GSWS 320-4: SPECIAL TOPICS IN GSWS: 
SEX WORK: LOCAL ISSUES IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

**Professor:** Dr. Mary Shearman  
**Email:** mshearma@sfu.ca  
**Office:** AQ 5093  
**Office hours:** TBD  
**Lecture:** Thursdays 8:30 – 12:20; WMC 3533

**Course Description:**
This course interrogates ongoing feminist debates surrounding the sex industry, specifically focusing on the local community and contextualizing what happens here in relation to larger discussions of sex work on an international level. From our contemporary standpoint, we will explore how the experience and perceptions of sex workers has changed over time. We will look at feminist texts that span across disciplines that consider both sides of the agent/victim dichotomy that permeates these discussions. By the end of this course, students will be able to articulate the key intersections of sex work and feminism, and consider alternatives to this issue so entrenched with binary thinking.

At the end of the course student will be able:
- to develop critical engagement with global approaches to the regulation of sexual labour  
- to become familiar with the diverse community responses to sex work  
- to increase ability to consider varying disciplinary approaches to sex work  
- to explore the governmental and non-governmental supports available to those involved with the sex industry  
- to improve understanding of the complex lived reality of sex workers

**Educational Goals:**
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: [http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html](http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html)

**Course Texts and Courseware:**
Available On-Line via the SFU Library

**Course Evaluation and Assignments:**
Attendance and Participation: 20%  
Comparative Essay (approx. 5-8 pages): 15%  
In-Class Mid-Late term Exam: 15%  
Final Essay (approx. 10-15 pages): 25%  
Group Project and Presentation (last class): 25%

**Prerequisite:** 15 units