

**GSWS 331**  
**Queer Genders**  
Monday 9:30 am - 1:20 pm  
WMC 2200

Dr. Helen Leung  
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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to current debates on gender identity and gender difference from queer and trans perspectives. Through examining the formation, influences, and critical directions of the field of “Transgender Studies,” we will explore the synergy as well as tension between trans, queer, and feminist perspectives. We will pay special attention to how diverse communities negotiate difference and the possibility of intellectual, political, and creative alliance across disagreement. While most of the theoretical works studied are by Anglophone North American authors, we will address their limits through a consideration of queer/trans films from Europe and Asia.

#### REQUIRED TEXT

Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle, eds. *The Transgender Studies Reader* (Routledge, 2006).  
Additional articles will be made available on Canvas

#### FILMS (screened in class)

*Romeos* (dir. Sabine Bernardi, 2011, Germany)  
*Wild Side* (dir. Sébastien Lifshitz, 2004, France/Belgium/UK)  
*Beautiful Boxer* (dir. Ekachai Uekrongtham, 2004, Thailand)

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students are expected to: (1) demonstrate knowledge of Transgender Studies as a field; (2) be conversant with the critical tension and mutual influences between queer, trans, and feminist thought; (3) be able to identify the limits of Anglophone/North American theories and anticipate directions of future works in the field.

#### ASSIGNMENT & GRADING STRUCTURE

Attendance & Participation	10%
Conversation Circle Moderation	10%
Midterm Exam (take-home, open book)	30%
Film Analysis (2 pages)	10%
Final Paper (8-10 pages)	30%
Group Project	10%

## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

**Attendance & Participation:** Class attendance, punctuality, and degree of involvement during class discussion and contribution to the learning environment.

**Conversation Circle:** Each student is required to lead one conversation circle on an assigned topic. The responsibility involves preparing questions to stimulate small group discussion, moderate conversations, document highlights, and present relevant outcomes to the entire class. Each leader will be peer reviewed by the group they lead.

**Midterm Exam:** A take-home, open book exam that tests students' knowledge of course texts studied during the first six weeks

**Film Analysis:** A short 2-page response to one of the feature films viewed in class. The response *must be submitted within one week* of the film screening. Late submission will not be marked or given credit.

**Final Research Paper:** A critical essay (8-10 pages) that develops a relevant topic and includes independent outside research. A detailed grading rubric will be available later.

**Group Project:** A collaborative project in which students explore how to apply their research for the final paper in socially relevant and/or creative ways. More details will be made available later.

## CLASS POLICIES

- Late assignments will not be accepted unless an extension has been negotiated with me at least four days prior to the due date.
- All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, and in 12-pt font. Please observe the word limit for every assignment. Pages over the limit will not be marked.
- Please use MLA documentation style in all research assignments to reference your sources accurately and consistently.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an F in the assignment. It is highly recommended that all students finish the "Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism: A Self-Directed Tutorial" provided by the SFU library on-line resources. Please keep all outlines and drafts in case questions of plagiarism arise. Also, keep back-up copies of all assignments.

## READING SCHEDULE

Week 1 Jan 6

### **Introduction**

Week 2 Jan 13

### **Background & State of the Field**

Stephen Whittle, Foreword

Susan Stryker, "(De)Subjugated Knowledges: An Introduction to Transgender Studies"

Week 3 Jan 20

### **Feminist Encounters**

Ch.8: Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto"

Ch.10: Janice Raymond, "Sappho By Surgery"

Ch.15: Stephen Whittle, "Where Did We Go Wrong?"

### **Conversation Circle 1**

Week 4 Jan 27

### **Trans Emergence: Activism & Scholarship**

Ch.17: Sandy Stone: "The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto"

Ch.18: Kate Bornsten: "Gender Terror, Gender Rage"

Ch.19: Susan Stryker, "My Words to Victor Frankenstein ..."

### **Conversation Circle 2**

Week 5 Feb 3

### **Trans Masculinities & Gay/Lesbian Communities**

Ch.27: David Valentine, "I Went To Bed With My Own Kind Once ..."

Ch.29: Patrick Califia, "Manliness"

Ch.32: Gayle Rubin, "Of Catamites and Kings"

### **Conversation Circle 3**

Week 6 Feb 10 **Family Day. No class.**

Week 7 Feb 17

### **Midterm Exam Due**

Film Screening: *Romeos* (Discussion will be led by guest facilitator Rob Bittner)

Week 8 Feb 24

### **Trans Affect: Queering Shame & Sadness**

Ch.36: "Stephen Gordon's Loneliness and the Difficulties of Queer History"

Film Screening: *Wild Side*

Week 9 Mar 3

### **Somatechnics: Ethics, Embodiment & Body Transformations**

Ch.39: Nikki Sullivan, "Transmogrification"

### **Conversation Circle 4**

Week 10 Mar 10

**Decolonizing Trans Studies**

Ch.46: Katrina Roen "Transgender Theory & Embodiment: The Risk of Racial Marginalization"

Ch.27: Evan B. Towle & Lynn M. Morgan, "Romancing the Transgender Native"

**Conversation Circle 5**

Week 11 Mar 17

**Future Directions**

Susan Stryker & Aren Z. Aizura, "Introduction: Transgender Studies 2.0" (available on Canvas)

**Workshop on Final Paper**

Week 12 Mar 24

**Roundtable on Final Paper Topics (Part 1)**

Film Screening: *Beautiful Boxer*

Week 13 Mar 31

**Roundtable on Final Paper Topics (Part 2)**

**Group Project Presentations (Part 1)**

Week 14 Apr 7

**Group Project Presentations (Part 2)**

**Final Paper due via Canvas or email at noon on April 14, 2013.**