GSWS 322-4: Feminist Approaches to Research

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Office hours: Thursdays 14:00 - 16:00
Lecture: Mondays 13:20 - 17:20; BLU 10031

Course Description:
What questions, concerns, and practices guide feminist inquiry? This class offers an interdisciplinary overview of feminist approaches to the production of knowledge and difference in everyday life. We will learn what methods feminist research brings to the study of several major issues including:
(1) how knowledge is produced and identities are shaped at the level of everyday life and at the systemic level; (2) the broader dynamics of power that structure what kinds of knowledge gains dominance and visibility, and which perspectives and beliefs are marginalized or erased; (3) the ways that feminist and decolonial modes of research, theory, and practice can expose, disrupt, or revise power structures that reproduce inequalities, silence voices, and restrict possibilities.
Methods and topics include: ethnomethodology, feminist and decolonial epistemologies, ethnography, archival research, oral history, performance research, material culture, and digital media. Emphasis will be placed not only on approaches to conducting research, but also on modes of communicating findings from twitter essays to visual narratives.

Educational Goals:
This course will help students to:
• develop the skills to think critically about how knowledge is produced in areas such science, history, and politics, as well as in their own research and writing
• analyze and employ a range of research methods from the social sciences and humanities that address issues of power and difference
• design and undertake an original research study
• communicate research findings to a range of audiences from academic scholars to twitter readers.

Course Texts and Courseware:

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
• Participation and Attendance - 15%
• Ethnomethodology Exercise - 10%
• Wikipedia Revision - 15%
• Visual Narrative Project - 15%
• 2 Twitter Essays - 10% (5% each)
• Final Project Proposal- 5%
• Final Project – 30%

Prerequisite: 30 units, including three units in GSWS. Students who have taken GSWS 208 or WS 308 may not take this course for further credit.