WS 400-4  Methodological Issues in Women’s Studies

Habiba Zaman

This seminar course will examine feminist critiques of and methodological approaches to the formal construction of knowledge. The course will explore a variety of theoretical approaches, each with its distinctive and implied methodology, including participant observation, defining feminist research, statistical analysis, the quantitative/qualitative controversy, ethnography, survey, laboratory and field experimentation, interviews and research ethics, archival research, cross-cultural and case study, oral history, and action research. Through readings and discussions, we will identify many different/feminist methodological strategies and potential problems of exclusion in feminist methodologies.

Required readings:

Additional readings will be placed on reserve in the library.

Recommended readings:

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Two short papers & presentation 40%
(1250 words each; approximately 5 – 6 pages)
Research paper (250 words per page; 14 – 15 pages) 40%
Attendance and participation 20%

Prerequisites:
60 credit hours including 2 Women’s Studies courses, one of which must be WS 101 or WS 102