

Canadian Studies

Course	CDNS 5201 F Critical Perspectives on Canadian Feminism/ ENGL 5804 F Studies in Canadian Literature I/ WGST 5902 A Advanced Topics in Women's and Gender Studies
Instructor	Jennifer Henderson
Term	Fall 2024
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Office Location	TBD
Office Hours	TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION / INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

Title: *Rereading Women's Liberation*

This course takes a historical materialist and intersectional approach to the 'Women's Liberation' movement of the 1970s, as we look at recent scholarship on the rhetorics and affects of the movement and dig into its Canadian archive. Recent scholarship has been revising settled views of this moment of political eruption. Working with concepts of eventfulness, articulation, and ghostly trace, we question a progressivist view of history that would assume either our own relative advancement or the finishedness of this past. Grounding ourselves through discussion of the relationship between feminism and neoliberalism in the present, we then turn to archival materials and media representations from the 1970s. We ask how this historical feminism was heterogeneous in its rhetorics and positionalities, and was made public in selective, uneven ways.

Our primary materials include print ephemera—newsletters, magazines, and flyers, as well as film, autobiography, anthologies, art activism, and journalism. A central preoccupation is the moment's framing of social reproduction as a terrain of struggle and the pertinence of that struggle today. Throughout the course, we ask how feminist discourse and organizing occurs within and against regimes of racism, heteronormativity, binary gender, settler-state governance, and capitalism. We approach Canada as a settler-colonial, racialized space, a space of Indigenous homelands and transnational flows in which 'woman' and 'women' are unstable and contested subjects. The course will be an inclusive, 2SLGBTQ-positive space.