past and present. Particular attention will be paid to the current developments in marriage arrangements, changes in the meaning of marriage and the family, as well as the future of the family. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 2643. The Political Economy of Women (ECON 2223)**

This is a seminar course examining, in depth, selected topics on the political economy of women. Potential topics include women as paid workers, domestic labour and women and poverty. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 3323. Sociology of Women & Law**

This course will explore the relationship of women to the state and to law. The ways in which criminal and family law influence gender relations in society will be analyzed, including the implications of legal intervention and non-intervention in family relations. Sex-specific and sex-related legislation, concerning such issues as sexual harassment, rape, pornography, and affirmative action, will also be examined. Theoretical concepts and issues, such as the position of women within capitalism, patriarchy, sexuality and reproduction, formal and informal control, will be addressed. 3 credit hours.

### **SOCI 3413. Employment Equity Policy and Gender Inequality at Work**

This is an advanced course on the organization of gender inequality in the labour force

and the policies aimed at creating equal opportunities for women. We begin by studying how gender segregation is organized in the occupations of teaching, clerical work, and other professions. Secondly, the course examines, from a sociological perspective, the federal and provincial government policies which are aimed at the equal and fair treatment of individuals regardless of sex: pay equity legislation, employment equity programmes, contractual provisions and human rights legislation on fair employment practices. 3 credit hours.

**SPAN 3313. Advanced Reading I: Special Topics. Perspectives of Spanish American Female and Male Writers**

Reading assignments will include short stories, poems, and plays from Spanish or Spanish American Literature. Students will be helped to develop their oral fluency by the discussions of set texts. Oral expositions on specific topics which arise from their textual analysis will be encouraged. Compositions will reinforce the accuracy of the use of the language in its written form. 3 credit hours.

**STS 3003. Feminist Critiques of Science**

This course is an introduction to the feminist literature on science, technology, and mathematics. Topics will include the possibility that a new science, based on feminist principles, might be qualitatively different from modern science. Related topics include the role played by values in science, the relation between 'pure' scientific research and technology (especially military technology), the possibility that there might be a feminist alternative to classical mathematics and logic, and whether young women and men with feminist beliefs should be encouraged to become scientists (given the close connection between science and military technology). Readings will represent a range of different feminist perspectives on each of these questions, and we will examine the arguments for and against each of these views. 3 credit hours.

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.