

GSWS 1140: Special Topics “Transgender Studies”

GSWS /CRN#29496/Spring 2016

Schedule: Monday 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Site: 402 Cathedral of Learning

Instructor: Dr. Julie Beaulieu

Email: jrb107@pitt.edu

Office Location: 402B

Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:30-2:00, Wednesday 1:00-2:30, & by appointment

Required Texts

Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle, eds. *The Transgender Studies Reader* (volume one)

Required Readings

All required readings are listed on the syllabus. The book [*TSR* on schedule] is available at the Pitt Bookstore and PDFs can be found in courseweb. Please bring the readings to class.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of transgender studies. The course is first and foremost about trans contributions to our shifting understandings of sex, gender, identity, and the body in theory, culture, art, psychology, science, and activism. Some of the topics we will examine include: the history and emergence of transgender theory, global understandings of trans issues, feminist/queer encounters with trans theories, the politics of trans visibility, and trans lives in film and literature. We will read foundational texts by Sandy Stone, Susan Stryker, Les Feinberg, Jay Prosser, and Patrick Califia, as well as recent work in the field. The course will cover major topics within the discipline, including queer/trans “border wars,” intersectional approaches in trans theory, the various meanings and uses of “trans” in different disciplines, and the relationship between trans theories and existing models of sex, gender, and sexuality. We’ll pay close attention to how transgender studies has challenged and/or enhanced thinking in feminist and queer theory.

Course Objectives

- ▷ Develop and demonstrate an understanding of key terms, concepts, and ideas in transgender studies
- ▷ Recognize and articulate how history and culture shape trans experience and embodiment
- ▷ Develop research and writing skills that reflect a critical awareness of major topics in the field
- ▷ Explore the significance of transgender studies across the disciplines

Assignments

Participation (10%)

Bullet Points [five total] (15%)

Critical Review & Presentation (15%)

Short Exploratory Paper (10%)

Draft of Final Paper w/Annotated Bibliography (15%)

Final Paper (35%)

All assignments and readings are due on the day that they appear on the syllabus. Please submit hard copies of your work (no email copies). Late work will be marked down 10 points per day.

Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and posted in courseweb/blackboard.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is required. Please come to class on time and prepared. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to contact me about missing work and subsequent assignments. "Excused" absences will be given if you provide documentation. **Please expect your grade to reflect your commitment to this course.** If you miss 2 or more classes, you forfeit a portion of your participation grade. If you miss 3 or more classes, you risk failing the course.

Participation

Thoughtful participation is expected, appreciated, and part of your grade.

"A" participants: read assigned readings; maintain solid attendance; contribute to the class environment by being awake, alert, and engaged; demonstrate a willingness to participate in productive, academic, and relevant ways; refrain from private conversations during class time; do not use a telephone or any other electronic device for anything besides coursework; contribute to class discussions during every class.

"B" participants: follow the above rubric 85% of the time.

"C" participants: follow the above rubric 75% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance

"D" participants: follow the above rubric 65% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance

"F" participants: follow the above rubric 50% of the time; arrive late and/or have poor attendance

Written Work/Assignments

All written work must be proofread. If you are absent, your work is still due. Late assignments will be marked down 10% per day. Please use MLA in-text citation for all sources. NOTE: You must submit a midterm and final in order to pass the class.

Academic Integrity

All of the writing you present in this course must be your own work. Presenting the work of others as if it is your own constitutes plagiarism, and is a serious breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism refers not only to copying someone else's paper, but also to including someone else's sentences or paragraphs in your work without acknowledgement. Whenever you draw on the writing of others (for ideas, information, or examples), you must properly cite your sources. If you have questions about plagiarism, please see the University's statement on this subject, available at: <http://www.as.pitt.edu/academicintegrity.html>. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an F on the assignment, an F for the course, and/or will be reported to the university.

Assistance (Disability Statement)

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, 412-228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Cell Phones, Computers, & etc.

Use of any technology for any reason other than coursework will negatively impact your participation grade. If you are expecting an emergency call, or if you have any other reasonable reason for needing to have access to your phone during our scheduled meetings, please let me know before class. Laptops and other PDF readers (excluding phones) are permitted for course readings only.

Classroom Recording Policy

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

“Turnitin”

Students agree that by taking this course all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

ANY use of someone else’s work is grounds for failure.

E-mail Policy

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

Please give me time to respond to emails. I will do my best to reply to emails within 24 hours (M-F). I will respond to weekend emails when time permits; I will reply to urgent weekend emails as soon as possible, but otherwise please wait until Monday for a response. Email is ideally used for quick questions/clarifications. All other concerns—questions about your progress, written work, your grade, class in general—should be addressed during office hours.

Please feel free to send a reminder/follow up if I have missed an important email.

Gender-Inclusive Language Guidelines

Aspiring to create an academic environment in which people of all identities are encouraged to contribute their perspectives to academic discourse, The University of Pittsburgh Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program provides guidelines regarding gender-inclusive/non-sexist language. Following these guidelines fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment that will strengthen and enrich academic discussion and writing.

