WS 301-4 Special Topic: Women & the Media

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This course will examine television in the age of globalization, in the context of gender, race, and nation. From public access television to trash TV, this course will attempt to explore several facets of television in its various roles as shaper of national identity, as gendered discourse, and as comedic subversion. We will trace the ways in which television marks the nation via its processes of exclusion and identity construction, in relation to the domestic home, the neighbourhood and the globe as spaces of belonging. A significant portion of the course will be devoted to activist media, particularly that produced by women, and the ways in which feminists, anti-globalization activists and artists have created hybrid uses of television technology. Lectures will be supplemented with TV clips, films and media art. The course will conclude with guest speakers discussing various forms of media activism – Labour TV, Adbusters, Guerilla Media. Students will be given information on these and other activist and feminist resources.

Required readings:
Other required and supplementary readings will be on reserve in the Library.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
25% - Presentations: a sign-up sheet will be passed around on the first day of class for students to choose the week they want to present.
30% - Midterm exam
30% - Final paper (8-10 pages) A choice of topics will be provided by the instructor.
15% - Participation/attendance.

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

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.