WS 303-4: Special Topic: Female Sexualities from a Historical Perspective

Pega Ren
Harbour Centre/Evening

This course will explore the social construction of female sexualities from the mid-19th century to the present. Topics include: self care and women's health issues, the sexual response cycle, courtship patterns, monogamy and its alternatives, childhood, motherhood, maturation and aging, brain sex, the Kinsey scale, fantasy, pornography, fetishes and S/M, and gender and transgender issues. Emphasis will be placed on the impact of variables such as age, race, gender and class.

The focus of the course will be how women’s sexual attitudes and behaviours have changed since Victorian times, and how these changes impact the personal lives of women today. The course will be presented in lecture and team learning formats.

Required readings

A custom courseware package will be available from the bookstore.

Course requirements and Grading Structure

Attendance and participation  20%
Weekly quizzes  30%
Presentations  20%
Final paper  30%

Prerequisites
Six credits in Women’s Studies, including WS 101 and/or 102

NOTE: 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.