

**GSWS 826**  
**Graduate Seminar on Queer/Trans Studies**

Fall 2016  
Mon 9:30 - 1:30  
RCB 8106

Dr. Helen Leung  
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Office Hours: Mon/Thurs 2-3 pm or by appointment  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This seminar provides students with an overview of the formation, development, and current directions of the fields configured, respectively, as “queer theory” and “trans theory.” We will examine the formative questions that shape “queer” and “trans” as distinct analytical categories and the key terms of debate in each field. We will explore the various critical challenges currently posed to queer and trans studies through a consideration of colonial histories, the politics of border, securitization and migration, the globalization of LGBTQ identities, transnational/local taxonomies, and the studies of queer ecologies and transanimalities.

**EDUCATIONAL GOALS**

Students are expected to:

- acquire critical literacy in the intellectual foundation of queer and trans studies
- become conversant with contemporary debates on sexual and gender variance
- develop critical skills to conceptualize, develop, and present an original research project on topic relevant to queer and/or trans studies

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

All required articles are available on-line through SFU library or as PDFs on Canvas.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

Anthologies

*The Routledge Queer Studies Reader*

*The Transgender Studies Reader 1 & 2*

*LGBT Transnational Identity & the Media*

*The Politics of Sexuality in Latin America*

*Queer Indigenous Studies*

*Queer African Reader*

Journals & Book Series

*GLQ: Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies*

*TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*

*Queer Studies in Media & Popular Culture*

*Sexuality Studies* Book Series, UBC Press

*Queer Asia* Book Series, Hong Kong University Press

*Perverse Modernities* Book Series, Duke University Press

*Sexual Cultures* Book Series, NYU Press

## ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING PROFILE

Attendance & Participation	10%
Short Weekly Reading Response (checked not graded)	10%
Class Presentation	20%
Research Presentation	20%
Research Paper (15-20 pages)	40%

## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

**Attendance & Participation:** The course will be conducted as a seminar and students are expected to participate actively in class discussion. The participation grade will reflect students' attendance record, degree of preparation, level of active involvement during class discussion, and general contribution to the learning environment.

**Short Weekly Reading Response:** Every student should post at least once on the weekly discussion section on Canvas. The aim of the assignment is to encourage more engaged reading as well as to extend classroom discussion on-line. The content of your posts should be related to the week's reading but can also include issues from past readings and/or class discussions. Entries may be as short or long as you like but should be thoughtful and interesting. Of course, everyone is also expected to be respectful of each other. Your entries will not be formally graded but they be checked and evaluated for efforts and consistency.

**Class Presentation:** The aim of this assignment is to give students a chance to experience leading class discussion. Think of it as your rehearsal for being a Teaching Assistant! Choosing a topic from the course schedule, each student will prepare a short (10-15 min) presentation on one aspect of that week's reading and lead class discussion on the topic.

**Research Paper:** Each student will write a 15-20 pg. (typed and double-spaced) research paper on a relevant topic of their choice. Ph.D. and M.A. Thesis students may choose to work on a relevant part of their thesis project for this assignment. M.A. Coursework students should develop a focussed and self-contained research topic for this paper. All students should consult with the instructor about the suitability of their project.

**Research Presentation:** Each student will give a 20-minute presentation of their research paper project. At least three days prior to the presentation, the following must be made available via email to the rest of the class:

- a short description of your research project (1-2 pages)
- an annotated bibliography

These presentations will be conducted as a workshop. Each part of the workshop will consist of two or three 20-minute paper presentations, based on each student's final research project. Those not presenting during the session will serve as a moderator or respondent. The moderator's job is to introduce the panelists, keep time, and moderate discussions. The respondent's job is to give a short 5-minute response to each paper presentation. There will be a planning session prior to the workshop where we organize ourselves and prepare publicity material. We will also invite other interested graduate students from the department to participate as audience.

## READING SCHEDULE

Week 1 Sep 12

### Introduction

Week 2 Sep 19

### Genealogies

Eve Sedgwick, "Queer and Now"

Judith Butler, "Critically Queer"

Sandy Stone, "The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto"

Susan Stryker, "(De)subjugated Knowledge: An Introduction to Transgender Studies"

Week 3 Sep 26

### Categories

Gayle Rubin, "Of Catamites and Kings"

Jack (Judith) Halberstam, "Butch/FTM Border War and the Masculine Continuum"

David Valentine, "Imagining Transgender"

Neil Garcia, "Postcolonial Camp: Hybridity and Performative Inversions in Zsazsa Zaturannah"

Week 4 Oct 3

### Bodies

Susan Stryker, "My Words to Victor Frankenstein above the Village of Chamounix: Performing Transgender Rage"

Robert McRuer, "Compulsory Able-Bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Experience"

Anna Mollow, "Is Sex Disability? Queer Theory and the Disability Drive"

Eva Hayward, "Lessons From A Starfish"

"The Cripple and the Starfish" by ANOHNI (formerly Antony & the Johnsons):

(studio) <https://youtu.be/8Y-cLrIKrjY> (live) <https://youtu.be/dz1LJP8tmhw>

Week 5 Oct 10 Thanksgiving Holiday. No Class.

Week 6 Oct 17

### Borders

Gloria Anzaldúa, "The New Mestiza Nation: A Multicultural Movement"

Jasbir Puar, "Queer Times, Queer Assemblages"

Jason Ritchie, "Pinkwashing, Homonationalism, and Israel–Palestine: The Conceits of Queer Theory and the Politics of the Ordinary"

Eithne Luibheid, "Queer/Migration: An Unruly Body of Scholarship"

Week 7 Oct 24

### Diasporas

Gayatri Gopinath, "Impossible Desires"

Tan Hoang Nguyen, "The Rise, and Fall, of a Gay Asian American Porn Star"

Audrey Yue, "Regulating Queer Domesticity in the Neoliberal Diaspora"

Week 8 Oct 31

**Queer Asia: Area As Method**

Peter Jackson, Introduction to *Queer Bangkok*

Audrey Yue, Introduction to *Queer Singapore*

Tom Boellstorff, "Dubbing Culture: Indonesian *Gay* and *Lesbi* Subjectivities and Ethnography in an already Globalized World"

Week 9 Nov 7

**Decolonial & Indigenous Critiques**

Qwo-Li Driskill et al "Queer Indigenous Studies: Introduction"

Scott Lauria Morgensem, "Global Desires and Transnational Solidarity: Negotiating Indigeneity Among the Worlds of Queer Politics"

Tome Boellstorff et al, "Decolonizing Transgender: A Roundtable Discussion"

Saylesh Wesley, "Twin-Spirited Woman: *Sts'iyóye smestiyexw slhá:li*"

Week 10 Nov 14

**Queer Ecologies & Tranimalities**

Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands and Bruce Erickson: "Introduction: A Genealogy of Queer Ecologies"

Cleo Woelfle-Erskine and July Cole, "Transfiguring the Anthropocene: Stochastic Reimaginings of Human-Beaver Worlds"

Paige M. Johnson, "They Look Back: The Animalization and Self-Articulation of Trans Genitalia"

*Trannymals Go To Court* (dir. Dylan Vade & Abe Bernard): <https://vimeo.com/159712942>

Week 11 Nov 21

**Research Presentations**

Breanna

Charis

Week 12 Nov 28

**Research Presentations**

Nikki

Jane

Dani

Week 13 Dec 5

**Final Paper Clinic**

**End-of-Term Wrap Party**

Final paper must be emailed to me by **Dec 8, 2016 at 9 am**. Late papers will not be accepted.