GSWS 331-4: QUEER GENDERS

Professor: Dr. Mary Shearman
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Office hours: Wednesdays 16:30 – 17:20
Lecture: Wednesdays 17:30 – 21:20; Harbour Centre 1600

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Queer Genders Femmes, Queens, and Fantasies of Femininity
This course critically interrogates genders and presentations that engage with femininity. We will explore how femininity and queerness meet at intersections of race, class, age, location, and ability and how these intersections so frequently framed as points of oppression can also be sites of bodily resistance and identity empowerment. We will dissect dominant cultural representations of femininity and explore ‘femme’ as both a political and de-politicized identity, category and label. We will use feminist and queer theories to unpack the linkages between femininity, weakness, sensitivity and other supposed inherent traits with their corresponding loaded meanings. Our studies will include creative works as we both pursue and destabilize the holistic femme identity
At the end of this course you will be able:
- to develop an understanding of current debates on gender difference, from a queer feminine perspective
- to critically engage with femininity and feminism- including supportive points and those of discord
- to challenge dominant and normative cultural products reifying feminine oppression and gender-based violence
- to explain and understand the historical and contemporary context of femininity and its points of both oppression and privilege

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

COURSE TEXTS AND COURSEWARE:
Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity. Julia Serano
Red Light: Superheros, Saints, and Sluts. Edited by Anna Camilleri
Brazen Femme: Queering Femininity. Edited by Chloe Brushwood Rose and Anna Camilleri
Other available on-line through the SFU library.

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:
Attendance and Participation: 20%
Leading Discussion: 15%
Mid-term Exam: 15%
Film Review: 20%
Photo Essay: 20%
Photo Essay Presentation: 10%

PREREQUISITE: 30 units, including three units in GSWS. Students who have taken GDST 301, or WS 301 Special Topics: Theorizing Queer Genders may not take this course for further credit.
LIST OF TOPICS COVERED/LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to the Course
Week 2: (Queer) Femininity and/in History
Week 3: Femininity and Feminism
Week 4: Intersectionality and Femininity
Week 5: Femininity and Violence
Week 6: Activism and Academics
Week 7: Femmes in and outside the LGBTQI++ community
Week 8: Femininity and Embodiment
Week 9: Femininity and Literature
Week 10: ‘Mid-term’
Week 11: Photo Essay Presentation
Week 12: Photo Essay Presentation
Week 13: The Future of Femininity Class Party