WS 800-5  Methodology in Women’s Studies Research

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the feminist debates about and application of methods social inquiry. Students will be expected to read sections from a textbook on feminist methods, as well as two books that combine methodological debate and applied research. Class time will be split between lecture, discussion, and hands-on application of methods.

Assignments:
1. Individual Project 1: a review of literature relevant to your research topic. Approx 15 pages. 25% of grade
2. Group Project 1: design a group study that utilizes field methods. Final product presented as a portfolio of materials, documentation of the process, and findings. Project 2 = 20% of grade. Presentation of Project 2 = 10% of grade
3. Individual Project 2: conduct an interview or survey-based study. Study design must be approved and ethics materials must be prepared. Final product must include research design, discussion of methods including analysis of feminist critiques of the method/s, and findings. 25% of grade
4. Group Project 2: review of feminist research journals. Students will review the content of feminist journals, databases, or other research archive materials. Class will work as a group to create a compendium of resources in women’s studies. 20% of grade

There are no exams for this course. Attendance will be essential to the completion of both individual and group projects.

Required Readings:

Additional articles as assigned

Speakers:
Steve Noble, PhD workshop on “performative inquiry”
Moninder Bubber, PhD, head of women’s and gender studies in the library

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.