WS 206-3 Issues in Women’s Health & Health Care

Rachelle Hole – Burnaby campus

In recent years women have increasingly mobilized around health care issues. Women’s groups have emerged to demand reproductive rights, knowledge about environmental hazards and ethical treatment of patients. Yet, women as both consumers and practitioners have pointed out the inadequacies and inequalities within the current health care system. This course will consider how women’s bodies have been historically scrutinized and disciplined by the medical profession. Employing feminist critiques we will explore how current trends in the restructuring of the health care system impact women across many levels of society.

During the course we will consider feminist approaches to health and women’s bodies covering a range of special topics: women’s bodies and medicalization, women and the health care system, illnesses, mental health, addictions, disability, abortion, reproductive technology, aging, menstruation and menopause. Students will have the opportunity to choose a special topic to focus on for a research paper and presentation. We will also have guest speakers and view pertinent videos.

Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and provide critical comments on weekly readings.

Required readings:

A custom courseware package will be available at the bookstore.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Class participation 10%
Research paper proposal (2 paragraphs) 5%
Journal (one entry/week) 15%
Midterm exam 25%
Research paper (8-10 pages on self-selected topic) 25%
Presentation (20 minute presentation related to your research paper) 20%

Prerequisites:
WS 101 or WS 102 (may be taken concurrently). Students who have taken WS 001 may not take WS 206 for further credit.

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.