GENDER STUDIES 200-3   Thinking about Gender

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
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; intersexuality and medical ethics; gender and mass culture; 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)
- Jackie Kay, Trumpet (Vintage, 2000)
- 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.
- GDST 200 Custom Courseware (with essays by Ann Fausto-Sterling, Sharon Preves, Cheryl Chase, Susan Bordo & Judith Halberstam)

FILMS
- Intersex: Redefining Sex (dir. Intersex Society of North America)
- Gendernauts (dir. Monica Treut)
- Excerpts from Venus Boyz (dir. Gabriel Bauer) & Drag Kings On Tour (dir. Sonia Slutsky)
- Ke Kulana He Mahu: Remembering A Sense of Place (dir. Kathryn Xian & Brent Anbe)

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE
- Attendance & participation 20%
- Exploratory essay (3-4 pages) 20%
- Research exercise (2 pages) 10%
- Research essay (6-8 pages) 20%
- Final exam (part 1 take-home, part 2 in-class) 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