

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**History 2183A**  
**WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE, 1700-1990**

Instructor: Megan Baxter

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-3pm

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This course examines women's employment by highlighting the diverse experiences of Canadian women. Lectures, readings, and videos will address a variety of issues, including the sexual division of labour in pre-industrial and industrial settings, entrance of women into the professions, feminization of clerical work, employment of women during two world wars, development of female professions, rise of organized labour, and feminist movements. At times, women's unpaid labour will be considered to understand the complexity of women's lives and the larger meaning of 'work' in the field of women's history. To gain knowledge of the subject from a variety of perspectives the course also incorporates primary sources in both written and audio-visual form.

**Objectives:**

On completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify trends in women's work, and the factors that have gendered work experiences and opportunities for women in Canada over the past three centuries
- Analyze how women workers have interacted with labour unions, social reformers, employers and other workers
- Recognize how paid and unpaid labour have shaped women's lives in Canada
- Understand the dynamics of gender in the workforce, and place them in a wider historical context
- Develop their skills in historical analysis and effective writing

**Required Texts:**

Weekly readings will be available in .pdf format through WebCT.

Mitchell, Tom and Reinhold Kramer. *Walk Towards the Gallows: The Tragedy of Hilda Blake, Hanged 1899*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007.

**Evaluation:**

Video/Reading Responses (2)	10% (Due in class October 3 and November 28)
Book Review	20% (Due in class October 17)
Midterm Test	30% (November 7)
Final Examination	40% (TBA)

**Video/Reading Responses**

Students will write a response to either one of the videos shown in class or one of the assigned readings in the preceding four classes before the response is due. Responses should be approximately 2 pages each, and should examine what these materials can tell us about the experience of women working in Canada. Each will be worth 5% of the final grade.

**Book Review**

Students will write a book review of approximately 1000 words, analyzing *Walk Towards the Gallows*, and what it can tell us about the work experience of domestic servants and the intersections between work, and the public, private, and social spheres.

A good resource for formatting for book reviews versus book reports can be found here: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/index.html?handouts> - this is a book *review*.

No extensions will be given for late essays, except for reasons defined by Senate regulations. Five percent will be deducted from the essay grade for the first day the essay is overdue, three percent each day after (including weekends.) The Senate policy on plagiarism is attached, and students who violate these regulations will incur the penalties outlined therein. The policy in regard to the submission of the same essay to different instructors also applies (see UWO Calendar, Scholastic Offences.)

**Important Notice Regarding the Assignment:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license 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 licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Your electronic copy must be submitted in the same week as the assignment's due date.

If you are having problems submitting your assignment electronically, tell Professor Baxter as soon as possible. Assignments will not be marked until the professor receives both a hard copy and an electronic copy on Turnitin.

### **Midterm Test**

Worth 30%, Written in Class on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

The midterm test will cover lectures, readings, and videos. No aids are permitted while writing the test (i.e. notes, texts, calculators, dictionaries, etc.). Cell phones, as well as other electronic and communication devices, must be turned off and stored away from your desktop. Students will not be allowed to answer cell phones.

If a student misses the test he/she will be allowed to write a different version of the test only with a valid documented excuse (e.g. a note from a physician stating that a student was too ill to attend class). Contact Professor Gogan and take this documented excuse to the academic counselling office of your faculty.

### **Final Examination**

Worth 40%

The two-hour final examination, scheduled during the examination period, will include both short answer questions and essay questions. This exam will be cumulative. It will therefore cover all course materials from the first day of class to the last day of class, including lectures, readings, and videos. No aids are permitted while writing the exam (i.e. notes, texts, calculators, dictionaries, etc.).

Cell phones, as well as other electronic and communication devices, must be turned off and stored away from your desktop. Students will not be allowed to answer cell phones.

Students who miss the final examination for a valid documented reason must contact their faculty counsellors and the professor as soon as possible. Be advised that 'sleeping in' is not considered to be a valid excuse.

### **Other Policies:**

The use of cell phones, wireless devices, and laptops for any reason other than taking notes during seminars is not permitted. Failure to comply will affect your participation mark.

Students are reminded that academic accommodation on medical grounds can in most instances only be granted if supported by a University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate. This form can be accessed at the following website:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. (For Social Science students 2105 SSC.) Further details on this policy can be found at the following website:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>



## Course Schedule and Readings

### Week 1 - September 12

#### Introduction

### Week 2 - September 19

#### Women's Work in New France

- Jan Noel, "The 'Nagging Wife' Revisited: Women and the Fur Trade in New France."
- Allen Greer, "Women of New France."

### Week 3 - September 26

#### Native Women's Work, 1670-1900

- Sylvia Van Kirk, "Your Honors Servants"
- Sherry Farrell Racette, "Sewing For A Living: The Commodification of Metis Women's Artistic Production."

### Week 4 - October 3

#### Women's Work in British North America, 1763-1867

#### First Video/Reading Response Due In Class

- Jane Errington, "Ladies Academies and 'Seminaries of Respectability': Training 'Good' Women of Upper Canada."

### Week 5 - October 10

#### Thanksgiving (No Class)

### Week 6 - October 17

#### Women in the Industrial Revolution, 1867-1914

#### Book Review Due In Class

- Bettina Bradbury, "Women's Workplaces: The Impact of Technological Change on Working-Class Women in the Home and in the Workplace in Nineteenth-Century Montreal"
- Ruth A. Frager and Carmela Patrias, "Industrial Capitalism and Women's Work"

### Week 7 - October 24

## **Reactions to Working Women, 1880-1920s: Labour, Social Reform and Feminism**

- Carolyn Strange, "City Work, Moral Dilemmas"
- Janice Newton, "The Plight of the Working Girl"

### **Week 8 - October 31**

#### **Women's Work in the Great War, 1914-1918**

- Joan Sangster, "Mobilizing Women For War"
- Shawna M. Quinn, "Agnes Warner and the Nursing Sisters of the Great War"

### **Week 9 - November 7**

#### **Mid-term (In Class)**

### **Week 10 - November 14**

#### **The Interwar Years at Work for Women**

- Denyse Baillargeon, "Working For Pay and Managing the Household Finances"
- Joan Sangster, "Schooling Girls for Women's Work"

### **Week 11 - November 21**

#### **Women's Work During World War II, 1939-1945**

- Cynthia Toman, "Front Lines and Frontiers: War and Legitimate Work for Nurses, 1939-1945"
- Donald Davis and Barbara Lorenzkowski, "A Platform For Gender Tensions: Women Working and Riding on Canadian Urban Public Transit in the 1940s"

### **Week 12 - November 28**

#### **Post-War Work for Women**

#### **Second Video/Reading Response Due In Class**

- Franca Iacovetta, "From Contadina to Worker: Southern Italian Immigrant Working Women in Toronto, 1947-1962"
- Jennifer Stephen, "Balancing Equality for Post-War Woman: Demobilizing Canada's Women Workers After World War II"

## Week 13 – December 5

### Second-Wave Feminism and Women's Work, 1960s-

- Meg Luxton, "Feminism and a Class Act: Working-Class Feminism and the Women's Movement in Canada"
- Becki L. Ross, "Bumping and Grinding on the Line: Making Nudity Pay"

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license 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 licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and

page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

## MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has

been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo.ca](mailto:rdashfo@uwo.ca)