GSWS 102-3: Feminist Action

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Office: AQ 5105A
Office hours: TBA

Lecture: Thursdays 12:30 – 14:20; 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:
• Custom Courseware

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Paired Tutorial Reading Presentations 10%
Research Essay 20%
Artifact Analyses 20%
Exam 40%
Participation 10%

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)
Paired Tutorial Readings
Your TA will ask you to organise 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.

Twitter
This course uses Twitter to send out material. Instruction will be given.

Week 1  Introduction and overview: terms and chronologies: Women’s Movements and Feminism
Weeks 2  Feminism Begins
Week 3  Standing on the Corners of Boxes – What kind of feminist am I?
Week 4  Global Feminism: Role of the United Nations
Week 5  Case Study – Women’s Rights as Human Rights
Week 6  Patriarchy and Oppression
Week 7 & 8  Case Study – Contagious Diseases Acts
Week 9  From Votes for Women, to State Feminism
Week 10  Case Study 1 – British Suffrage Movement
Week 11  Case Study 2 – History of the All China Women’s Federation
Week 12  The Fight for Education and the Fight to Change Education
Week 13  The Struggle for Reproductive Rights
Week 14  Violence Against Women/Gender-Based Violence
Week 15  Sex and Sexuality
Week 16  Examination Prep