GSWS 102-3: FEMINIST ACTION

Professor: Dr. Jen Marchbank
Email: jmarchba@sfu.ca
Office: AQ 5105 and SUR5188
Office hours: Tues 1pm to 2.30 Burnaby; Fri 2pm – 3 Surrey
Lecture: Tuesdays 10:30 – 12:20; AQ 3181

Course Description:
In this course we will explore the history of feminist actions and social movements from the mid-eighteenth century to today. We will explore histories and activisms from around the globe. We will use texts created by activists from a range of historical periods and geographies to come to an understanding of the diversity of feminist actions.

Educational Goals:
At the end of this course you will:
• Be able to discuss definitions of ‘feminism’
• Be aware of the major schools of feminist thought
• Understand the concepts of, and problems with, ‘waves of feminism’
• Understand that different movements prioritised different agendas at different times
• Explain feminist action on major topics such as suffrage; education; reproductive rights; sexuality; and violence.
• Be able to provide examples and case studies from across the globe.

Course Texts and Courseware:
• All required readings are from a custom courseware available from the bookstore.

Case Studies include:
• Women’s Rights as Human Rights
• Contagious Diseases Acts
• British Suffrage Movement
• History of the All China Women’s Federation

Prerequisite: None
Course Content Includes:

- Terms and chronologies: Women’s Movements and Feminism
- Beginnings of Feminism
- Varieties of feminisms
- Votes for women to State feminism
- Women and the United Nations
- Patriarchy and oppression
- Fight for education, challenge to education
- Reproductive rights
- Sexuality
- Gender-based violence

Course Evaluation and Assignments:

Paired Tutorial Reading Presentations – 10%
Research Essay – 20%
Artifact Analyses – 20%
Exam – 40%
Participation – 10%

- **Paired Tutorial Readings** Your TA will ask you to organize into pairs and to select (or be allocated) a reading. Together you will develop a 5-10 minute summary of the reading with some discussion points to lead discussion in the tutorial. This is a joint assignment work 10% of your final mark.

- **Artifact Analyses** Throughout the course I will present a number of artifacts relevant to our topics of study. You are required to do 4 of these, though if you chose to do 5 your best 4 marks will be counted. They are due one week after being issued to your TA in class, hard copy only. Responses can be written reflections on the artifact; a creative response such as a piece of art or poem or a discussion of the artifact in relation to our class and your lived experience. Individual assignment worth a total of 20% of your final mark.

- **Research Essay** You will produce a research essay, you should use the material in the courseware but also it will benefit you to go beyond the materials supplied in class and look for other journal articles; books and documentaries for material. The essay should be approximately 8 pages of double spaced typing and should be fully referenced using the APA system. Due in lecture Week 12.

- **Participation** Your participation grade is based on your attendance at tutorials and your contributions to debates. Contributions that are thoughtful and respectful will be rewarded more than simply talking lots! This is worth 10% of your final grade.

- **Examination** There is a final written examination worth 40% of your final grade. It will cover the whole of the course material, including readings, lectures, case studies, documentaries, visiting speakers.

Failure to complete all of these aspect of assignment will result in a grade of Incomplete, which is a Fail. If you are having trouble keeping up with assignments please come to us for help as early as possible in the semester.