GSWS 820-5: Graduate Seminar in Women's History

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Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Fridays 9:30 - 14:20; AQ 5118

Course Description:
This course will be an interdisciplinary exploration of gender in historical perspective, with a particular focus on Canadian and U.S. histories of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Through extensive reading of theoretical works and empirical historical studies, we will examine the meanings attributed to gender difference across time and place, and how gender intersects with other systems of meaning (e.g., race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, ability) in organizing power relations within particular historical contexts. Films and guest speakers will enhance our understandings. We will discuss gender as an ongoing and dynamic process, in which knowledge about sexual difference is frequently contested, and either legitimized or redefined. We will also examine how the discipline of history plays a part in this process: how, by the way it records and analyzes understandings of sexual difference, history becomes part of the power struggle by which gender is produced, reproduced, and transformed.

This course is designed for graduate students of History and of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. However, graduate students from other disciplines will be very welcome if space is available (consult with the Instructor). A key objective of the course is to create an interdisciplinary forum in which we can engage rigorously with the issues and debates introduced by each week's course materials.

Course Texts and Courseware:
(Note that these texts will be shelved in the SFU Bookstore under GSWS 820. Most are also available for purchase on the Internet.)


Additional articles and chapters posted on Canvas.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Seminar participation 15%
Seminar leadership 20%
Historical op-ed 20%
Historiographical paper – presentation of draft 15%
Historiographical paper – final 30%

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)