GSWS 101-3: Gender Talk (B-Soc)

Dr. Lara Campbell
Email: lcampbel@sfu.ca
Lecture: Tuesdays 12:30 – 14:20 AQ 3154
Office hours: TBA
Office: AQ 5105
Teaching Assistants: Kat Davidson & Sandra Martins

Course Description:
Should prostitution be legalized? Is pornography sexist? Is *Sex and the City* a feminist or post-feminist t.v. show? How does mass pop culture, like *Twilight*, portray gender, and sex? If you are interested in the various ways we live as gendered beings in Canadian society, then GSWS 101 will help you think about and debate some of these questions. This introductory course examines the social, historical, and cultural constructions of gender and sexuality, and the way that ideas about femininity and masculinity shape social institutions, popular culture, and social policy. We will examine the interconnections of gender with race, ethnicity, class and sexuality, address how men’s and women’s lives and identities are shaped by the intersection of oppression and privilege, and discuss the history and future of feminist activism.

Learning Outcomes:
This course is designed to help students develop critical and analytical skills by investigating popular stereotypes and assumptions about sexual difference and the effects that such assumptions have had within social policy, work, media and the family. By the end of the course, after reading academic articles, popular literature, and engaging in structured tutorial debates, students will be able to explain how the lives of men and women have been shaped by individual and institutional power relations.

Course Texts and Courseware:
- All course readings available on the GSWS 101 WebCT site
- Stephanie Meyer, *Twilight*. Available in paperback at the bookstore, but any edition is acceptable.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Assignment 1 - Annotated Bibliography: 10%
Assignment 2 - Short Essay: 20%
Mid-term test: 15%
Final Exam: 25%
Tutorial Participation/Attendance: 20%
Tutorial debates: 10%

Prerequisite: none