GSWS 210-3: Gender Today:
Contemporary Reproductive Politics from “Womb to Tomb”

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Lecture: Tuesdays 14:30 – 17:20; SWH 10051

Course Description:
Reproductive politics refers ongoing struggles to define, constrain, medicalize, technologize, spur, and/or prevent reproduction. This is an introductory course that builds interdisciplinary and feminist tools to analyze narratives, issues, practices, and arguments regarding reproductive politics as they manifest throughout the lifecourse, from preconception to end of life. Topics include reproductive choices, fertility, non-normative kinship, childbirth, child rearing, menopause and andropause, and the developmental origins of health and disease. Recognizing the topical and controversial nature of reproductive politics as well as the role of GSWS in transforming students into critical advocates for social change, assignments encourage students to engage in public dialogues on reproduction.

Educational Goals:
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of a range of feminist perspectives
2. Demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of issues pertaining to reproductive politics
3. Analyze reproductive politics from feminist perspectives
4. Mobilize social media skills for participation in public debates on reproductive politics

Course Texts and Courseware:
2. Articles on canvas.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
• 15% Participation and attendance
• 25% Academic Blog-style piece; due week 4
Write a “1200 word academic blog-style piece about a reproductive political issue from feminist perspectives learned in the course (submitted off or online)
• 25% Interim Draft: Weekly Curation and Commentary Project; due week 8
A midway-point draft of your Weekly Curation Project (instructor feedback must be incorporated into final project)
• 35% Final Weekly Curation Project; due week 13
Beginning in Week 3, curate an offline diary, online blog, Twitter feed, Instagram feed, public Facebook feed, and/or similar platforms on contemporary reproductive political discourses, events, and issues (news, blogs, tweets, videos, images, etc.) pertaining to a specific topic (e.g., fertility, right to choose etc.). Accompany each curated piece with a 300 word academic/analytic commentary based on feminist insights learned in the course. Bookend with an introduction and conclusion.

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)
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introduction

Week 2 – Feminisms on Reproductive Politics

Week 3 – Preconceptions

Week 4 – Conceptions

Week 5 – Fertilities

Week 6 – Pregnancies

Week 7 – Birthings

Week 8 – Rearings

Week 9 – Policing

Week 10 – Non-normative Reproductions

Week 11 – Meno- and Andro-pauses

Weeks 12 – Lifecourses

Week 13 – Debrief Curation Projects; Reproductive Futures