GSWS 331-4: Queer Genders

Professor: Dr. Helen Leung
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Lecture: Mondays 9:30 – 13:20; WMC 2200

Office: AQ 5104A
Office hours: TBC

Course Description:
This course introduces students to current debates on gender identity and gender difference from queer and trans perspectives. Through examining the formation, influences, and critical directions of the field of “Transgender Studies,” we will explore the synergy as well as tension between trans, queer, and feminist perspectives. We will pay special attention to how diverse communities negotiate difference and the possibility of intellectual, political, and creative alliance across disagreement. While most of the theoretical works studied are by Anglophone North American authors, we will address their limits through a consideration of queer/trans films from Europe and Asia.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course, students are expected to: (1) demonstrate knowledge of Transgender Studies as a field; (2) be conversant with the critical tension and mutual influences between queer, trans, and feminist thought; (3) be able to identify the limits of Anglophone/North American theories and anticipate directions of future works in the field.

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle, eds. The Transgender Studies Reader (Routledge, 2006).

Films (screened in class)
- Romeos (dir. Sabine Bernardi, 2011, Germany)
- Wild Side (dir. Sébastien Lifshitz, 2004, France/Belgium/UK)
- The Iron Ladies (dir. Youngyooth Thongkonthun, 2000, Thailand)
- Drifting Flowers (dir. Zero Chou, 2008, Taiwan)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Attendance & Participation: 20%
- Midterm Exam (take-home, open book): 20%
- Final Paper (8-10 pages): 30%
- Film Analysis (1-2 pages): 10%
- Group Project: 20%

Prerequisite: 30 units, including 3 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.