AP/POLS 3450 3.0: WOMEN AND POLITICS  
YORK UNIVERSITY, FALL 2014

MEETING TIME:  Tuesdays 8:30-11:30 am  
MEETING PLACE:  TEL 1016  
COURSE DIRECTOR:  Dr. Michelle Mawhinney  
OFFICE:  S612 Ross  
OFFICE HOURS:  Tuesdays 12-1 pm  
Email:  mmawhin@yorku.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to some of the key topics in the field of women and politics, with a particular focus on Canada. We will begin with an overview of feminist theory and politics, and then look at women’s participation and influence in the public realm. The relation of the women’s movement to the state, to law and public policy, and to more general relations of “race,” gender and class in the broader political culture of Canada will be considered. Specific issues to be covered include women and electoral politics, labour markets, citizenship, reproductive rights, pornography, prostitution, violence against women and the politics of identity and difference within feminism itself. While the primary focus will be on Canadian culture and politics, the global context of the issues covered will also be emphasized.

REQUIRED MATERIAL:


Enakshi Dua and Angela Robertson (eds), Scratching the Surface: Canadian Anti-Racist Feminist Thought. (Women’s Press, 1999) (SS)


Michelle Mawhinney. AP/POLS 3450 COURSE KIT (Fall 2014). (York Bookstore) (KIT)

All required materials are available for purchase at the York University Bookstore, and will be placed on reserve at the Scott Library.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Paper 1 (4 pages + Draft)  20%  
Paper 2 (7-9 pages):  35%  
Exam (3 hours, exam period)  25%  
Reading response/presentation  10%  
Participation (general)  10%

EXPLANATION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PARTICIPATION (10%):

Your participation in this class is important. All students are expected to come to class having read and thought about the material assigned for that class, and to be prepared to contribute to discussions. A good participation mark requires regular attendance, thoughtful and active engagement with the material, and respectful interaction with others in the class.

READING RESPONSE/PRESENTATION (10%):

In addition to contributing to class discussions, each student will be responsible for one more formal oral presentation, worth 10%. Your presentation is based on a reading you choose in advance from the reading list. The oral delivery should be no more than 10 minutes long – in it, you are to present the main argument of the article, highlight what you think are the most important (or problematic) points raised, and then to raise one or two questions of your own for class discussion. You are not to summarize the article, but rather to present your interpretation for the class – explain why you think the points you’ve chosen are important or problematic. Remember that the point of the presentation is to facilitate discussion of ideas and issues with your peers, not for the presenters to do all the work.

On the day you are presenting, you must hand in a short (1 page typed) response paper. This is not a formal essay, but an outline of your presentation – your “take” on the argument, its main points and concepts, and the question(s) you wish to raise for discussion. The position paper may be in point form as long as the points are clearly made.

Students may present in groups of 2 or 3. However, each student is still responsible for preparing and handing in their own individual response paper.

NB – presentations/responses must be scheduled in advance. I will bring a sign-up sheet to the second class. Students must sign up for their presentations by September 30, 2014. Please note that if you fail to show up for your scheduled presentation, you will lose the 10% - there can be no late submissions or “make-ups” for this assignment.

SHORT PAPER + Draft (20%):

A short analytical paper (4- pages in length), worth 20% of the grade, is due in class on October 21, 2014. Essay questions will be distributed in the second class on September 23, 2014. These papers require you to reflect on the concepts and issues presented in the first few weeks of the class, and must be based on the course material (readings, lectures, films and class discussion) – no outside materials may be used for this assignment. However, a proper bibliography and appropriate referencing of all sources is required.

Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 2% per day (including weekends). Extensions will be granted for medical or compassionate reasons only, in consultation with the course director and pending appropriate documentation.

A complete draft of this paper is due in class on October 14, 2014. Drafts will be exchanged and reviewed in class by a partner(s) of your choice. Protocols and guidelines for providing feedback will be distributed with the essay assignment. Feedback forms for commentary will be distributed...
in class. The draft of your paper along with your commentator(s)’ feedback form must be handed in with your final version of the paper on October 21, 2014.

Please note that the draft exchange is a mandatory part of this assignment. Failure to show up, participate or to provide a draft for review will result in a deduction of 10% from the paper grade.

**LONG PAPER (35%)**

A longer paper (7-9 pages in length) is due any time before the end of term, but no later than **December 5, 2014**. As with the first papers, essay questions will require you to reflect on the issues and concepts presented in the course, but will enable you to focus in more depth on an area of interest to you. Outside sources are permitted, but not necessarily required for this assignment. Papers must include a bibliography and proper referencing of all sources.

Please note that December 5, 2014 is the final day for submission of Fall term course work.

Please note that papers must be submitted in hard copy for grading. NO email submissions for either essay assignment will be accepted.

**FINAL EXAMINATION (25%)**

A final examination, worth 25% of the grade, will be held during exam period. The exam will cover all course material. The exam format will consist of a combination of short identification and longer essay questions. A review sheet will be distributed at the end of term.

Please note that students do not have an automatic right to a make-up exam in the event that the final examination is missed. Permission to write a make-up examination is contingent on the course director’s approval and will require a successful application to the Registrar’s Office for deferred standing. No make-up examinations are scheduled until after the end of term.

The **2014 Fall Examination Period runs from December 9, 2014 to December 22, 2014**. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are able to sit examinations during the entire examination period. Please note that travel plans do not excuse you from writing an exam during this period.

