WS 301-4: ST- Theorizing Queer Genders: Intersecting Transgender, Queer and Feminist Perspectives on Gender

Helen Leung

This course introduces students to current debates on the diverse and complex ways in which queer subjects negotiate gender identity and gender difference. We will explore recent theoretical and cultural works on queer forms of gender and consider the challenges they pose to our understanding of sex, gender, sexuality, and the body. Paying attention to the tension as well as the convergence between transgender, queer and feminist perspectives, we will consider how these different communities may engage with each other and build productive alliances. The course will hopefully open up new theoretical and political possibilities for us to imagine gender diversity and sexual freedom.

Required readings:

A course reader will be available at the university bookstore. The reader will contain essays by Kate Bornstein, Judith Butler, Pat Califia, Heather Findley, Judith Halberstam, Bernice Hausman, Jacob Hale, Emi Koyama, Sally Munt, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Jay Prosser, Sandy Stone, Robyn Wiegman, and Stephan Whittle.

Grading Structure:
- Attendance & participation: 15%
- 1 in-class critical response: 15%
- 1 take-home short paper (3 – 4 pages): 20%
- Research paper outline (one page): 5%
- Research paper (8 – 10 pages): 25%
- Collaborative community/art project: 20%

Course Requirements:
*Attendance and participation:* The course consists of a combination of lecture and tutorial. The attendance and participation grade will reflect students’ attendance at both lecture and tutorial classes, degree of involvement during class discussion, and contribution to the learning environment.
*In-class critical response papers:* Short critical analysis of a text or film.
*Take-home short paper:* A 3-4 page critical analysis of selected course texts.
*Research Paper:* A critical essay that develops a relevant topic of your choice based on a combination of class reading and independent research outside of the course syllabus.
*Collaborative community or art project:* A group project that approaches issues related to the course from a creative and socially relevant perspective.

Prerequisites:
Six credits in Women’s Studies including WS 101 and/or WS 102.

THE DEPARTMENT OF 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.