GSWS 306-4: GENDER, SEXUALITY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEDIA

Professor: Dr. Michelle Walks  
Email: mwals@sfu.ca  
Office: TBA  
Office hours: TBA  
Lecture: Fridays 9:30 – 13:20; Surrey 5360

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
“the act of writing one’s autobiography is a way to find again that aspect of self and experience that may no longer be an actual part of one’s life but is a living memory shaping and informing the present”  
(bell hooks remembered rapture, 1999:84)

“They wanted to tone down the sex and drugs. But I haven’t led a PG-13 life.”  
(Elton John re: Rocketman; The Guardian, May 26, 2019)

Through the study of vlogs, radio/streaming audio, film, self-portrait, and various length and style of texts, this course investigates intersectional autobiographical narratives/representations of gender and sexuality. Students will learn about analyzing autobiographical media, how representations are influenced by cultural and historical context (including but not limited to colonialism, imperialism, patriarchy, racism, and ableism), and the purposes/uses of autobiographical representations. Voices of various marginal perspectives are highlighted. Students will apply their learning to an autobiographic project.

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

COURSE TEXTS AND COURSEWARE:  

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:  
Participation 15%  
Mini Assignments 10%  
Quizzes 20%  
Autobiographical Representation 55% (breakdown below)  
• Proposal 10%  
• Autobiographical Representation 25%  
• Autobiographical Analysis 20%

PREREQUISITE: 30 units including three units in GSWS or WS or GDST. Students who have completed WS 306 may not complete this course for further credit.