In this seminar we will work toward critical perspectives on feminist methodologies by studying a wide variety of interdisciplinary scholarship as well as feminist scholarship in some traditional disciplines. In addition, we will read and discuss selections on some of the intellectual and political controversies within and between feminisms, including controversies about inclusiveness, false universalizing, the multiplicity of women’s identities, exploitation in research and appropriation of cultural products and political goals.

My three primary goals for this course are:

1. To contribute to students’ abilities to examine critically any study of women, by employing methods and perspectives developed in feminist scholarship.

2. To encourage critical awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of feminist research and related feminist practices, with special attention to ethical questions.

3. To offer students an overview of current methods of inquiry used in feminist scholarship. Even an overview cannot be complete, since the field is vast. Topics of focus will depend partly on the interests of the students in the class.

This is a seminar course. Students will make oral presentations of their work to the whole seminar, and there will be discussions in smaller groups.

Required Reading:


In addition, a package of readings for the course will be available for purchase from the bookstore.

Course Requirements

Two short (4-6 pages) seminar presentations, to be submitted in essay-form 20% ea
Attendance and participation 10%
Final Paper, or papers (total 15-20 pages) 50%