This course introduces students to the field of masculinity studies and its intersections with feminist, postcolonial, queer, and critical race theories. Through theoretical readings and discussion of film, literature, and popular music, we will map the central debates surrounding masculinity and examine why masculinity is frequently thought to be “in crisis.” Students will consider the following questions: How is masculinity constructed and represented culturally, socially, and institutionally in contemporary society? How does the consideration of race, class, sexuality, as well as postcolonial and transcultural contexts inflect our understanding of masculinity? What is the relation between masculinity and sexed bodies? How might these relations be reconfigured so we can imagine more egalitarian forms of gendered embodiment?

**Required readings:**
Ousmane Sembène, *Xala* (Lawrence Hill, 1983) ISBN 0882 0806 79
Course Reader (with essays by authors including bell hooks, Robyn Wiegman, Michael Awkward, Gareth Palmer and Kam Louie)

**Film/video screenings:**
*Fight Club* (dir. David Fincher, 1999)
*Bruce Springsteen Live in New York City* (2000)
*July Rhapsody* (dir. Ann Hui, 2001)
*Venus Boyz* (dir. Gabriel Baur, 2002)
*The Road To Love* (*Tarik El Hob*) (dir. Remi Lange, 2002)

**Course requirements and Grading Structure:**
20% - Attendance & Participation
10% - Reading Response (2 pgs)
20% - Short Critical Paper (3-4 pgs)
30% - Research Paper (8-10 pgs)
20% - Collaborative Creative Project

**Description of Assignments:**
*Attendance & participation:* The course consists of a combination of lecture and tutorial. The attendance and participation grade will reflect students’ attendance at both lecture and tutorial classes, their degree of involvement during class discussion and their contribution to the learning environment.

*Reading Response:* A 2-pg response to an assigned course text or film.

*Short Critical Paper:* A critical analysis (3-4 pgs) of selected texts based on assigned questions.

*Research Paper:* A critical essay (8-10 pgs) that develops a relevant topic of the student’s choice based on a combination of class reading and independent research outside of the course syllabus.

*Collaborative Creative Project:* A group project that creatively explores issues of masculinity. The project will be graded collectively (i.e. students in one group will receive the same grade for that assignment).

**Prerequisites:** WS 101 or WS 102 or GDST 200

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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.