WS 400-4: Methodological Issues in Women’s Studies

Sue Wilkinson

Aims of the course:
- To give students practical, ‘hands on’ experience of using a range of different methods for doing feminist research projects.
- To introduce students to the processes of analyzing and interpreting data and presenting research findings.
- To develop an awareness of key issues in conducting feminist research, including research ethics.

Programme:
Week 1: Introduction: Doing Feminist Research
Week 2: Issues in Feminist Research I
Week 3: Observation and Ethnography I
Week 4: Observation and Ethnography II
Week 5: Interviewing I
Week 6: Interviewing II
Week 7: Focus Groups I
Week 8: Focus Groups II
Week 9: Data Analysis and Presentation I
Week 10: Data Analysis and Presentation II
Week 11: Issues in Feminist Research II
Week 12: Class Presentations of Interview Study
Week 13: Open Session

Key reading:
There will be a custom courseware package, including readings from the following key texts, and examples of feminist research studies:

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
35% - Individual report of interviewing study
10% - Group presentation on interviewing study
25% - Individual report of observational exercise
15% - Outline of a key issue, or evaluation of a method, for feminist research
15% - Attendance and participation [NB: this will include the completion of specified tasks between sessions.]

Prerequisites:
Nine credits in Women’s Studies, including WS 101 and WS 102

This course will fulfil the Women’s Studies breadth requirement for the Science & Technology stream.

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.