GSWS 200-3: FEMINISMS WITHOUT BORDERS

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Lecture: Thursdays 14:30 – 17:20; WMC 2220

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:
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 Canvas.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Classroom Assessment (Attendance, Participation, & Active Listening): 10%
Annotation and Response to 2 Readings: 20%
Mid-term Test: 15%
Self-reflexive Research Essay: 30%
Final Exam: 25%

Prerequisite: Students who have completed WS 200 may not complete this course for further credit.