GSWS 319-4: Special Topics in GSWS
From Fractured Fairy Tales to Dystopian Futures:
Queer and Feminist Popular Literature and Media for Youth

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Lecture: Mondays 9:30 – 13:20; HC 1325

Course Description:
Young adult (YA) literature and media are incredibly sensitive to sociocultural shifts and many children’s literature scholars work within a liminal and constantly shifting theoretical space in order to understand the young adult literary landscape. With the emergence of novels that feature more empowered female characters, more LGBT characters, and more nuanced male characters, how do we know what theoretical frame to use for critical analysis, especially since such frameworks are in a constant state of flux. Students taking this course can expect to read a significant amount of literature and should be prepared to engage in close readings of each text from multiple perspectives throughout the term, culminating in a longer final paper.

Educational Goals:
• Engage in critical thinking on theories of gender and sexuality in relation to literature;
• Prepare and defend a well-argued research paper arguing on some aspect of representations of gender/sexuality in a particular YA novel;
• Examine gender/sexuality through multiple theoretical lenses reading the novels as textual representations of current cultural phenomena;
• Present researched findings to the class, utilizing the theoretical frameworks provided through critical readings of self- and teacher-selected articles.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Critical Response Essays (2)  10%
In-Class Presentation 15%
Mid-Term Paper 25%
Author Project 15%
Final Research Paper 35%

Prerequisite: 30 units including three units in GSWS or WS or GDST.
Course Texts and Courseware:

Required:

* Glory O’Brien’s History of the Future (Little, Brown, 2014), A.S. King
* Two Boys Kissing (Knopf, 2013), David Levithan
* The Darkest Part of the Forest (Little, Brown, 2015), Holly Black
* Teeth (Simon Pulse, 2013), Hannah Moskowitz
* If I Was Your Girl (Flatiron, 2016), Meredith Russo
* Ms. Marvel (Marvel, 2014), G. Willow Wilson

Recommended:

* Over the Rainbow (U of Michigan, 2011), Kidd and Abate
* Young Adult Literature: From Romance to Realism (American Library Association, 2010), Michael Cart

*Students will also be expected to find and watch a number of films and TV shows throughout the semester. Additional materials will be provided in class or electronically.*