WS 310-4: ST: Feminism and Art

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at Harbour Centre

The evolution of feminist art practice and criticism constitutes an oft-overlooked chapter of both women's studies and art history. This course will examine the contribution of feminist art discourse, its intersections with modernist and post modernist thought, and its forays into issues of historiography, historical materialism race, sexuality, censorship, activism, domesticity, and cyborg theory. Students will be encouraged to attend at least one art event or exhibition featuring a woman artist, and to be aware of community and activist issues related to feminism and art. Letters will be supplemented with films, videos and slides from the SFU and Vancouver Art Gallery collections. Students will be provided with certain theoretical tools, terms and definitions that relate to art theory and history; however, this course will not require a background in art.

Required readings:
Required readings will be on reserve in the Belzberg Library. Students are advised to photocopy them, read them, and have them on the day the readings is being discussed.

Recommended readings:
Recommended readings will be on reserve at the Belzberg Library. These readings are optional, and are provided to give you further insight into the issue at hand, or to help with research assignments and midterm.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
1. Presentations: A sign-up sheet will be passed around on the first day of class, and students can choose at which class they want to present. 20% of the final grade
2. Midterm (takehome) exam: Exam questions will be based entirely on required readings assigned up until the date of the exam. 25% of the final grade
3. Critical review: You will be asked to attend one art event or exhibition and write a critical review informed by feminist thought. 20% of the final grade
4. Term project (10 pages): You may choose the topic of the your final project in consultation with the instructor. Please see appended guidelines. Final project can incorporate visual elements but must have a significant written component. 25% of the final grade
5. Participation/attendance: You are required to attend all classes, and to participate in tutorial discussions. 10% of the final grade

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours