WS 400-4 Methodological Issues in Women’s Studies  

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This seminar course examines the production of feminist knowledge through a wide range of methodological approaches that ultimately demystifies feminist research. The primary goals of this course are four-fold:

1. To explore feminist research and to analyse the consequences of andocentric and sexist production of knowledge and research across various disciplines;
2. To evaluate critically a number of research methods that include participant observation, survey, statistical analysis, cross-cultural and archival research, case study, ethnography, and oral history;
3. To discuss the quantitative/qualitative controversy;
4. To choose research method/s, to become familiar with research ethics and SFU Research Ethics guidelines, to examine race, class, sexual orientation, age and disability issues; to examine the act of interpretation; and to write and present research;
5. To explore the challenges and lessons of action-oriented and community-based research.

**Required Readings:**
(Both required and optional readings will be selected from this book.)

WS 400 Custom Courseware will be available from the bookstore.

**Recommended Texts:**
A number of recommended books will be on reserve in the library.

**Course Requirements and Grading Structure:**

One short paper and presentation (1250 words; approximately 5-6 pages) 20%
Participant observation, presentation, and written report (1000 words) 20%
Attendance and contributions to reading assignments and presentations 20%
Research paper (12 pages; 250 words per page) 40%

**Prerequisites:** 60 credit hours including two Women’s Studies courses, one of which must be WS 101 or WS 102