WS 831-5: Cities, Gender and the Urban Imaginary

Dr. Catherine Murray
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Tuesdays, 10:30 – 15:20 AQ 5119
Office hours: Wednesdays 10:00 - 12:00
Thursdays 14:00 - 16:00
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Course Description:

This course genders our understanding of the city as space and place, with readings drawn from feminist theorists of cultural geography, urban planning, cultural studies and new theories of urban citizenship, including the right to the city. Students will be encouraged to develop projects that situate their “place” in constructing Vancouver and its environs on the occasion of its 125th anniversary. This course is offered in partnership with the Centre for Policy Studies on Culture and Communities (www.cultureandcommunities.ca/) and with a community group organizing a conference entitled Engaging Women, Transforming Cities: Defining an Ideal City for Women (forthcoming June 2013, before the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ annual conference). This course may be taken in conjunction with a GSWS feminist action research/field placement, to integrate community-based learning with theory.

Required Readings:


In addition to materials on reserve, there will be readings placed on the Course web site from time to time.

Seminar Format

There will be a two-hour seminar based on the topics below, followed by a two hour colloquium based on film screenings, individual and team class presentations, or cultural salons offered through the CPCC on Friday afternoons from time to time.

Course Evaluation

Seminar Participation: 30%
Project: 30%
Final Paper: 40%

See over for Recommended Texts
Recommended Texts (choose 3-4 for purchase):


Massey, Doreen. 1994. *Space, Place and Gender*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press. 280 pp. online access: http://troy.lib.sfu.ca/record=b5292370~S1a


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THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND 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 T 10.02 WITH RESPECT TO "INTELLECTUAL HONESTY," AND "ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE" (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)