

Course Outline

COURSE TITLE: Women in Canadian Life

COURSE NUMBER: ENG 315-3

INSTRUCTOR: Mary Melesky

DATE: Jan. 1981

Your Course Objectives

1. To realize and appreciate the ongoing contribution of Canadian women to their society.
2. To develop some understanding of feminism and feminist aims.
3. To examine critically the personal, social, economic and legal advancement of Canadian women over the last decade.
4. To develop some insight into the way socialization can condition an individual's actions, awareness and choices.
5. Your personal objective.

Areas for Possible Exploration and Discussion

Objective One

Topic A Women in Historic Canada - 1550-1930

- who they were, what they did
- difficulty in obtaining information and reasons for the difficulty

Topic B The Suffrage Movement

- why women undertook the struggle to gain the vote
- leaders of the struggle in Canada
- outcome

Topic C Citizenship and Rights Issues

- the Persons case
- the struggle for full citizenship and equal rights

Topic D Women in Contemporary Canada - 1930-1980

- profiles of some notable Canadian women and their contributions to Canadian life
- a look at some ordinary Canadian women

Objective Two

Topic A Feminist Movements in Canada

- early feminism
- contemporary feminism

Topic B Feminist Thought and Objectives

- samples of feminist and antifeminist thought with focus on Canadian feminist thought

Objective Three

Topic A Woman's Status as Wife

- 19th century
- 20th century changes

Topic B The Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women

- history
- recommendations
- aftermath (general)

Topic C Women in Paid Employment

- how the economy views women's contribution
- the low-pay, low-status job ghetto
- women in non-traditional employment
 - trades
 - armed forces
- women in the professions
- women in the church
- women in management
- women in the labour movement
- women in the public service
- pay-benefits and taxation issues
- daycare for parents who work outside the home

Topic D - Woman's Responsibility in the Home

- housework
- child rearing
- economic disadvantages of choosing the homemaker role or accepting a dual role as homemaker/wage earner
- alternatives to the present situation

Topic E Woman's Legal Status

- how woman's legal status generally has improved
- family law reform - Ontario
- sexual assault legislation
- equal pay legislation
- human rights legislation

Topic F Problems of Major Concern to Women

- pregnancy and birth prevention
- health issues
- family violence - wife beating
- child battering
- pregnancy and maternity leave

Objective Four

Topic A Sexism

- defined
- origins
- effects on men and women

Objective Four continued...

Topic B The Agents of Socialization

- language
- the home
- the school
- the media
- the church
- organizations

Topic C The Effects of Socialization on Women

- narrowed horizons
- lack of motivation to achieve
- poor self-image
- passivity - lack of self-assertion
- lack of imagination

Topic D Reversing the Stereotypes

- changes in language
- fighting sexism in the schools, the media and the other agencies of socialization

Assignments

A JOURNAL

Using your notes for information, write one two-paragraph summary-commentary each week.

Content

The first paragraph should explain briefly the topic discussed or presented during the class. The second paragraph should consist of your comments on the topic.

Summary-commentaries that are more than two paragraphs (or two pages) long, will be returned unmarked, for revision and rewriting.

Format

Each summary-commentary must be titled and dated clearly. The topic itself will usually furnish an adequate title. The text must be double-spaced. Leave adequate margins.

Should you miss an entire week, "make up" the summary-commentary in the week following your return.

Each time you complete four summaries, hand in your notebook for grading.

Notebooks

Use either of the following:

- a thin Hilroy notebook
- loose-leaf sheets bound in a file folder

Notebooks continued...

DO NOT hand in unbound summary-commentaries.

B. BOOK REVIEW

Write a review of one book (fiction or non-fiction) on a topic related to the course. Format instructions will be provided.

C. ORAL PRESENTATION and PRIOR SUMMARY

Give one oral presentation approximately twenty minutes in length, on a mutually acceptable topic. At least two days prior to the oral hand in a brief summary of your intended presentation.

ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN

- A - Journal - 1/3 of total grade
- B - Book Review - 1/3 of total grade
- C - Oral and Summary - 1/3 of total grade

MM:lv
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