Course Description:
In this course we will interrogate the notion of gender from critical, creative, and culturally diverse perspectives. Our readings will help us develop analytical tools to investigate the relation of gender to topics as diverse as biology, social construction, the sexed body, transgenderism, language and images, ethnicity, performativity, drag culture, indigenous knowledge, disability, violence, and activism. As our discussions will revolve around issues of representation and self-representation, we will pay close attention to the rhetorical strategies through which writers and critics deconstruct and rearticulate normative assumptions about gender. Creative assignments will help us to think more critically and creatively about our own gender as students will be asked to situate their work in their own social positions and identifications.
You are encouraged to begin reading Jackie Kay's novel at the start of classes.

Course Texts and Courseware:
Additional readings will be provided through WebCT.

In-class Screenings:
*Screaming Queens* (2005), dir. Susan Stryker and Victor Silverman

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance and active participation 20%
Exploratory essay (5-6 pages) 20%
Mid-term exam (in-class questions & take-home paper) 30%
Final research paper (7-8 pages) 30%

Prerequisites: None

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.
IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)