Course Description:
Aboriginal women’s art making varies from visual, performance, media and traditional methods. Their practices have shaped new contemporary art discourses and created new classifications of what aboriginal art is. Through re/creating aboriginal female identity and other concerns through subverting systems of power and control, aboriginal women artists have exhibited a cultural force within the walls of Canada’s public institutions.

This course will discuss concepts of aboriginality in the context of cultural production and contemporary art. Key discussions for the class are to identify and determine what visual conversations and discourse/s are taking place within the art works. The class will read, identify and discuss themes and issues that contemporary aboriginal artists are engaged with.

During the semester, we will invite a guest speaker and hopefully view an exhibition.

Course Texts and Courseware:

Custom Courseware available at the SFU bookstore.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance and Class Participation 20% Students are expected to attend all classes and engage in discussion.
Group Work 20% Students will work in pairs to present on required readings.
Mid-Term Project 30% In-class presentation with visual aids on artist –list provided. Half-hour with Q and A.
Final Essay 30% 5000 words. Double spaced,12pt. Research paper on an artist of their choice or any one of the required readings. Both essays should deeply examine the central issues and expand on the critical analysis and intent of the artist or text.

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. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHIN