WS 207-3: Introduction to Feminist Theory

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Lecture: Fridays 9:30 – 12:20 – ASSC 10061  
Office hours: TBD

Course Description:
What is theory and what does it mean to do theory? What is the relationship between theory and practice? How has feminist thought contributed to political and social change?
This course introduces students to historical and contemporary feminist theories and explores how they are linked to feminist practice and activism. We will focus on the contributions of key feminist thinkers, along with particular ‘streams’ of feminist thought including liberal, radical, postmodern, and postcolonial feminism. We will also consider to what extent feminist theory has altered and/or changed structures of inequality and how feminist theory can continue to address women’s needs and concerns.

Students are expected to do their weekly readings and come to class prepared with questions or comments so that they can contribute to class discussions. Students will also be expected to lead one class discussion as part of their participation grade.

Course Texts and Courseware:
Supplemental readings available through Library Reserves.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
20%  Attendance and participation (includes leading one class discussion)  
20%  Short Reading Responses (4 x 2 pages each)  
20%  In-class midterm exam  
5%  Paper Proposal  
35%  Final Research Paper

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