Course Description:
This course grew out of my ongoing work in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside and that area will be a focus example for the course and an option in the course work that we do. The course thus will concentrate on today’s world as opposed to an historical study, examining issues of poverty and the media as they affect contemporary, and especially local, women. The media frequently shapes our notions – including our notions of poverty – and that is the second focus of our attention. Taking a look at a number of photo compilations, documentary films and fiction films, we will hone our media literacy skills to analyze the images of poverty that we encounter daily.

But before we look at the practical realm, we will take a theoretical tour: What exactly is poverty? How has it been theorized and demarcated? How does it affect women’s lives and experiences in particular? How does homelessness fit in? How do race and ethnicity relate to poverty? How does it end?

Students will be also encouraged to share their observations and experiences of media as it relates to poverty in our weekly meetings.

Course Texts and Courseware:
Custom Courseware
Additional articles available on-line

Course Evaluation and Assignments:

- Responses to media (1 page X 3) 15%
- Short essay (4 pages) 15%
- Group research presentation 25%
- Final Paper (8 pages) 25%
- Attendance and participation 20%

Prerequisites: six units in women’s studies including WS 101 and/or 102

Attention Students with a disability: Please contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities, (MBC 1250 or Phone 778-782-3112) if you need or require assistance.

N.B.: Students are reminded that attendance in the first week of classes is important.

A student must complete ALL aspects of a course (including assignments, class participation, presentations, and other), otherwise s/he will receive a grade of N.

The University has formal policies regarding intellectual dishonesty and grade appeals which may be obtained from the General Office of the Women’s Studies Department.

A late penalty of 10% per day will be deducted unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.

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.

In addition, the Department will follow policy T10.02 with respect to “Intellectual Honesty,” and “Academic Discipline” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)