GSWS 322-4: Feminist Research Methods

**Professor:** Dr. Tiffany Muller Myrdahl  
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**Office:** AQ 5095  
**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 14:00 – 16:00 or by appointment

**Lecture:** Mondays 9:30 – 13:20; SEC 1010

**Course Description:**
This course is an exploration into the theories, purpose, scope, and strategies for feminist research methods. It is an interdisciplinary seminar with a substantive focus on feminist research in the social sciences.

We will begin by addressing the distinction between methodology and method, and our focus over the semester will often return to questions of knowledge production: what forms of knowledge are perceived to be valid and valuable? Whose voices “count”? And how can we shift unequal power relations by incorporating the knowledge and experience from those who have been historically marginalized?

We will read about and evaluate research design, examining the use of quantitative, qualitative, and historical methods. We will discuss how these methods are employed in different research contexts, by focusing on the methodological and ethical considerations that emerge from the research question. Students will gain hands-on experience conducting interviews and exploring oral history methodologies, from project conception to research output. Students will also read and evaluate graduate-level research methodologies.

**Learning Outcomes:**
The goal of this course is to engage students in an examination of, and conversation about, feminist research methods. Likewise, this course provides students with hands-on experience in designing research methodology and practicing participatory methods.

**Course Texts and Courseware:**
- Readings on reserve or electronically accessed through the SFU Library.
- Content on course blog, TBA.

**Course Evaluation and Assignments:**
- Attendance and Participation 20%
- Reading responses (3) 30%
- Research methodology 50%

**Prerequisite:** 30 units including three units in GSWS, GDST or WS.  
Credit will not be given for students who completed GSWS 321 in Spring 2013.

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)