WS 320-4  Special Topic: First Nations Women  

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We are all familiar with popular culture images and mainstream stereotypes of Native women, such as Walt Disney's *Pocahontas* and news coverage that focuses on alcoholism and conflict. In this course, we will look beyond these stereotypes and begin to understand the ways in which race and gender operate in the lives of Native women. Stressing the differences among First Nations cultures, as well as the unique experiences of individual women, we will explore the historical and contemporary life experiences of Native women. Diversity, representation and ethics will be highlighted in an investigation of the ways in which cross-cultural standpoints intersect with mainstream feminism. We will draw on oral histories, literature written by contemporary First Nations men and women and several videos that have been produced by Native women.

**Required readings:**


Custom Courseware Package available at SFU bookstore.

**Course requirements and Grading Structure:**

Internet and Database project 10%

Article Critique 10%

Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography 15%

Essay 30%

Participation and Attendance 15%

Final Exam (in class) 20%

**Prerequisites:** 60 credit hours

**Designated 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.