

CDNS 5201/ WGST 5901A / ENGL 5804

Jennifer Henderson

Critical Perspectives on Canadian Feminism

This course looks at the ways current scholarship is revising views of women's experience, organizing, and expression in the "women's liberation" movement of the late 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s. Rejecting a progressivist view of history that would assume our own relative advancement, in this course we ask what was explosive as well as heterogeneous and contingent about the feminism in this period. We turn to archival materials, without an agenda to recover or rehabilitate. Instead we think about their discourses and strategies, the distances across which we are reading them today, as well as what may be oddly anticipatory, recurrent, or unfinished in their visions. We approach 'Canada' as a settler-colonial and racialized space, and the 1960s and 1970s as the period of the welfare state. We look at the variety of ways feminists worked the new analytic lens of 'social reproduction' to talk about abortion, labour, violence, subjectivity, sexuality, and experiences of settler-colonialism and racial capitalism. Our materials include film, theory, literature, journalism, historiography, and various kinds of feminist ephemera—newsletters, flyers, magazines, posters. We experiment with ways of analyzing these materials, especially for what they may say about feeling feminist in these decades. Throughout the course, we ask how feminist discourse and organizing occurs within and against regimes of race, heteronormativity, binary gender, state governance, and capitalism. The course will be an inclusive, 2SLGBTQ-positive space.

This will be a BLENDED course, combining asynchronous activities and weekly synchronous meetings to foster discussion and community.

Shorter readings will be available through ARES and online archives but students will most likely be asked to purchase Maria Campbell's *Halfbreed* and Larissa Lai's *The Tiger Flu*.