

Spring 2020 Newsletter



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Women's
Studies

From the Chair

Hello everyone:

I want to reach out to all members of our Gender and Women's Studies community, students, staff and faculty, and express my concern for you and yours during this unprecedented emergency. I do understand that school may not be your top priority, and that you may face grave challenges in managing your finances with work on hold, taking care of children without school and daycare, and combining all of this with course work.

Please, do all you can to stay safe and healthy. Know that while all classes and communication are online, we are still available to help you and to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to email me, or our other instructors, at any time.

Note also that your instructors will be flexible with regard to assignments and exams and will strive to meet all your needs, whatever these may be.

Stay safe. Follow public health guidelines. And support one another. We need to be kind and generous in this difficult time.

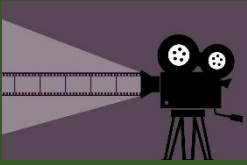
Lori Chambers, Chair



Some thoughts from... Jen Roth about things to do while you're socially distancing!

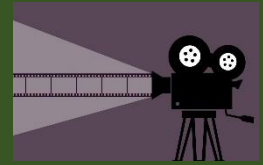
Even though this [link](#) is for elementary kids, it's pretty fabulous (thanks Mrs. Fahrney, whoever you are). You can take a virtual field trip to Mars, or just to some Canadian farms. Animal cams are always good for the soul, too. Wherever your virtual field trip takes you, enjoy yourself!

San Diego Zoo	
Yellowstone National Park Virtual Field Trip	
MARS!!!	
Animal Cameras	
Virtual Farm Tour	



Feminism on Film!:

A Feminist Guide to Passing Your Time While Social Distancing.



Feeling alone in your feminism? Missing your feminist community? Tired of watching beautiful people “blindly” date other beautiful people?

Here are some great feminist films you can access (FREE!) through your [Lakehead Library Account](#). Each film comes with a suggested course offering from the Women’s Studies department -check them out!

Taking Root: The Vision of Environmentalist Wangari Maathai. Tells the story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai whose act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights and defend democracy.

*You can still [register](#) for WOME3111 ADE: Ecofeminism & Climate Change Activism!

Born in Flames: A Film by Lizzie Borden When Adelaide Norris, the black radical founder of the Woman’s Army, is mysteriously killed, a diverse coalition of women - across all linked of race, class, and sexual preference - emerges to blow the System apart.

*[Check Out WOME2035 Horror Films and Feminism](#)

GTFO: Women in Gaming. Through interviews with game developers, journalists and academics, GTFO examines the female experience in gaming and begins a larger conversation that will shape the future of the video game world.

*[Check Out WOME2113 Women, Popular Culture and Counter Culture in 2020/2021](#)

Jane: An Abortion Service. Tells the story of “Jane”, the Chicago-based women’s health group who performed nearly 12,000 safe illegal abortions between 1969 and 1973 with no formal medical training.

*[Check Out WOME 3055 Global Reproductive Justice in 2020/2021](#)

The Grey Area: Feminism Behind Bars. An intimate look at women’s issues in the criminal justice system and the unique experience of studying feminism behind bars. The women, along with their teachers, explore the “grey area” that is often invisible within the prison walls and delve into issues of race, class, sexuality and gender.

*[Check Out WOME3355 Women, Crime and Criminal Justice](#)

#Female Pleasure. The film accompanies five extraordinary women around the globe who are fighting to smash patriarchal attitudes and reclaim female sexuality.

*[Check Out WOME 3213 Gender, Bodies and Technology](#)

Check out these films and let us know what you think!

Drop Jen a line at: jen.chisholm@lakeheadu.ca



Intersectional, Queer, and Decolonial Feminist Self-Care Resources (from Jessica Jurgutis)

Anyone who was in WOME-2111 – Feminist Anti-Violence Activisms class knows that I'm a big proponent of self-care, and seeing self-care and community care as interconnected within a feminist praxis. During these times of social distancing and transition, many of us are likely facing new hardships. As our responsibilities shift, expand or change chances are we'll be having some BIG feelings.

Because of this, it may become increasingly important to reflect on our self-care practices (or lack thereof). I don't think it's helpful to approach self-care as some additional thing on our lists that we have to 'do' but rather as a way of checking in with ourselves about our needs when we can during these uncertain times.

To help with that, here's a list of my favourite self-care accounts, activities and resources. Of course, don't forget to share with friends to spread the collective intersectional, queer and decolonial feminist wisdom around, especially to those nearest and dearest! Stay safe and don't forget to check in with each other during these trying times.

