

## **WGST 2812 Sex for Sale**

The topic of sex work is one of the most controversial and divisive amongst feminists: is prostitution by definition a form of violence against women, or does sex work offer emancipatory possibilities? This course explores feminist perspectives on the sex trade, critically analyzing theoretical and empirical studies of a multi-faceted industry. We will consider the social meanings associated with sex work and assess various legal approaches to regulation. The course will approach the sex industry transnationally, exploring the connections between sexuality, gender, and other social formations such as race, ethnicity, class, nation, and empire, and how these play out in the purchase and sale of sexual services. We will also critically approach feminist writings on sexuality, considering how feminism has promoted sexual agency as well as how it has reinforced sexual conformity.