WS 302-4 ST. Women’s Sexualities: Social & Historical Contexts

Dr Susan Wilkinson
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Monday, 9:30-1:20

The aims of the course are:
- to introduce students to a range of different ways of studying women’s sexualities in their social & historical contexts, including sexological, psychological, sociological and feminist approaches.
- to enable students to develop a critical understanding of theories of sex, sexuality and sexual identity in relation to the social, cultural and historical contexts within which they were developed
- to encourage an appreciation of the range, diversity and flexibility of women’s sexualities and sexual identities across place, time and cultures.

Topics will include: Biological approaches; reproduction & contraception; sexology (the early history & key approaches); the ‘sexual revolution’ & the feminist critique; rethinking heterosexuality; lesbian sexuality; bisexuality & beyond; shifting sexual identities; sex & gender; intersexuality.

Required readings:
A custom courseware package will be available at the university bookstore.
The following books will be on reserve at the Bennett Library:

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
20% - 1 short (2-page) ‘reaction’ paper
20% - 1 class presentation (based on assigned readings)
20% - 2 in-class quizzes
30% - Final paper on a key issue raised in the course (topics to be agreed)
10% - Attendance and participation in class discussion

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

STUDENTS WHO TOOK THIS COURSE IN FALL SEMESTER, 2002 CANNOT TAKE IT AGAIN FOR FURTHER 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.