WS 314 – Race, Class and Gender Relations: Intersecting Influences

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This course provides students with an overview of the interlocking nature of race, class and gender at the micro- and macro- levels of society. It explores a number of themes in the analysis of race, class and gender relations in contemporary industrial societies. Using feminist and anti-racist perspectives, the course will examine how race is mediated with other forms of social difference such as gender, class, sexuality, dis/ability and age. Topical areas include:

- The birth of women’s rights;
- The women’s movement;
- Forms of violence and the role of media in reporting violence;
- The legacy of colonialism and slavery;
- Birth control and reproductive rights;
- The practice and rhetoric of diversity, immigration, and national identity;
- The gendering and racializing of poverty;
- The role of advocacy groups, grassroots organizations, and coalition building

Required Readings


In addition, a set of readings will be placed on reserve in the library.

Recommended Readings
A set of texts will be placed on reserve in the library.

Course Requirements
Book report & presentation 25%
(250 words per page; 6-7 pages)
Research essay and presentation 30%
(250 words per page; 10 pages)
Final exam (take home) 30%
(two short essays out of three)
Class attendance & participation 15%

Prerequisites: six credits in Students Women’s Studies, including WS 101 and/or 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.