GSWS 432-4: Sex in the Sixties: Cold War to Counterculture

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Office hours: TBC
Lecture: Mondays 17:30 – 21:20; Harbour Centre 2540

Course Description:
Is Hugh Hefner feminist? How did the sexual revolution begin? What was the relationship between women’s liberation, student radicalism, and the hippie counterculture? In *Sex in the Sixties* we will explore these questions by examining how gender roles and sexuality were challenged and re-conceptualized in the North American postwar period. We will examine the intersection of gender and sexuality with political developments, the Vietnam War, drug culture, family relationships, second wave feminism, and music and popular culture. Students will also be asked to examine the ways in which gender and sexuality have interacted with race, ethnicity, class, and religion.

This course is designed as an upper-level seminar. Students are expected to be familiar with the time period in general and comfortable discussing the history of gender and sexuality. Some background in gender, sexuality and women’s studies is expected.

As a seminar, the classes will be discussion driven with an emphasis on independent reading, critical analysis and student participation. Without a commitment to doing the weekly readings, students will not be successful in this course. Please come prepared by doing the assigned readings, taking notes, and being willing to critically analyze and discuss the readings with your fellow classmates.

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Alice Echols, *Scars of Sweet Paradise: The Life and Times of Janis Joplin* [bookstore]
- All other course readings available on Canvas.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Thesis proposal/annotated bibliography: 15%
- Research Essay: 35%
  - Research project related to class themes.
- Group Book Presentation/report: 15%
- Weekly Reading Responses: 15%
- Participation: 20%
  - Based on quality of weekly participation; includes weekly presentations on readings

Prerequisite: 45 Units including 6 units in GSWS or WS or GDST.