WS 206-3: Issues in Women’s Health & Health Care: Gender, Militarism & Well-being

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Thursday, 10:30-1:20

Health – understood as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (definition adopted by the World Health Organization, 1948, and expanded to include environment, 1994) – has also been defined as the “condition of body and mind traditionally assigned to (women’s) care” (A feminist dictionary, 1984). Yet, throughout human history, militarism and the socially-constructed balance between war and peace have strongly affected women’s health care work.

In this course, we will look at conceptualizations of health with the Canadian health care system, in shaping views of physical, mental and social health and disease, and determining the definition and provision of medical treatment. The emphasis will be on the ways in which organized, societally-sanctioned violence has affected the professionalization of health, the development of a military-industrial complex, and the worldviews that underlie such concepts as just war, and war on terrorism.

Required readings:
A selected set of readings will be available on reserve in the library

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
10% - attendance and participation
25% - midterm examination
40% - position papers (4)
25% - research paper

Prerequisites:
WS 101 or 102 (may be taken concurrently)

DESIGNATED CREDIT: Students can apply this course toward the Certificate in Liberal Arts

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.