GDST 200-3: Thinking About Gender

Helen Hok-Sze Leung

In this course, students will develop analytical skills to think about gender from critical, creative and culturally diverse perspectives. Through theoretical readings, fiction and films, we will explore the following topics: the history of the concept 'gender'; gender and mass culture; gender and science; gender and nationalism; transgender politics; drag culture and gender performance; gender, sexuality and the critique of colonialism. Throughout the course, we will question conventional beliefs about gender and challenge ourselves to explore new ways of imagining and living gender.

Required readings:
- Custom Courseware package (with essays by John Berger, Susan Bordo, Kate Bornstein, Cheryl Chase, Anthony Cortese, Ann Fausto-Sterling, Judith Halberstam, Sherrie Innes, Cora Kaplan, Mary Layoun, Anne McClintock, Stephen Whittle; and fiction by Ivan E. Coyote and Mahasweta Devi.)
- Scott, Melissa, Shadow Man. 1996. Tor. Note: This book is out of print and is available in copy form as a separate Custom Courseware package.

Films (to be screened in class)
Wedding in Galilee (dir. Michel Khleife)
Hermaphrodites Speak! (dir. Intersex Society of North America)
Genderants (dir. Monica Tetreau)
Venuz Boyz (dir. Gabriel Bauer)
Ke Kulana He Mahu: Remembering A Sense of Place (dir. Kathryn Xian & Brent Anbe)

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
20% - Attendance and participation
20% - Exploratory essay (2 – 3 pages)
30% - Research essay (6 – 8 pages)
30% - Final exam (take home)

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.