WS 207-3 – Introduction to Feminist Theory: Positions, Articulations, Subjectivities

Course Description:
This course will introduce students to key terms and debates in feminist theory. We will examine the articulation of different concerns around women's lives, the 'female' body, and female subjectivity. Topics will include language and representation, sexuality, gender performativity, motherhood and reproduction, space, the body, gendered and genderqueer identities, pornography, race and ethnicity, and the relation of gender and sex to late capitalist structures and neo-colonialisms. We will also address the specificity of the different historical and cultural traditions in relation to which feminist work is being generated ('waves' and generations of feminism/s) and the different theoretical frameworks that inform feminist thought (Anglo-American, French post-structuralism, materialist feminism, feminism from the Global South, and genderqueer). In-class work will include exploratory writings. Students are encouraged to contribute actively to our discussions with material and ideas from their own experiences and learning practices.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Required readings will include selections of articles by: de Beauvoir, Irigaray, Cixous, Kristeva, Gauthier, Hermann, Rose, Grosz, Mernissi, Narayan, Woodhull, Rubin, Chodorow, MacKinnon, Mulvey, hooks, Williams, Davis, Correa, Petchesky, Martin, Sawicki, Davis, Balsamo, Stryker, Minh-ha, Braidotti, Butler, Rich, Wittig, de Lauretis, Cavarero, Rich, Mohanty, Lorde, Brah, and McClintock. The material will be available to students on WebCT.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
20%  Attendance and active participation (includes presentations)
10%  Blog
40%  Four critical responses to the readings (4 pages each)
10%  Final Zine project
20%  Final research paper (10 pages)

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