GSWS 205-3: GENDER AND POPULAR CULTURE

Professor: Dr. Natasha Patterson
Email: ndp@sfu.ca
Office: AQ 5093
Office hours: Tuesdays TBD
Lecture: Tuesdays 11:30 - 14:20; BLU 10921

Course Description:
In this introductory course, students will consider some of the key contributions feminists have made to the study of gender and popular culture. The course is divided into two sections: part one will provide students with the theoretical tools necessary to critique gender and popular culture, and part two, will explore specific forms and debates, from film and TV, to the Internet and social media. We will approach the study of gender and popular culture using an intersectional approach, in order to better understand how identity shapes our consumption and participation in popular culture.

Students will be evaluated on their ability to use theoretical arguments, key concepts and terms, and to explain and analyze various aspects of popular culture. Students are encouraged to utilize their personal experiences to facilitate critical thought so as long as it is relevant to the course topic(s). Students should also be able to demonstrate an understanding of the various feminist perspectives and approaches to interpreting popular culture. Finally, as this course deals with current issues and topics of interest in feminism, gender, and popular culture, students are expected to familiarize themselves with relevant cultural forms and current events (i.e., TV shows, films), and to be able to draw on these examples to illustrate critical points.

Educational Goals:
• Students will think critically about how popular culture constructs gendered, classed, and racial identities
• Students will explore how feminists have intervened in debates about popular culture
• Students will reflect on how we negotiate, identify with, and make meaning of popular culture
• Students will also consider how we have resisted and/or produced alternative images and forms that challenge mainstream representations
• Students will become familiar with and implement critical feminist frameworks through which to analyze the popular culture that they see in their everyday lives

Course Texts and Courseware:
• Readings will be available on the course Canvas.
• Other readings available on the web

Course Evaluation and Assignments (see Canvas for details/instructions):
Attendance & Classroom Etiquette – 10%
In-class Group Work/Discussions – 20%
In-class Midterm Exam (Week 6) – 30%
Final Paper – 40%*
*Includes proposal (5%) and in-class peer review session (10%)
*Final paper (25%)

Prerequisite: none