GSWS 316-4: DISCIPLINING SEX: FEMINIST SCIENCE STUDIES AND SOCIOBIOLOGY

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Lecture: Fridays 17:30 – 21:20; HC 1325

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Conceptualizations of sex have played a fundamental part in the development of evolutionary theories in biology and psychology. In this course, we critically inquire into how we know what we know about sex, gender and sexuality. In particular, we explore the role of science in the circumscription, significance, and normalization of these three categories. We ask how they have come to be understood dualistically, including distinctions between “men” and “women” and “nature” and “culture,” and explore the role dualism plays in oppression, marginalization, misogyny, heteronormativity, and transphobia. We are equally interested in the role science plays in reproducing intersecting oppressions concerning race, ability, and class. Feminist critiques of these conceptualizations have been a major factor in the development of Feminist Science Studies. We learn about feminist critiques of science and about how feminist science can be done, particularly concerning the need for representation, sociobiological understandings, and alternative ways of knowing. Recognizing the topical and controversial nature of this course as well as the role of GSWS in transforming students into critical advocates for social change, assignments prepare students to critically comment on science and to do science for social justice ends.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Reflect upon their assumptions about sex, gender, and sexuality
2. Describe the history of the social and scientific construction of sex and gender difference, feminist critiques of science, and feminist approaches to doing science
3. Engage in informed feminist critiques of science, especially from intersectionalist perspectives
4. Synthesize critiques and practices of Feminist Science Studies to envision how feminist science can be done

EDUCATIONAL GOALS:
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

COURSE TEXTS AND COURSEWARE:
• Additional readings noted below

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:
20% Participation and attendance
20% Auto-Ethnographic Annotated Timeline or Mind Map (Individual)
30% Scientific Article Critique (Individual)
30% Feminist Study Design (Group)