GENDER STUDIES 200-3: 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 concept “gender” and its relation to the sexed body; gender and mass culture; gender, family, and nation; transgender politics; drag culture and the performance of gender; gender 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:
Kate Bornstein, My Gender Workbook (Routledge, 1998, ISBN 0415916739)
Custom Courseware (essays by Ann Fausto-Sterling, Cheryl Chase, Sherrie Innes, Judith Halberstam and others)
Melissa Scott, Shadow Man (Tor, 1996) Note: This book is out of print and is available in copy form as a separate Custom Courseware package.

Films:
Intersex: Redefining Sex (dir. Intersex Society of North America)
Drag Kings On Tour (dir. Sonia Slutsky)
Ke Kulana He Mahu: Remembering A Sense of Place (dir. Kathryn Xian & Brent Anbe)

Course Requirements & Grading Structure:
Attendance & participation 20%
Exploratory essay (2-3 pages) 15%
Research exercise (2 pages) 10%
Research essay (6-8 pages) 25%
Final exam (part in-class, part take-home) 30%

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.