WS 203-3 Female Roles in Contemporary Society

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In this course we will examine the relationship between gender roles and identities. We will outline factors and processes which contribute to the establishment of roles and the construction of identities. We will also examine the part played by feminism in informing and critiquing these processes.

We will pay particular attention to issues of representation and self-representation, while also attending to analyses of the social institutions that influence girls' and women's lives. As such, we will examine the socialization of children, inquiring into the impacts of parents and non-parental influences upon children. We will focus upon the personal domain, and examine the gendered roles of being daughters, mothers, lovers and wives. We will turn our attention to the institution of education, focusing both upon the female experience through childhood and the position of women within academia. Finally, we will examine gendered roles in the world of work and political life, spanning topics such as women's participation in the armed forces, in peacekeeping efforts and as political activists and parliamentarians.

Required readings:
A custom courseware package of readings will be available through the SFU bookstore.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
25% - Midterm exam
25% - Final exam – take-home
30% - Term paper (10 pages)
10% - Presentation
10% - Participation

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

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.