GSWS 320-4: SPECIAL TOPICS IN GSWS: FORTY YEARS OF AIDS:
FATIGUE, FAILURE, AND FANTASIES

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Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Mondays 9:30 – 13:20; AQ 4120

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
It has been almost forty years since the HIV/AIDS pandemic changed the contours of our social world. The pandemic has seen moments of mass panic, fear, and urgency with increasing numbers of infections and deaths in the 80s and 90s and eventually transformed forever the way people negotiated sex, love, life, and death. Though the advent of more and more sophisticated ART medications is making living with HIV possible, are we actually beyond the point of crisis as is now being claimed?

This course assesses the wide reaching social, cultural, and political impact of the pandemic and critically engages with the ethical questions it continues to raise. We read across disciplines to understand how sexuality and health intersect and explore various questions such as: What does barebacking reveal about us and relatedly, why are condoms so difficult to use? Is PrEP/Truvada the magic bullet we’ve been waiting for? What are the relationships between drug use (Party and Play/PnP) and sex? By the end of this course students will be able to think about the relationship between sexuality, pleasure, suffering, and forms of being in this world.

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

COURSE TEXTS AND COURSEWARE:
Required Text:
- AIDS and its Metaphors by Susan Sontag

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:
Attendance 10%
Midterm Essay 1 30%
Midterm Essay 2 30%
Final Paper 30%

PREREQUISITE: 15 units

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)