GDST 200 “Thinking About Gender”

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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”; intersexuality and medical ethics; gender and mass culture; gender, family, and nation; transgender issues; 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 TEXTS
Course Reader

FILMS (to be screened in class)
*Intersex/Redefining Sex* (dir. Intersex Society of North America)
*Gendernauts* (dir. Monica Treut)
*Venuz Boyz* (dir. Gabriel Bauer)
*Ke Kulana He Mahu: Remembering A Sense of Place* (dir. Kathryn Xian & Brent Anbe)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING PROFILE

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploratory essay (2-3 pages)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research essay (6-8 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (take-home)</td>
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DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

**Attendance & participation:** The course will consist of a combination of lectures and tutorials. During tutorials, students are expected to actively participate in discussions, exercises, and group workshops. The attendance and participation grade will reflect students’ attendance in both lectures and tutorials, level of enthusiasm and thoughtfulness in tutorials, willingness to contribute to class discussions, and punctuality in making assignment deadlines.

**Exploratory Essay:** A 2-3 pg. exploratory analysis of gender in everyday culture.

**Critical Essay:** A 6-8 pg. critical essay on an assigned topic based on class reading that also requires some outside research.

**Final Exam:** A take-home essay exam consisting of short questions and a short essay that test students’ understanding of class reading, ability to make creative connections between concepts in different texts, and capacity to apply these concepts to critical analyses of gender.

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.