WS 398W – Feminist Currents*

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This course examines the major ideas of third wave feminism and explores various forms of critical and creative expression by young feminists. We will focus on the following themes: the generation or “wave” debate; popular culture; sexuality and sex work; transgender issues; racism and racialized experiences; trauma and autobiography; activism and creativity. The writing intensive component of the course will help students develop analytical, writing, and research skills through a variety of writing assignments including blogging, exploratory writing, a group ’zine project, and a sequence of critical essays that build up to a final research paper. Students will also be encouraged to contribute actively to the learning environment with ideas from their own experience, practices, and visions of feminism.

Required Reading
• Deborah Siegal and Jennifer Baumgardner, eds. Sisterhood, Interrupted: From Radical Women to Grrls Gone Wild (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007)
• Melody Berger, ed. We Don’t Need Another Wave: Dispatches From The Next Generation of Feminists (Seal Press, 2006)
• Krista Scott-Dixon, ed. Trans/forming Feminisms: Transfeminist Voices Speak Out (Sumach Press, 2007)
• Daisy Hernández and Bushra Rehman, ed. Colonize This? Young Women of Colour on Today’s Feminism
• Michelle Tea, Rent Girl (Last Gasp, 2006)
• Anna Camilleri, I Am A Red Dress (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2004)
• Custom Courseware (additional essays, short stories, and poems)

Course Evaluation and Assignments
In-Class Exploratory Writing not graded
Contributions to Blog 20%
Essay 1 (3 pages) 10%
Essay 2 (5 pages) 10%
Research Plan +Annotated Bibliography 10%
Research Paper (8-10 pages) 20%
Group ’Zine Project 10%
Attendance & Participation 20%

Prerequisites:
Two of WS 101, 102 or GDST 200 (may be taken concurrently)

*This course fulfills the University Writing (W) requirement.

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.