



GDST 200-3 – THINKING ABOUT GENDER

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Lecture: Mondays 8:30 am – 10:20 am AQ 3153

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Course Description:

In this course we will interrogate the notion of gender from critical, creative, and culturally diverse perspectives. Our readings will help us develop analytical tools to investigate the relation of gender to topics as diverse as biology, social construction, the sexed body, transgenderism, language and images, ethnicity, performativity, drag culture, indigenous knowledge, disability, violence, and activism. As our discussions will revolve around issues of representation and self-representation, we will pay close attention to the rhetorical strategies through which writers and critics deconstruct and rearticulate normative assumptions about gender. Creative assignments will help us to think more critically and creatively about our own gender as students will be asked to situate their work in their own social positions and identifications.

You are encouraged to begin reading Jackie Kay's novel at the start of classes.

Course Texts and Courseware:

Judith Lorber and Lisa Jean Moore, *Gendered Bodies: Feminist Perspectives*.
Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury, 2007

Kate Bornstein, *My Gender Workbook*, New York: Routledge, 1998.

Julia Serano, *Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Feminism*.
Berkeley, CA: Seal, 2007.

Jackie Kay, *Trumpet*. New York: Random House, 1998.

Additional readings will be provided through WebCt.

In-class Screenings:

The Crying Game (1992), dir. Neil Jordan

Screaming Queens (2005), dir. Susan Stryker and Victor Silverman

Two-spirit People: The Berdache Tradition in Native American Culture (1991), dir. Michel Beauchemin, Lori Levy,
and Gretchen Vogel.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:

Attendance and active participation	20%
Exploratory essay (5-6 pages)	20%
Mid-term exam (in-class questions & take-home paper)	30%
Final research paper (7-8 pages)	30%

Prerequisites: None