WS 405-4  Issues in Feminist Theory:  
The Politics of the Body

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Lecture: Wednesdays 9:30 – 13:20  
Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:30 am  
Office: AQ 5105A

Course Description:  
The Politics of the Body considers and critiques scientific, feminist and gender theories about the politics of “natural” and/or “purely personal” aspects of personal and private life, specifically theories about women’s bodies, including body images, sizes and shapes, corporeal hygiene, beauty, fitness, sexuality and reproduction.

For most of the course, the instructor will use the first two hours of class time to lecture on the major theories and the historical, anthropological and scientific evidence used to bolster these theories. In the next two hours of class, students will discuss the weekly reading assignments and make and discuss oral presentations.

At appropriate times in the course, a half hour of class time will be devoted to instruction and discussion of how to compile a bibliography, conduct research, and organize an essay evaluating theory and a research paper applying feminist theory about the body.

Required readings (both available at the SFU Bookstore):
ISBN 0 415 925665 pbk
A short courseware package.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
30% - Contributions to discussion of reading assignments and student presentations
15% - Classroom presentation in weeks 4 to 12
25% - Five to seven page essay evaluating a theory, due week six
30% - Ten to fifteen page research paper, due week thirteen

Prerequisite for WS 405: 60 credit hours and 6 credits must be in Women’s Studies and/or Gender Studies

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND 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/TEACHING)