

History/GSWS 2140
Women in Canadian History:
Changing Roles and Diverse Social Realities
2024-25

Instructor: **Prof. Katherine McKenna**

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Course is offered entirely on-line.

Office Hours: **By Zoom appointment**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Course Description

A survey of Canadian women's history from first European contact to the late 20th Century, with a focus on the realities of women's lived experience.

Antirequisite(s): History 2182A/B, History 2208E; GSWS/WS 2139A/B; GSWS/WS 2140

Course Syllabus

This course is designed to be an overview of women's history in Canada from the first days of European settlement to the end of the 20th Century. Its focus is social history, that is, examining the realities of women's everyday lives. Emphasis will be placed on examining a variety of historical sources. Factors such as race, class, ethnicity and sexuality will be important themes. At the end, students will have a sense of how women's diverse lived experiences have changed throughout Canadian history, and how they have remained the same.

The course learning objectives are:

- To gain an understanding of a broad Canadian women's history from before the arrival of Europeans until today with an emphasis on social history and the lives of both ordinary and extraordinary women
- To learn how to extract historical meaning from diverse sources
- To gain an understanding of how women's roles and gender roles changed and developed over time
- To understand how factors such as class, race, sexuality and ethnicity effected women's historical realities over time

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Methods of Evaluation

This is a fully on-line distance education course which does not include lectures or tutorial groups. The majority of the course grades will be based on participation in the on-line forums on the course page in OWL. Students will be assigned 5 marks for each unit: 3% based on the readings topic and 2% in the video topic. Discussion forums will be open on the first date of the unit at 9 am and close the next week on Thursday at 4 pm. Questions will be given every unit to guide you in your posts. For each unit, lecture notes, the readings and videos that are not available on-line will be posted in the Resources section of the course page.

The essay assignment will require you to undertake an oral history project by interviewing a woman over the age of 70 and writing an essay reflecting on if and how women's lives have changed over the course of their lifetime.

Students will be provided with more detailed instructions about all of these assignments, as well as dates (once the schedule is posted) and details for the final exam.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

There is some flexibility in due dates, but it is required that the student receive permission from the professor. Any extensions past the last day of classes for each term must be approved by your faculty academic advisor.

Course Materials

All course materials will be posted in Resources in OWL or be available on-line

Course Schedule and Readings

Unit 1 September 5-19

Introduction to Women's History

Unit 2 September 23-October 3

First Nations and European Contact

Unit 3 October 7- 24

Women of Acadia and New France

October 14-18 Fall Reading Week

Unit 4 October 28- November 7

Loyalist Settlers and Pioneers in the Maritimes and Upper Canada

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Unit 5 November 11- 21

Gender and Class Conflict on the Frontier

Unit 6 November 25 - December 5

Settler Colonialism in the West

Oral History Essay Due December 6 by 4 pm

Unit 7 January 6- 16

Victorian Middle-Class Women, the Vote and Social Reform

Unit 8 January 21-30

Women's Work Outside the Home

Unit 9 February 4-13

Breaking Through Barriers? Politics, Education and the World Wars

Winter Reading Week February 15- 23

Unit 10 February 27-March 6

Women in Consumer Society

Unit 11 March 11-20

Issues of Race and Ethnicity

Unit 12 March 24-April 3

The Second Wave of the Women's Movement

Final Take-home Exam TBA

Additional Statements

You may not make any use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for any assignments or the final exam in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.