ENG 2080 Women, Feminism, and Writing  
Dr. Claire Gullander-Drolet

Course Description

This course is an introduction to two distinct traditions: feminist thought and feminist literary theory, and twentieth century and contemporary writing by (or about) women. Reading theory in conversation with other forms of feminist writing (fiction, poetry, polemic, translation), we will ask the following questions: what is gender (and the category of “woman”)? Why might it be a useful prism through which to do literary analysis? What were the foundational questions of feminism, and how have these evolved over time and in different parts of the world? When is a piece of writing feminist? And what strategies have women used at different historical moments to communicate feminist ideas in their writing?

Course Objectives

-Gain a foundation in feminist theory, its main debates and concepts  
-Gain a rhetorical vocabulary around concepts like gender, sexuality, race, and performativity  
-Understand how these concepts are put to use in feminist writing  
-Write and revise a critical essay and prospectus on one of the central themes of the course

Grade Breakdown

In-class participation 20%  
Reflection journal 15%  
Presentation 25%  
Research essay – proposal 15%  
Research essay – final 25%