DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES
Fall 1999

WS 410-4  Special Topic: The Politics of Everyday Life       Mary Lynn Stewart
WS 822-5  Graduate Seminar in Feminist Theory      Burnaby

The Politics of Everyday Life considers and critiques feminist theory about the informal and formal politics of "natural" and/or "purely personal" aspects of everyday life. In this course, we will examine theories about everyday experience of women's bodies, including body image, size and shape, personal hygiene, beauty, fitness, sexuality, and reproduction. We will focus on French theories, specifically those of Michel Foucault and Pierre Bourdieu, as appropriated by Anglo-Saxon feminists.

For most of the course, the instructor will use the first hour and a half of class time to lecture on major theorists and historical and anthropological evidence. In the next two hours of class, students will discuss the weekly reading assignments and make presentations. The remaining half hour will be devoted to compiling a bibliography, conducting research, and organizing first an essay evaluating theory and a research paper applying theory about the body.

Required readings:


The WS 410 reading package will be available from the bookstore.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Contributions to discussion of reading assignments and student presentations: 25%
Two classroom presentations, in week 6 and in week 11 or 12: 20%
Five to seven page essay evaluating a theory, due October 12th: 25%
Ten to fifteen page research paper, due November 30th: 30%

Prerequisite for WS 410:
60 credit hours including 2 Women's Studies courses, one of which must be WS 101 or WS 102.

The Graduate course WS 822 is offered in conjunction with WS 410. Graduate students are requested to meet with the instructor to discuss the increased workload and grading expectations.