GSWS 318-4: D100: ST: GENDER AND CELEBRITY CULTURE (REMOTE)

Professor: Dr. Natasha Patterson
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SYNCHRONOUS and/or ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS SCHEDULING
GSWS 318 will run in an asynchronous manner.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Is Ellen DeGeneres cancelled? Is Post Malone really a sex symbol? Is Beyoncé a “real” feminist? Why has the Coronavirus pandemic sparked so much debate about the role of celebrities in Western society? Without question, celebrity culture is more pervasive than ever and has become a truly global phenomenon. This Special Topics course is concerned with charting and examining these various issues, situating them within scholarly and popular contexts. The course is divided into two parts: i) introducing students to the academic study of celebrity culture, paying particular attention to gender, race, and sexuality, and ii) exploring some key debates and common cultural narratives about celebrities, including the role that we play as consumers and fans in legitimating celebrity culture. This course is best suited to students who enjoy critically engaging with media, and want to better understand their own relationship to celebrity culture from a scholarly perspective. Students who are not interested in the topic will find the course challenging.

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

COURSE READINGS:
• Assigned course readings will be available on Canvas.
• Other assigned readings will be available online.
• Students may need access to Netflix for some course viewings.

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:
Online Group Discussions – 30%
Short Paper: Celebrity Profile Analysis – 20%
Detailed Final Paper Proposal – 15%
Final Paper – 35%

PREREQUISITE: 30 units, including three units in GSWS.

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)