WS 204-3: Women, Science & Technology: Gendered Implications of Biotechnology

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From the 1960s to the present, explorations of the problematic relationship between women and science has been an important strand within feminist critiques of the gendered nature of modernity. Partly because of the particular location of Women's Studies within academia, and partly because of the changing understandings of science embedded within human societies, these explorations have been concentrated in the historic (e.g., the recovery of foremothers who had taken part in science), the sociological (e.g., the identification of the barriers for women in the institutions of science and society), and the educational (e.g., the development of equity-related initiatives). Feminist activism around specific aspects of scientific and technological developments has been both supported and restricted by the limited nature of these explorations.

In this course, we will examine the effectiveness of feminist critiques of science and technology in developing understandings of the gendered implications of the globalization of biotechnology, and in devising strategies for the development of equitable and sustainable science.

Required readings:
A custom courseware package will be available at the university bookstore.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Midterm test 30%
Interview 10%
Journal 15%
Essay (8-19 pages/250 words per page) 30%
Presentation 5%
Article critique 10%

Prerequisites:
WS 101 or WS 102 (may be taken concurrently); or six credit hours in sciences or applied sciences.

THE DEPARTMENT OF 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.