

Carleton University  
Winter 2022

**ENGL 5804W Studies in Canadian Literature/  
CDNS 5201 Critical Perspectives on Canadian Feminism/  
WGST 5902 A Rereading ‘Women’s Liberation’**

*Schedule:* Tuesdays, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

*Format:* in-person, DT1216

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Office Hours: TBA

**Rereading ‘Women’s Liberation’**

This course takes a materialist and intersectional approach to the “women’s liberation” movement of the 1970s, looking at the ways recent scholarship is revising settled views of women’s experience, organizing, and expression in that moment of eruption. Working with concepts of eventfulness and the ghostly remainder, we reject a progressivist view of history that would assume either our own relative advancement or the finishedness of this past. Grounding ourselves through discussion of feminism and neoliberalism in the present, we then turn to archival materials and media representations from the 1970s. We ask how this 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. We read for style and emotion as well as for the arguments and analyses presented. 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 race, heteronormativity, binary gender, state governance, and global 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.

Participation	10%
Weekly reflections	40%
Two presentations	30%
Research proposal	20%

All readings will be made available in electronic form.