GSWS 398W-4: Feminist Currents

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Lecture: Mondays 13:30 – 17:20 TASC 2 8201
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Course Description:
This course examines major ideas in post-third wave feminist writing while exploring various forms of critical and creative expression. We will focus on the following themes: third wave and postfeminist debates; activism and creativity; men, masculinity and feminism; gender variance and trans issues; pedagogy and critical thinking in the classroom. The writing intensive component of the course helps students develop analytical, writing, and research skills through a variety of writing assignments including blogging, exploratory writing, a group ‘zine project, and a sequence of short assignments that build up to a final writing project. We will also use writing as a vehicle for reading comprehension, ideas generation, creative expression, and group communication. Students are encouraged to contribute actively to the learning environment with ideas from their own experience, practices, and visions of feminism.

Learning Outcomes:
Students are expected to:

- gain a comprehensive understanding of post-third wave feminist debates
- become familiar with different critical and creative conventions in contemporary feminist writing
- develop skills to articulate advanced critical ideas on gender and sexuality through a variety of writing and research practices
- develop the habit of using writing as a vehicle for learning, communication, and expression
- experience working in groups while cultivating awareness of the collaboration process

Course Texts and Courseware:

- Genz and Benjamin, Postfeminism: Cultural Texts and Theories (Edinburgh, 2009).
- Shira Tarrant, Men and Feminism (Seal Press, 2009).
- Kate Bornstein & S. Bear Bergman, Gender Outlaw: The Next Generation (Seal Press, 2010).
- bell hooks, Teaching Critical Thinking: Practical Wisdom (Routledge, 2009).

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance 10%
Blog Contributions 10%
Short Assignment 1 10%
Short Assignment 2 10%
Short Assignment 3 10%
Final Writing Project 30%
Group ‘Zine Project 20%

Prerequisite: 30 units including three units in GSWS.