Fall 2013 (1137)

GSWS 830-5: ST Graduate Seminar I: Local Sex On Global Screen

Professor: Dr. Helen Leung
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Office: AQ 5104A (Burnaby campus)
Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Mondays 9:30 – 13:20; SFU Vancouver HC 1530

Course Description:
This course examines the globalization of sexual cultures and the emergence of queer cinema and screen culture outside of North America and Europe. We will analyze the impact of globalization on local expressions of sexual practice and gender identity. In turn, we will also explore the various ways in which these mediatized expressions reframe our understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues from postcolonial, transcultural, and comparative perspectives.

Learning Outcomes:
Students are expected to:
- gain a comprehensive understanding of current theoretical perspectives on queer cinema, its relation to the globalization of sexual cultures and to LGBT identities
- acquire literacy in the aesthetics and politics of queer cinemas outside of the West through in-depth case studies of influential films
- learn research techniques and critical skills in writing film analysis
- develop creative and interdisciplinary perspectives on sexuality and culture
- learn to conduct original research on cinema studies and develop personal style and technique for formal research presentation

Course Texts and Courseware:
- GSWS 431/830 Custom Courseware

Films
- *Fire* (Deepa Mehta, 1996, Canada & India)
- *Farewell My Concubine* (Chen Kaige, 1993, China & Hong Kong)
- *Love of Siam* (Chookiat Sakeerakul, 2007, Thailand)
- *Drifting Flowers* (Zero Chou, 2008, Taiwan)
- *I Don’t Want To Sleep Alone* (Tsai Ming-liang, 2006, Malaysia & Taiwan)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance: 10%
Participation: 10%
Film Blog: 30%
Research Presentation: 10%
Final Research Paper (15 pages): 40%

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” ([WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING](http://WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING))
Description of Assignments:

**Attendance & Participation:** The attendance grade (10%) reflects the punctuality and regularity of your class attendance. The participation grade (10%) reflects your degree of preparedness and involvement during class discussion, your contribution to the learning environment, and your efforts in completing class assignments.

**Film Blog:** Students are required to write a response to each film screened in class on a group blog. Interactive comments on each other’s responses are encouraged and will be given extra credit. Details on how to register for the group blog will be emailed to you. The film blog will be graded on both efforts and content.

**Research Presentation:** A 20-min. presentation on your research project, in the format of a conference paper, accompanied by an annotated bibliography to document your research process.

**Final Research Paper:** (15 pages): A research paper on any aspects of queer cinema or queer screen culture. Prior consultation with the instructor on appropriate research topics is required.