GSWS 204-3: SEX AND THE CITY

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Office hours: Thursdays 10:00 – 14:00
Lecture: Wednesdays 9:30 – 12:20; SWH 10051

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Cities are dynamic entities; myriad social forces and processes inform their design and development. Sexual and gender politics are among the most significant -and least discussed- of these forces. Sexual and gender politics underlie urban form and function. Yet, cities are often imagined to serve a universal user.

In this course, we unpack these ideas and their relevance to our everyday lives. We ask: What are the explicit and implicit ways that forms of sexuality (as well as sex acts and gender expression) are promoted or policed? Whose bodies - and which practices - are managed? How and where do these forms of management take place? How do cities take sexual and gender politics seriously already, and how can cities improve their policies and services?

Taking an intersectional approach to the relationship between cities and the intimate lives of their residents, the course examines various aspects of the urban form, including but not limited to: the built environment, social relations, laws and policies, and cultural landscapes.

At the end of this course, students will have:

• Developed an intersectional understanding for the urban geographies of sexualities.
• Used analytical writing to examine the role of sex, sexuality, and gender in cities.
• Designed a creative project to engage questions about gender, sex, and sexuality and the urban form. Creative projects will be linked to the Granville Street Places for People Downtown initiative through CityStudio.

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

COURSE TEXTS AND COURSEWARE:
Various content (academic journal articles, blog posts, memoirs, podcasts, etc.) available on Canvas, online, and/or via SFU library databases.

PREREQUISITE: Students who have completed WS 204 may not complete this course for further credit.
COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Discussion paper (Individual work, 20%)
2. Project proposal (Individual or group work, 10%)
3. Project portfolio (Individual or group work, 25%)
4. Project presentation (Individual or group work, 10%)
5. Project paper (Individual work, 20%)
6. Research reflection (Individual work, 15%)

*Note: Because of the CityStudio component, course evaluation components may shift prior to the beginning of the term.

Due to COVID-19, grading changes are...

Field site visit paper (15%)
Discussion paper (20%)
Final reflection paper (30%)

AND

Project (35%) - this is broken into smaller pieces.
OR a combination of:
Sex & the city in everyday life artifact (20%)
Present the artifact (15%)
2 Structured questions (10%)
4 Structured questions (15%)

Students must earn 70%, but they can elect to earn up to 100%. Final grades will be determined on the work submitted; i.e., 70% will be evaluated on the 70% (not on 70% out of 100%)