GSWS 431-4: Local Sex On Global Screen

Helen Leung
Email: hhl@sfu.ca
Lecture: Tuesdays 8:30 – 10:20 HC 2510
Office hours: TBD
Office: AQ 5104A

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 Objectives:
Students can expect 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 cinema 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
- Experience collaborative work and cultivate awareness and self-reflection of the collaboration process

Course Texts and Courseware:
Shohini, Ghosh, Fire: A Queer Film Classic (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2010)
Helen Hok-Sze Leung, Farewell My Concubine: A Queer Film Classic (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2010)
Custom Courseware

Films:
- Fire (Deepa Mehta, 1996, Canada & India)
- Love of Siam (Chookiat Sakeerakul, 2007, Thailand)
- Farewell My Concubine (Chen Kaige, 1993, China & Hong Kong)
- The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros (Auraeus Solito, 2005, The Philippines)
- Drifting Flowers (Zero Chou, 2008, Taiwan)
- I Don’t Want to Sleep Alone (Tsai Ming-liang, 2006, Malaysia & Taiwan)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & Participation 10%
Film Blog 20%
Exploratory Research Report (4-5 pages) 20%
Final Research Paper (10 pages) 30%
Group Project & Individual Report 20%

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)