WS 405-4: Theoretical Issues in Women's Studies: Constructing Gender through Life

Meredith Kimball
kimball@sfu.ca
Office: AQ 5098
Wed. 10:30-2:20

The theoretical focus of the course will be on how gender, including the biological basis of gender, is socially constructed and therefore open to change. Topics will include biological correlates of gender, constructing masculinities and femininities by both women and men, intersexualites, gender blending including transexualities and transgenders, sexualities, and a brief overview of constructing genders in major adult life transitions such as parenting, and aging. The first half of the course will consist of assigned readings and discussion. In the second half of the course, students will choose a topic to present to the class. This will include assigning readings for the class, a major oral report, and leading the class discussion on the topic. The major paper due at the end of the term will be on the same topic as the oral report.

REQUIRED READINGS:
A custom courseware package will be available at the bookstore, and some readings will be on reserve in the library.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:
Seminar Participation 15%
Two Thought Papers (2-3 pages each, 5% each) 10%
Take home essay final exam (5-6 pages) 15%
Oral report on topic of choice 30%
Major paper (20-30 pages) 30%

PREREQUISITES
Sixty credit hours including two Women's Studies courses, one of which must be WS 101 or 102.

THIS COURSE CAN BE APPLIED TOWARD THE GENDER STUDIES MINOR

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.