WS 405-4  Theoretical Issues in Women’s Studies: CYBERFEMINISMS

Dr. Cathy Bray

In this course on Cyberfeminisms, students will consider and critique scientific and feminist theory about the complex new social conditions created by global information technologies and biotechnology. Cyberfeminism has been described as: a celebration of the way that digital processes are associated with women and the feminine; an undertaking committed to creating and maintaining real and virtual places for women of various ages, races and classes all over the world; a new wave of feminist theory and practice concerned with issues of identity and the cyborg body in cyberspace; a myth; and a browser through which to see life.

Using sources emerging from gender and technology studies, art, theory, activism, and elsewhere, the course will encourage students to further develop their (cyber) (feminist) skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening in and on digital and non-digital worlds.

REQUIRED READINGS
2. Custom courseware package
3. Online course reader

RECOMMENDED READINGS
1. Verena Kuni (Editor), Claudia Reiche (Editor), Yvonne Vokart (Contributor), Marina Grzinic (Contributor), and Andrew Sick (Contributor) Cyberfeminism: Next Protocols Autonomedia 2004.
2. Susan Hawthorne (Editor), and Renate Klein (Editor) Cyberfeminism: connectivity, critique and creativity. Spinifex Press 1999.

FILMS, VIDEOS AND GUEST SPEAKERS
1. One guest speaker, T.B.A.
2. Various online videos

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE
20% - Contributions to discussion of reading assignments and of student presentations
25% - Seven to nine page essay evaluating an issue(s) in units one through four.
25% - Classroom presentation in weeks 8 to 12
30% - Ten to fifteen page proposal for a cyberfeminist project. An outline of the project must be presented by the end of week six.

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