GSWS 398W-4: Feminist Currents

Professor: Dr. Alessandra Capperdoni
Email: acapperd@sfu.ca
Lecture: Tuesdays 8:30 – 12:20; AQ 5039

Course Description:
This course examines recent contributions to feminist cultures, resistance, and activism from younger generations of feminists loosely identified with the term Third Wave. Through readings, class discussions, group work, blogs, and in-class exploratory writing, we will place much emphasis on individual understandings of feminism (“what does feminism mean to you?”) and shifting social formations. Topics addressed will include: the generation debates, popular culture, young feminists and mothers’ resistance, color and anti-racist feminism, sex and culture, sex work, activism and creativity. The course is writing intensive. In-class writings, workshops, and papers leading to a final research essay will help students develop analytical and critical writing skills. Group work will include the creation of zines to be presented at the end of classes.

Educational Goals:
At the end of the course, students are expected to 1) demonstrate knowledge of the different currents of feminist thought, theory, and practices; 2) demonstrate critical awareness of the debates, influences, and tensions between different generations and positionalities of feminist thinkers; and 3) produce cultural work in conversation with the texts discussed in class.

Course Texts and Courseware:
• Nelly Arcan, Whore (Putain) Grove Press, 2004
• Tea, Michelle. Rent Girl. Illustrated by Lauren McCubbin. Last Gasp, 2004
• Paying for It: A Comic-Strip Memoir About Being a John 2011, by Chester Brown (Author), Robert Crumb (Introduction)
• Daisy Hernández and Bushra Rehman, eds. Colonize This? Young Women of Colour on Today’s Feminism. New York: Seal, 2002 (CT)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
In-Class Exploratory Writing not graded
Attendance and Participation (including short presentations and blogs) 30%
Essay 1 (3 pages) 10%
Essay 2 (5 pages) 15%
Research proposal and annotated bibliography 10%
Research paper (8-10 pages) 25%
Group Zine Project 10%

Prerequisite: 30 units including three units in GSWS.