GSWS 100-3: Sex Talk: Introduction to Contemporary Issues in Sexuality Studies

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Lecture: Thursdays 8:30 – 10:20 AQ3154
Office hours: TBA
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Course Description:
This course introduces students to issues in contemporary sexuality studies through an exploration of sexual culture and popular media (such as television, popular music, screen culture, and social media). Topics covered include: theoretical perspectives on sexuality; raunch culture and power feminism; the “pornification” of media culture; social media and sexualization; sexual trauma and “therapeutic culture,” sexual identity and sexual diversity.

Learning Outcomes:
From course readings, class exercises, discussion, and assignments, students are expected to:
- gain an overall understanding of contemporary theoretical perspectives on sexuality
- participate in informed debates on sexual culture and popular media
- develop critical skills and research techniques to analyze how sex is talked about in contemporary culture, to what ends, and with what consequences
- develop capacity for intellectual curiosity and creative thinking

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Jackie Kay, *Trumpet*
- Custom Courseware

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & Participation: 20%
Mid-Term Exam: 20%
Research Assignment: 30%
Final Exam: 30%

Prerequisite: none