WS 314-4: Race, Class and Gender Relations

Marusya Bociurkiw

From turn-of-the-century study of race and sexology to current debates on nation and nationalism, this course examines certain feminist analysis of gender, race and class along historic and thematic lines, with an added emphasis on representation. Questions to be addressed would include: How have different waves of feminist theory addressed race and class? How are certain historical racialist theories inflected by gender, and how did this in turn affect representation within advertising, cinema and painting? How have newly emerging theoretical practices like critical race theory, whiteness studies, and recent post colonial theory contributed to and challenged feminist theory and activism? And how have women artists, filmmakers and writers responded to the challenge.

Required readings:
Custom courseware featuring extracts from classic works like Women, Race and Class (Angela Davis), and the Angela Y. Davis Reader, This Bridge Called by Back (Anzaidua/Moraga), and Yours in Struggle (Bulkin/Pratt/Smith), as well as extracts from more contemporary authors and scholars, including Canadians: Rude (Walcott, ed.), White (Dyer), Hatreds (Eisenstein), and Unthinking Eurocentrism: Multiculturalism and the Media (Shohat, ed)

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Attendance/participation 15%
Presentation 20%
Mid-term Writing Assignment 30%
Final Essay 35%

Prerequisites: 6 credit hours in Women’s Studies including WS 101 and/or WS 102. Students who have taken either WS 301 or 310 as Special Topic: Race, Class and Gender may not take this course for credit.

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.