GSWS 200-3 FEMINISM WITHOUT BORDERS

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Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Thursdays 14:30 - 17:20; SWH 10051

Course Description:
This course will explore the interrelationship between local and global manifestations of feminist activism in both the economic south and the economic north. We will examine the reasons that various postcolonial, Indigenous, and transnational feminists have problematized the notion of “global sisterhood” and the valuable insights and changes that have resulted from their critiques of the Eurocentrism of certain types of Western feminism (e.g. liberal feminism, radical feminism, and global feminism). While attending to the dangers associated with conflating the experiences of women living in diverse parts of the world, we will also consider how cross-cultural collaboration can proceed in a respectful manner with an incorporation of diverse women’s voices. We will closely attend to activist strategies that have been employed by women living in the economic south in order to destabilize “othering” discourses that have positioned them as pitiful and in need of saving by Westerners and the adoption of Western belief systems and ways of living. Some of the topics we will explore include: decolonizing feminism, cyberfeminism, immigration, forced migration, sex work, the impact of structural adjustment policies on women’s lives, property ownership, and reproductive rights.

Educational Goals:
I Display disciplinary knowledge of core concepts of gender and sexuality.
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Readings will be available on the course Canvas.
- Other readings available on the web.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Classroom Assessment (Attendance, Participation, & Active Listening): 10%
Annotation and Response to 2 Readings: 20%
Outline of Self-reflexive Research Essay: 10%
Self-reflexive Research Essay: 30%
Final Exam: 30%

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO "INTELLECTUAL HONESTY," AND "ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE" (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)