Course Description:
This is an introductory course that will help students to build a groundwork for critical thinking on sexuality as well as how it is represented or reflected in popular media, literature, film, television, news programming and lived experiences. Throughout the course, we will explore the ways in which sexuality intersects with other crucial cultural issues such as new media, sexual explicitness in advertising and popular media, discourses of sexual trauma and oppression in news media and journalism, sexual identity formation and gender politics, and sexuality in literature and film. Students will be expected to complete the required readings prior to class and to come to each lecture prepared with questions and comments on the assigned materials.

Educational Goals:
By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Engage in critical thinking on sexuality and related topics and intersectional theories;
- Prepare and defend a well-argued research paper examining some aspect of representations of gender in popular media;
- Research a topic related to sexuality and show evidence of the research techniques being used;
- Participate in respectful and intelligent discussion and debates on sexual culture and sexual representation(s).

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Grasshopper Jungle (Dutton, 2014), Andrew Smith
- Some Assembly Required (Simon and Schuster, 2014), Arin Andrews
- Rethinking Normal. (Simon & Schuster, 2014), Katie Rain Hill
- Articles and additional readings will be available via Canvas or other online databases.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:

- Attendance and Participation 20%
- Mid-term Exam (In-Class) 25%
- Research Assignment 25%
  - Final paper proposal (10%)
  - Annotated Bibliography (15%)
- Final Paper 30%

Prerequisite: Students who have completed GDST 200 may not complete this course for further credit.