GSWS 320-4: ST: GLOBAL TRANS HEALTH (REMOTE)

Professor: Dr. Vaibhav Saria  
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Office Hours: Please email me with any questions, concerns, queries or to set up a meeting on skype, zoom, blackboard for a mutually convenient time.

SYNCHRONOUS and/or ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS SCHEDULING
Each week of the course will be divided into 4 different components that will be delivered synchronously and asynchronously.

1) Lecture: This part of the course will be delivered synchronously which means all students will have to log onto Canvas Blackboard at the same time. The lecture will discuss the topic of that week. Only this part of the course will be delivered synchronously. For some weeks even the lecture may be delivered asynchronously through a recording that will be uploaded.

2) Reading: Every week I shall upload articles from popular media, short write-ups from scholars, activists, local experts in addition to the weekly assigned readings. Students can do these readings after the lecture whenever it is convenient for them. This is important for students to learn how to frame a research question and collect materials to analyze. This practice is essential for students in order to write their research paper.

3) Film: A short documentary film will be made available through the library and it is important that students watch the film before the lecture.

4) Writing: At the end of the next day, each student is required to submit a short precis (not more than 500 words) that summarizes the thoughts and questions that the student has collected after watching the film, participating in the lecture, having done both sets of readings (weekly assigned readings and popular write-ups). These submissions will be graded and count towards your grade. This will help me keep track of your progress through the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will look at how trans people craft their lives across the world. Every week we shall look at a particular issue or a particular cultural context to parse out the specific set of freedoms and challenges trans people face. This shall help us look at how a particular question, or challenge, or freedom, takes a different form in a different place, thereby revealing how trans people become a site for national and cultural anxieties. For e.g. the bathroom debate in the U.S. and Canada loses its urgency in contexts of poverty in India. By looking at trans bodies in Indonesia and Iran we will see how different histories reveal different meanings of the word trans and hence de-stabilizes a universal, or global, or standardized experience or definition of trans. Yet, certain desires are recognized across cultural contexts such as Gender Affirmation Surgeries to graft onto other global economies such as medical tourism; how do the different legislations dealing with sex work impact the lives of trans sex workers; what do trans people reveal to us about poverty and policing? One of the questions that the readings of this course will pursue is to track the similarities and differences between the lives of trans people across cultural contexts. By using trans as the lens to view the world, we shall see how it reveals larger questions such as what constitutes masculinity, femininity, the body, and how should we define health.

PREREQUISITE: 15 units
EDUCATIONAL GOALS:
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website:
http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/undergraduate/courses/Educational_Goals.html

COURSE READINGS:
All the weekly assigned readings will be uploaded on canvas and will be made available through the library. Students will not be required to buy any books. Readings will be around 50-75 pages, and students will be expected to do these readings before the lecture.

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:
Weekly precis: 30 percent
Midterm Essay: 30 percent
Final Essay: 30 percent

Both the midterm and the final essay should be at least 5 double-spaced pages in 12-point Times New Roman font.

Attendance: 10 percent (only 2 unexcused absences will be allowed. Every unexcused absence after that without a note from a medical professional or the dean’s office will result in losing a grade).

NOTES:
Grading Scheme
The Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies has a uniform grading scheme that might differ from the one you have for other courses.
A+ 95-100, A 90-94, A- 85-89
B+ 80-84, B 75-79, B- 70-74
C+ 65-69, C 60-64, C- 55-59
D 50-54, F 0-49,
FD- Failed for Academic Dishonesty.

Academic Dishonesty
Please review the guidelines here for academic dishonesty: http://www.sfu.ca/students/academicintegrity.html