Course Description:
In Female Masculinity, Judith Jack Halberstam argues that masculinity “becomes legible as masculinity where and when it leaves the white male middle-class body” (2). Indeed, discussions about “excessive” masculinity usually focus on men of colour; representations of “insufficient” masculinity often focus on queer, fat, or disabled men; and, masculinities, no matter how “hard” or “strong,” seem laughable in our culture if they are brought to life with a body not normally regarded as “male.” In this course, we will aim to make normative masculinity legible, interpretable, questionable, and recyclable. Yet, we will question Halberstam’s use of the word “leave.” Does masculinity always “leave” the white male middle-class body or can it be created elsewhere? Does such a thing as a “new” masculinity exist? In addition to asking how the discourse of normative masculinity requires the rejection of other masculinities, we will pay special attention to the ways in which these “other” masculinities are absorbed and transformed. We will regard masculinity, in other words, as an aesthetic of the body/self that circulates in sometimes counterintuitive ways. We will use film, literature, and articles deriving from a wide variety of theoretical approaches (including literary criticism, design, philosophy, film studies, cultural studies, etc.) to trace this circulation. Students can expect readings and classes that focus on fat masculinity, disabled masculinity, lesbian masculinity, transgender masculinity, as well as masculinities associated with Black America, Puerto Rican New York, and Mexico.

Educational Goals:
-fuller understanding of how masculinity circulates (in highly various ways) as a system of value and reward
-improved critical skills with regard to popular culture, literature, politics, and the embodied lives thereof
-increased curiosity and confidence as a viewer, creator, critic, and witness of culture
-ability to form highly unique, rigorous, imaginative, and relevant arguments

Course Texts and Courseware:
1. Five articles distributed online (via Canvas)
   Novels/Memoir:
2. Stone Butch Blues, Leslie Feinberg (free PDF, distributed online)
3. Kitchen Confidential, Anthony Bourdain (SFU bookstore or $5-$12 on Amazon – order ASAP)
4. Testo Junkie, Beatriz Preciado (SFU bookstore)
5. The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, Junot Díaz (SFU bookstore)
   Films:
4. Full Metal Jacket (rent on iTunes, $4.99)
5. The Dark Knight Trilogy (Batman x 3, dir. Christopher Nolan) – Netflix and iTunes
6. Y Tu Mama Tambien (rent on iTunes, $4.99)
7. Do the Right Thing (rent on iTunes, $3.99)
If a student rents the films online, then the cost for this course will be approximately $60.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Participation   20%
Mid-Term   20%
Writing Assignment, TBA 30%
Final Exam 30%

Prerequisites: 15 units