WS 820-5: Graduate Seminar in Women's History - Danger Zones and Border Crossings: Gender, Space and Spectacle in Comparative Gender and Women's History

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This course will examine selected topics in women's and gender history, with a particular focus on the permeable and constantly shifting boundaries between public and private space, the contested constructions of race and ethnicity, and the creation, maintenance and enforcement of sexual practices and identities. We will look at how ideals of femininity and masculinity have changed over time and place, the making of bodies of "civilized" subjects in the framework of Western imperialism, and the interaction of structure and agency within various national and colonial projects. We will supplement our historical readings with current feminist and postcolonial theory, and with work on the methods of historical inquiry.

This course is comparative in perspective and thematic in structure, and will introduce you to current historical literature from Canada in the context of the United States, Great Britain, and Australia.

Required Books (on order from bookstore, also placed on reserve):
Judith Walkowitz, City of Dreadful Delight
Karen Dubinsky, The Second Greatest Disappointment
Angela Woollacott, To Try Her Fortune in London
Joanne Meyerowitz, How Sex Changed
George Chauncey, Gay New York
Antoinette Burton, Burdens of History
Adele Perry, On the Edge of Empire
Kirsten McKenzie, Scandal in the Colonies
Myra Rutherford, Gender and the White Man's God
Sarah Carter, Capturing Women
Carole Gerson and Veronica Strong-Boag, Paddling Her Own Canoe

Marking Scheme:
Paper Proposal: 10%
Historiography: 30%
Seminar Presentation: 25%
Seminar Participation: 25%
Panel Presentation: 10%

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.