GSWS 204-3: SEX AND THE CITY

Professor: Mary Shearman
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Office: AQ 5093
Office hours: Tuesdays 13:30 – 14:20
Lecture: Tuesdays 14:30 – 17:20; AQ 4140

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.

Educational 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

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: none

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)