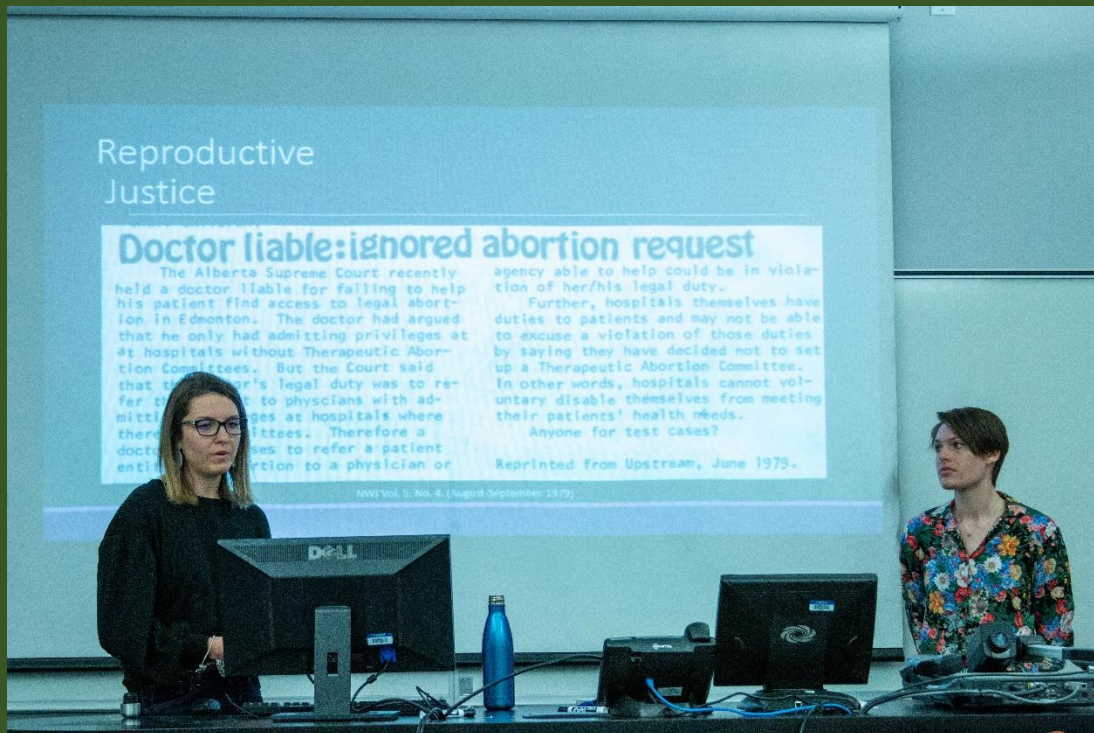
• [Physical/Mental Health online resource list](#)

- [Exercise and Yoga Classes](#): From bootcamp to yoga, YMCA launches 60 online classes you can do from home
- [@nalgonapositivpride](#): A must follow account if you don't already. Also check out *Sage and Spoon*, a free online support group for Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) with eating disorders. Other upcoming lectures (sliding scale \$15-\$50) include: Seeking Ancestral Support for Eating Disorders (Apr. 9), Historical Trauma and Eating Disorders (Apr. 30).
- [@nedratawwab](#): Nedra Glover Tawwab. Writer and boundaries/cycle-breaking expert.
- [@seedingsovereignty](#): Indigenous-centered content for the resurgence and resistance!

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- **@decolonizingfitness:** Inclusive fitness for all bodies by Ilya (he/them). Trans-centric and anti-ableist body movement and body support.
- **@traumaawarecare:** grounding messages of support for survivors and practitioners on their healing journeys.
- **@nataliegutierrezlmft:** Natalie Y. Guitierrez. NYC and NJ based Latinx "Nuyorican" Psychotherapist.
- **@decolonizingtherapy:** Jennifer Mullan. Decolonizing emotional and mental health... need I say more?
- **@them:** Queer media/news company with various articles. Especially helpful might be articles like: *9 Strategies for Quarantining in a Non-LGTBQ+ Affirming Environment*.
- **@adriennemareebrown:** None other than the author of *Emergent Strategy, Pleasure Activism* and *Beyond Survival*, and transformative justice practitioner extraordinaire!
- **@justseeds:** For all your health and solidary graphic needs. Spend some time browsing and notice that this artists collective will have you feeling inspired to imagine to most beautiful social justice futures.
- **@djnontario:** Disability Justice Network of Ontario.
- **[Online Support Group for Parents during Coronavirus](#)**
- **[Queer Your Queue:](#)** A regularly updated list of DJ sets, drag shows and more from queer artists and creators
- **@decolonialmemequeens:** There's no topping this self-bio: "Two native femmes trying to start the reconciliation wars."
- **@jordanpickellcounselling:** Jordan Pickell. Vancouver-based clinical counsellor and trauma therapist with regular thoughtful and therapeutic reminders.
- **@janetheclapp:** Jane Clapp. Movement and trauma therapist with an amazing online presence and podcast to match! Currently running co-regulation support sessions.
- **@laylafaad:** Layla F. Saad. Author of *Me and White Supremacy Workbook* and Host at the @goodancestorpodcast. Both are amazing resources for anyone who wants to take the opportunity during this time of social distancing to work on unlearning and being accountable to their white privilege.
- **[10 University Art Classes You Can take Online for Free](#)**
- **[12 World-Class Museums You Can Visit Online](#)**
- **[New York Public Library:](#)** You can now download over 300,000 books from the NYPL for free!
- **[TimeIn:](#)** The best things to do at home
- **[Dawson Women's Shelter:](#)** Live unboxing party! And more Events to come.
- **[Adventure Journal's animal cams:](#)** Last, but certainly not least!

