GSWS 320-4: FEMINIST RAGE AND POPULAR MISOGYNY

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Lecture: Thursdays 13:30 – 17:20; SWH 10051

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
#MeToo. Greta Thunberg. Insecure. Christine Blasey Ford. The Handmaids Tale. The list goes on of contemporary media products and news stories that reflects women’s collective rage and despair at the white supremacist, heteronormative, capitalist patriarchy. Yet such examples seem to counter the popular feminism (in the form of white feminism, postfeminism and neoliberal feminism) that currently shapes the cultural landscape; indeed, these moments of anger and frustration seem more like a direct response to the rise of “popular misogyny” as conceptualized by feminist media studies scholar Sarah Banet-Weiser. Therefore, this Special Topics course, is an attempt to parse out these current issues and concerns as they are constructed, reported on, and circulated in popular culture. The course will be organized around the following key ideas/issues: popular feminism and its relationship to popular misogyny, and examining and critiquing relevant dominant media discourses; exploring various media (film, TV, comedy, news) that mediate these feelings of rage and despair; thinking about ways to intervene in, and respond to the media as feminists and consumers. Popular culture has long operated as a balm for women’s rage against the patriarchal machine, so this course will also make important connections to what is happening in the current moment and earlier scholarly debates about feminism’s visibility in the public sphere and popular culture.

Students will:
• Be introduced to feminist debates about popular culture, feminism, and misogyny
• Examine the issues and topics using a variety of literature and media examples
• Develop critical thinking skills necessary to analysing and discussing course topics
• Become critically engaged readers and consumers of popular media

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

COURSE TEXTS AND COURSEWARE:
Other assigned readings available on the course Canvas or online. Links provided in the syllabus.

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:
Attendance & Participation – 20%
Midterm Exam – 20%
Creative Group Presentation (end of term) – 20%
Final Paper Proposal & Annotated Bibliography – 10%
Final Paper (10-12 pages) – 30%

PREREQUISITE: 15 units.