WS 101-3 Introduction to Women’s Issues in Canada (B-Soc)

Neelu Kang Dhaliwal
nkangdha@sfu.ca
Tuesdays, 12:30 – 14:20
AQ 3149
Office: AQ 5094
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

Is gender a social or biological construct? Should human sexuality be regulated? Is sexuality linked to social inequality? Do you think prostitution is victimless? How does immigration status intersect with family violence? What role has women’s movement played in empowering women’s situation in Canada? If you are interested in the various ways we live as gendered beings in Canadian society, then Women’s Studies 101 will help you think about and debate some of these questions. This introductory course examines the social and cultural constructions of gender and sexuality, and the way ideas about femininity and masculinity shape social institutions, popular culture, and social policy. We will examine the interconnections of gender with race, immigration, ethnicity, class and sexuality, address how women’s lives and identities are shaped by the intersection of oppression and privilege, and discuss the history and future of activism.

Course Texts and Courseware:

- Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid’s Tale (available at bookstore, but you may use any edition)
- Custom courseware package, available at the University bookstore

Course Evaluation and Assignments:

Essay Proposal / Annotated Bibliography: 10%
Research Essay: 25%
Mid-term test: 15%
Final Exam: 25%
Tutorial Participation/Attendance: 15%
Tutorial debates: 10%

Prerequisite: none