GSWS 204-3: La Parisienne, Sex Symbol of Paris

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Lecture: Tuesdays 14:30 - 17:20 WMC 2220
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Course Description:
This course traces the emergence of the femme fatale and fleur de mal (prostitute/lesbian) tropes about Parisiennes in decadent and symbolist literature of the second half of the nineteenth century and in the actress/dancer/demi-mondaine images of Parisiennes in Impressionism and Art Nouveau; through the emergence of a competing but curiously similar symbol of the elegant Parisienne/modern women in the marketing of Parisian products like fashion and cosmetics, especially in Art Deco advertising. We will also examine the deployment of these versions of the Parisienne in publicizing Paris itself as a seductive and liberated world city of artists and writers, notably during international exhibitions held in Paris. The last section considers how women writers and artists like Colette and Romaine Brooks appropriated these tropes and images in their creative work, and how the seductive and liberated vision of Paris drew women writers and artists like Gertrude Stein and Anais Nin to Paris.

Format:
Lectures of 1 ½ to 2 hours
Small group discussions and oral/visual presentations: 1 to 1 1/2 hours

Course Texts and Courseware:
Courseware Package available at the SFU Bookstore

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance and Participation in discussions: 20%
Two short papers, due Sept. 20 and Oct. 11 20%
Proposal for a term paper, due Nov. 8 15%
Term paper (10 pages) due Nov. 29 25%
Final Exam 20%

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)