GSWS 205-3: Women in Popular Culture

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Lecture: Mondays 14:30 – 17:20 SWH 10061
Office hours: TBD
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Course Description:

This course will introduce students to some of the key concepts and debates within feminist cultural studies of popular culture. We will consider the different ways women are represented in popular culture by exploring various media forms from film and TV, to the Internet and print media (i.e., magazines). We will also look at the ways in which women have used these forms to create their own representations in resistant and pleasurable ways.

Students will be evaluated on their ability to use theoretical arguments, key concepts and terms, and to explain and analyze various aspects of popular culture. Students are encouraged to utilize their personal experiences to facilitate critical thought so as long as it is relevant to the course topic(s). Students should also be able to demonstrate an understanding of the various feminist perspectives and approaches to interpreting popular culture. Finally, as this course deals with current issues and topics of interest in feminism and popular culture, students are expected to familiarize themselves with relevant cultural forms and current events (i.e., TV shows, films), and to be able to draw on these examples to illustrate critical points.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will think critically about how popular culture constructs gendered, classed, and racial identities
- Students will explore how feminists have intervened in debates about popular culture
- Students will reflect on how women negotiate, identify with, and make meaning of popular culture
- Students will also consider how women have resisted and/or produced alternative images and forms that challenge mainstream representations
- Students will become familiar with and implement critical feminist frameworks through which to analyze the popular culture that they see in their everyday lives

Course Texts and Courseware:

Custom Courseware available for purchase at the SFU Bookstore
Other articles are available electronically
The recommended readings are on reserve at the SFU main campus library

Course Evaluation and Assignments:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Critical Paper (1000 words)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper (2000 words)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (to be held during exam period)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation (includes in-class group work and exercises)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Prerequisite: None

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)