GSWS 826-5: GRADUATE SEMINAR ON QUEER/TRANS STUDIES

Professor: Dr. Helen Leung  
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Office: AQ 5104A  
Office hours: TBA  
Lecture: Mondays 11:30 – 16:20; AQ 5015

Course Description:
This seminar provides students with an overview of the formation, development, and current directions of the fields configured, respectively, as queer studies and trans studies. We will examine the influence of feminism on the emergence of both fields, the formative questions that shape queer and trans as distinct analytical categories, the key terms of debate in each field, and the effect of the fields’ institutionalization. Throughout the course, we will explore critical challenges posed to queer and trans studies by a consideration of colonial histories; the politics of border, securitization and migration; the globalization of LGBTQ identities; critical regionality and translocal taxonomies; the politics of translation; queer ecologies and trans animal studies.

Course Objectives
Students are expected to:
• acquire critical literacy in the intellectual foundation of queer and trans studies
• become conversant with contemporary debates on sexual and gender diversity
• approach issues from transnational, regional and/or translocal perspectives
• develop critical skills to conceptualize, develop, and present an original research project on a topic relevant to queer/trans studies

Educational Goals:
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

Course Texts and Courseware:
All required articles are available on-line through SFU library or as PDFs on Canvas. We will read works by both established and emergent queer/trans studies scholars who work in different disciplines, national locations, and cultural contexts.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & Participation  10%
Short Weekly Reading Response  10%
Class Presentation  20%
Research Presentation  20%
Research Paper (15 - 20 pages)  40%

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND 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.
IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)