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**LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE:**

1. **September 16: Introduction to the Course:**
   
   Film: “Who’s Counting?”

2. **September 23: Women, Politics and Representation I: Women in Electoral Politics**
   
Kaj Hasselriss, “A Woman’s Place is in the House of Commons,”*
Penni Mitchell, “Where do we go from here?”*
Lyn Cockburn, “Justice for All,”*
Newman and White, “Women’s Participation in Formal Politics” (WPP ch. 5).

Film: “Why Women Run”

*reading marked with an asterisk for this week will be made available for copying*

Last day to enroll without permission of the course director is September 22, 2014

3. September 30: Women’s Politics and Canadian Nation-Building

Readings: Winona Stevenson “Colonialism and First Nations Women in Canada” in SS, p. 49-80 (ch. 2)
Enakshi Dua, “Beyond Diversity: Exploring the Ways in Which the Discourse of Race has Shaped the Institution of the Canadian Family,” in SS (ch. 9), p 237-259
Newman and White, “The Women’s Movement in Canada” (WPP ch. 4 selections)

Film: “Continuous Journey”

4. October 7: The Welfare State and the “Second Wave” of Feminism

Readings: Lisa Rundle, “Still Ain’t Satisfied,” in KIT
Kim Anderson, “Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief,” in KIT
Judy Rebick, “The Seedbed” (TTR ch.1), 3-13; “Speaking Truth to Power” (TTR ch. 2), 22-34; “A not-So Quiet Revolution” (TTR ch. 4), 47-58; “Taking it to the Streets” (TTR ch. 10), 116-124.
Newman and White, “The Women’s Movement in Canada” (WPP ch 4 selections)

Recommended:
Newman and White, “The Practical Realities of Political Change” (WPP ch 6), p 128-148
Judy Rebick TTR Part II ch. 5, 7

5. October 14: Women, Identity and Citizenship in the Welfare State

Althea Samuels, Excerpts from "... But where are you really from?"
Stories of Identity and Assimilation in Canada in KIT

Recommended:
Rebick, TTR Part II, ch. 9

Draft of short paper due in class for exchange exercise October 14, 2014

Film: “Sisters in the Struggle”


Mandy Van Deven, “Why Diversity Isn’t Enough” in KIT
Rahila Gupta, “When Rights Go Wrong” in KIT
Becky Ellis, “Why Feminism Isn’t for Everybody” in KIT

Film. “Women’s March Against Poverty”

Short Paper due in class October 21 2014


Readings: Shelagh Day and Gwen Brodsky, “How Come Women are so Poor”? in KIT
Janine Brodie, “Canada’s Three Ds: The rise and decline of gender-based public policy” in KIT
Vandana Shiva, “The Impoverishment of the Environment: Women and Children Last” in KIT
Ivan Drury, “The Rise of Philanthrocapitalism” in KIT
Justin Panos, “An Education in Gentrification” in KIT
Sandhya Singh, “Temporary Workers, Permanent Problems,” in KIT

Film: Maquilapolis

8. November 4: Women, Politics and Representation II – images of women

Readings: Newman and White. “Regulation and Control of Women’s Bodies,” in WPP (ch. 11)
Shari Graydon, “How the Media Keeps us Hung Up on Body Image,” in KIT
Bell hooks, “Selling Hot Pussy: Representations of Black Female Sexuality in the Cultural Marketplace” in KIT
Marcia Ann Gillespie, “Mirror Mirror,” in KIT
Cheryl Thompson, “Black Beauty Products: Why Women’s Hair Needs Safer Care,” in KIT

Film: “Little Sisters vs. Big Brother”

Last day to drop the course without academic penalty is November 7, 2014

9. November 11: Body Politics I - Prostitution:

Readings:
Margo St. James, “The Reclamation of Whores” in KIT
Valerie Scott, “Bill C-49: A New Wave of Oppression” in KIT
Marie Arrington, “Community Organizing” and “Under the Gun” in KIT
Lee Lakeman, “Abolishing Prostitution Through Economic, Physical and Political Security for Women,” in KIT
Amy Saunders, “Talking about Sex work,” in KIT
Meghan Murphy, “Is the Nordic Prostitution Model for Us?” in KIT

Film: “A Safer Sex Trade”

10. November 18: Body Politics 2 - Violence Against Women:

Readings:
Carrie Bourassa and Wendee Kubic, “Stolen Sisters and the Legacy of Colonization” in KIT
Brett Bradshaw, “From Ciudad Juarez to Fort Qu’Appelle” in KIT
Rebick, “No Means No: Resistance to Male Violence” (TTR ch. 6), 69-85
Robyn Maynard, “Criminal (in)justice,” in KIT

Film: “Finding Dawn”

11. November 25: Body Politics 3: Reproductive Rights:

Readings:
Newman and White, “Reproductive Rights and Technology” in WPP (ch 13), p. 266-292
Rebick “The Women are Coming: the Abortion Caravan” (TTR ch. 3), 35-46; and “Freedom of Choice” (TTR ch. 13), 156-167
Vanessa Baird, “Girls not Allowed,” in KIT
Sarah L. Henderson and Alana S. Jeydel, “Women and Physical Autonomy” in KIT
12.  December 2:  Study Day – no classes scheduled
Review for Final Exam to be made available

Final day to hand in second paper is December 5, 2014