The initial focus in this course will be upon the theoretical and historical roots of feminist research methods. There will be an examination of the range of methods that feminist researchers use. Theoretical and ethical issues such as the construction of research, subjectivity and objectivity, confidentiality, non-exploitation, accountability, sharing of resources and praxis will be addressed. Students will examine examples of research and criticism from Women’s Studies in History, Art/Literary Criticism, Philosophy, Psychology and the Social and Natural Sciences. Ethical concerns and issues related to race, class and gender, sexual identity, (dis)ability, ethnicity and age will be considered. Throughout the course emphasis is placed on practicalities of undertaking both qualitative and quantitative research, publishing, conferences and employment. Finally, we will explore how feminist research strives to create social change.

Required reading:


Readings on reserve at S.F.U. Library.

Course requirements:

- Participation and attendance: 15%
- Research presentation and essay (5 pages): 30%
- Methodology essay (20 pages): 55%