WS 301-4: ST: Theorizing Queer Genders

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Thursday, 10:30-2:20

This course introduces students to current debates on gender identity and gender difference from the perspectives of queer subjects. We will explore recent theoretical and cultural works on queer forms of gender and consider the challenges they pose to our understanding of sex, gender, sexuality, and the body. Paying attention to the tension as well as convergence between transgender, queer, and feminist perspectives, we will consider how these different communities may engage with each other and build productive alliances. The course will hopefully open up new theoretical and political possibilities for us to imagine gender diversity and sexual freedom.

Required readings:
Course reader (with essays by Jay Prossner, Judith Halberstam, Claire Hemmings, Jacob Hale, Pat Califia, Emi Koyama, Minnine Bruce Pratt, Heather Findley and Judith Butler). This reader will be available at the university bookstore.
Joan Nestle, Clare Howell & Riki Wichins, Genderqueer: Voices From Beyond the Sexual Binary. 2002. Alyson

Course Films:
Juggling Gender (dir. Tami Gold, 1992)
Gendernauts (dir. Monica Treut, 1999)
A Boy Named Sue (dir. Julie Wyman, 2000)
All About My Father (dir. Even Benestad, 2002)
Hedwig and the Angry Inch (dir. John Cameron Mitchell, 2001)
Ke Kulana He Mahu: Remembering A Sense of Place (dir. Kathryn Xian & Brent Anbe, 2001)

Assignments and Grading Structure:
15% Attendance and participation
15% One in-class critical response (2 hours)
20% One take-home short paper (3-4 pgs)
30% Research paper (8-10 pgs)
20% Collaborative community/art project

Description of Assignments
• Attendance & participation: The course consists of a combination of lecture & tutorial. Your attendance & participation grade will reflect your attendance at both lecture & tutorial classes, your degree of involvement during class discussion & your contribution to the learning environment.
• In-class critical response: Short critical response to a film screening
• Take-home short paper: A 3-4 page critical analysis of selected course texts.
• Research Paper: A critical essay that develops a relevant topic of your choice based on a combination of class readings & independent research outside the course syllabus.
• Collaborative community or arts project: A group project that approaches issues related to the course from a creative & socially relevant perspective.

Prerequisites: Six credits in Women’s Studies, including WS 101 and/or WS102.

STUDENTS WHO TOOK THE COURSE WS 301-4: ST: Theorizing Queer Genders in the Fall Semester, 2002 CANNOT TAKE THIS COURSE FOR FURTHER CREDIT