The Northern Woman Journal Project



Jennifer Blenkarn (left) and Sarah Sommerville (right), Women's Studies Specialization Master's students, presented early findings on their research work. The Department of Women's Studies team is exploring a number of themes, identified by Sarah and Jen, that appear in the Journal [Sarah and Jen, could you please add some text here from your talk about the justification for why we're doing it? - and just flesh this out a little bit?]

Sarah will go on to do her PhD in cultural studies at Queen's University next year, continuing her work on feminist archival research and activism.

Jen hopes to pursue employment that combines her passion for social justice and outdoor recreation.

For anyone who wants to explore digital copies of the journal, or the Instagram page set up by Sarah and Jen, you can find those at: <http://www.northern-womans-bookstore.ca/index.php?pid=26> and [instagram]

Thinking of taking an online summer course?

Dr. Jan Oakley will be teaching
Ecofeminism & Climate Change Activism (WOME-3111-ADE) from July 2nd to
August 13th. A minimum of 15 students is required to run the course before the
July 6 deadline: students are encouraged to register early!

Ecofeminism & Climate Change Activism (WOME: 3111) – Online Summer Course 2020



Climate change is far from gender-neutral... and women have long been at the forefront of the global climate justice movement.



"We are either going to have a future where women lead the way to make peace with the Earth, or we are not going to have a human future at all."

-Vandana Shiva



Thinking of taking an online spring course?

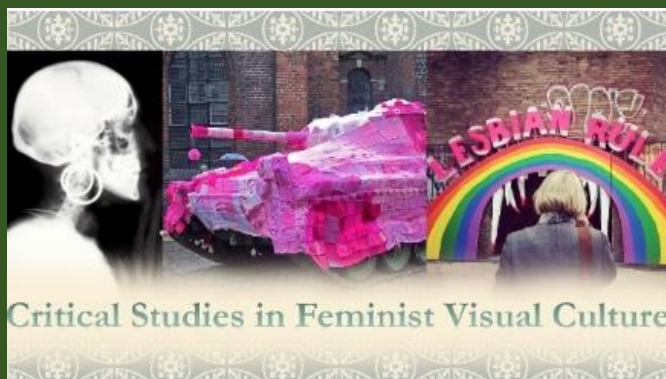
Dr. Miranda Niittynen will be teaching Critical Studies in Feminist Visual Culture (WOME-3871-SDE) from May 1-June 15. Students are encouraged to register early!

Course Description:

Historically, women were (in numerous ways) undervalued in, and withheld from, the art world. Women's bodies, however, have been used as either 'muses' or 'objects' for artistic expression by celebrated male artists. Despite the overrepresentation of nude women bodies in western art, women artists were historically restricted from studying the male nude in university classes.

In response to the many gendered restrictions enforced on women and working alongside our contemporary outlook on intersectional oppression, this course explores feminist artists that have politically intervened in the art canon through performance art, painting, ceramic sculpture, film, craftivism, and large-scale installation – creating their own arena of contemporary art. Women artists have used the conventions of domesticity to rival against norms of women's involuntary role within the kitchen; queer artists have used haunted houses as a spaces to frighten away sexist and homophobic beliefs; anti-colonial artists have reinterpreted the museum space to counter-act against the violence of colonial display; and feminist filmmakers have reversed the male gaze away from bodily consumption through digital storytelling and avant-garde presentation.

(Course description continues in next column)*



*(*continued):*

Throughout this course, students will analyze the ways in which feminist artists have transformed visual culture and art. Topics and artworks include queer and decolonial ceramics, a feminist killjoy kastle, a sphinx made of sugar, yarn bombing, unconventional films, guerrillas, and other types of feminist artistic-craftwork. *No background or knowledge in visual art required, this course is open to all types of online learners!*