GSWS 321-4: SPECIAL TOPICS IN GSWS:  
SEX WORK: LOCAL ISSUES IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

Professor: Dr. Mary Shearman  
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Office: Harbour Centre  
Office hours: TBA - Harbour Centre  
Lecture: Thursdays 17:30 – 21:20; HC2270

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.

Course Goals:
- 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

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
List of Topics Covered/Lecture Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the Course/Introduction to the Debates

Week 2: Definitions and Approaches

Week 3: Trafficking (for the purposes of sexual exploitation)

Week 4: The Lineage of Vancouver’s Sex Industry

Week 5: Intersecting Layers of Oppression and Vancouver’s Sex Industry

Week 6: Responses to Sex Work

Week 7: Laws and Legal Responses

Week 8: Local Outreach Initiatives

Week 9: In-Class Midterm Test

Week 10: Classic Burlesque Traced to Contemporary Striptease

Week 11: On-line Culture and Pornography

Week 12: Final Essay Due at the Beginning of Class. Opportunity to work on Group Projects in Class.

Week 13: Group Project Presentations