WS 103-3  Thinking About Gender  

Helen Leung

In this course, students will develop analytical skills to think about gender from a critical, creative and multicultural perspective. Through readings of theoretical texts, fiction, and film from diverse cultural contexts, we will discuss the following topics: the history of the concept ‘gender’; gender and nationalism; gender and science; femininity and the popular media; masculinity and fashion; alternative masculinities; gender and queer sexuality; transgender politics; gender and new technology. Throughout the course, we will question conventional beliefs about gender and challenge ourselves to explore new ways of imagining and living gender.

The course will consist of a combination of lecture, film screening, and group discussion.

**Required readings:**
Kate Bornstein, *My Gender Workbook* (Routledge, 1998)
Melissa Scott, *Shadow Man* (Tor, 1996)
Custom Courseware (A collection of essays by Susan Bordo, Jonathan Dollimore, Ann Fausto-Sterling, Judith Halberstam, Cora Kaplan, Mary Layoun, Stephen Whitehead and others.)

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

**THIS COURSE CAN BE USED FOR CREDIT TOWARDS THE WOMEN’S STUDIES GENDER MINOR**

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.