WS 301-4 – Women, Poverty and the Media (Intersession)

Jacqueline Levitin
levitin@sfu.ca
Phone: 778-782-3900
Lecture: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30 – 5:20 pm HC 2510
Office: W 2380

Course Description:
This course grew out of my ongoing work in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside and that area will be a focus example for the course and an option in the course work that we do. The course thus will concentrate on today’s world as opposed to presenting an historical study. We will examine issues of poverty and the media as they affect contemporary, and especially local, women.

The media frequently shapes our notions – including our notions of poverty – and that is the second focus of our attention. Taking a look at newspapers and other media, documentary and fiction films, we will hone our media literacy skills to analyze the images of poverty that we encounter daily.

But before we look at the practical realm, we will take a theoretical tour: What exactly is poverty? How has it been theorized and demarcated? How does it affect women’s lives and experiences in particular? How does homelessness fit in? How do race and ethnicity relate to poverty? How does it end?

Students will be also encouraged to share their observations and ongoing experiences of media as it relates to poverty in our weekly meetings.

Course Texts and Courseware:
Articles available on course Web-CT site or online.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Responses to media (1 page X 3) 15%
Short essay (3-4 pages) 15%
Group research presentation 25%
Final Paper (7-8 pages) 30%
Attendance and participation 15%

Prerequisites: six units in women’s studies including WS 101 and/or 102

- **Attention Students with a disability:** Please contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities, (MBC 1250 or Phone 778-782-3112) if you need or require assistance.
- **N.B.:** Students are reminded that attendance in the first week of classes is important.
- A student must complete ALL aspects of a course (including assignments, class participation, presentations, and other), otherwise s/he will receive a grade of N.
- The University has formal policies regarding intellectual dishonesty and grade appeals which may be obtained from the General Office of the Women’s Studies Department.
- A late penalty of 10% per day will be deducted unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.