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:
REQUIRED TEXTS
Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle, eds. The Transgender Studies Reader (Routledge, 2006).

FILMS (dependent on availability and subject to change)
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)

***Provisional***

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

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 #10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)
DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

**Attendance & Participation:** Class attendance and degree of involvement during class discussion and contribution to the learning environment.

**Midterm Exam:** A take-home, open book exam that tests students’ knowledge of course texts studied during the first six weeks.

**Final Paper:** A critical essay (8-10 pages) that develops a relevant topic of your choice based on a combination of class reading and independent research.

**Film Analysis:** A short 2-page response to one of the films viewed in class.

**Collaborative Project:** A group project that approaches issues related to the course from a creative and/or socially relevant perspective.