Just as sexist language excludes women’s experiences, non-gender-inclusive language excludes the experiences of trans, intersex, and genderqueer individuals. Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that recognize and affirm how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language avoids assuming a male speaker (freshman, upperclassman, chairman, mankind, etc.), erasing non-binary gender identifications, and conflating biological sex with gender expression.

Mature Content, Classroom Climate, and “Trigger Warnings”

Our course readings and classroom discussions will often be mature in content. If you’re uncomfortable with discussions about sexuality, you might want to find a course that’s more suited to your interests and comfort level. I expect everyone to come to class prepared to discuss the topic in a mature and respectful way. As with any course in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies program, readings are often political *and* personal. Readings and discussions might trigger strong feelings—anger, discomfort,

anxiety, confusion, excitement, humor, and even boredom. Some of us will have emotional responses to the readings; some of us will have emotional responses to our peers' understanding of the readings; all of us should feel responsible for creating a space that is both intellectually rigorous and respectful. Above all, be respectful (even when you strongly disagree), use each others' preferred pronouns, and be conscious of the ways that our identities position us in the classroom.

SCHEDULE: READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, & EVENTS

Monday, 1/11: Introduction to the Course

- Introduction to the course
- C. Jacob Hale, "Suggested Rules for Non-Transsexuals Writing about Transsexuals, Transsexuality, Transsexualism, or Trans _____" [in-class reading]
- Riki Anne Wilchins, "What Does It Cost to Tell the Truth?" [in-class reading]

Monday, 1/18: No Class

- Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday observance (University closed)

Monday, 1/25: Key Terms & Concepts

- Susan Stryker, "An Introduction to Transgender Terms and Concepts" [PDF]
- Leslie Feinberg, "Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come" [TSR pgs. 205-220]
- Sandy Stone, "The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto" [TSR pg. 221-235]
- Kristen Schilt and Laurel Westbrook, "Bathroom Battlegrounds and Penis Panics" [PDF]

GSWS EVENT

Thursday, 1/28

Lecture for Undergrads: "Hard Hatted Women & Wild Sisters: Lesbian Organizations in Pittsburgh Women's Movement Community"

January 28, 2016 - 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Speaker/Participants:

Patricia Ulbrich, GSWS Visiting Scholar

602 Cathedral of Learning

Sponsored by GSWS

Monday, 2/1: Early Medical Theory and Practice

- Richard von Krafft-Ebing, "Selections from *Psychopathia Sexualis* with Special Reference to Contrary Sexual Instinct: A Medico-Legal Study" [TSR pgs. 21-27]
- Magnus Hirschfeld, "Selections from *The Transvestites: The Erotic Drive to Cross-Dress*" [TSR pgs. 28-39]
- Harry Benjamin, "Transsexualism and Transvestism as Psycho-Somatic and Somato-Psychic Syndromes" [TSR pgs. 45-52]
- Joanne Meyerowitz, "A 'Fierce and Demanding' Drive" [TSR pgs. 362-386]

GSWS EVENT

Lecture: "In Search of the Clitoris: Writing and the Body in Our Bodies, Ourselves"

February 5, 2016 - 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Speaker/Participants:

Prof. Susan Wells

<http://www.cla.temple.edu/english/about-us/susan-wells/>

William Pitt Union - Lower Lounge

Monday, 2/8: Guest Lecture: Prof. Julian Gill-Peterson

- Prof. Julian Gill-Peterson, "Transgender Children in the 1960s" [lecture in class]
- Readings TBA

Monday, 2/15: Medicine/Clinics/Hormones

- Paul Preciado, *Testo Junkie* (excerpt) [PDF]
- Patrick Califia, "Trashing the Clinic and Burning Down the Beauty Parlor: Activism Transmutes Pitiably Patients into Feisty Gender Radicals" [PDF]
- Toby Beauchamp, "The Substance of Borders: Transgender Politics, Mobility, and US State Regulation of Testosterone" [PDF]

Monday, 2/22: Race & Privilege

- Emi Koyama, "Whose Feminism is it Anyway? The Unspoken Racism of the Trans Inclusion Debate" [TSR pgs. 698-705]
- Viviane Namaste, "Undoing Theory: The 'Transgender Question' and the Epistemic Violence of Anglo-American Feminist Theory" [PDF]

Monday, 2/29: Guest Lecture (class meets in 602 Cathedral of Learning)

- Kale Fajardo, "Transportation: Translating Filipino and Filipino American Tomboy Masculinities through Global Migration and Seafaring" [PDF]
- Aren Aizura et al., "Introduction" (from *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, "Decolonizing the Transgender Imaginary" [PDF])

GSWS EVENT

Lecture: "Queer/Asian Filipinos in Oregon: A Trans*Colonial Approach"
February 29, 2016 - 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Speaker/Participants:
Prof. Kale Fajardo, University of Minnesota
602 Cathedral of Learning

Monday, 3/7: Spring Break

- No Class

Monday, 3/14: Global Trans

- Aren Aizura, "The Romance of the Amazing Scalpel: 'Race', Labour and Affect in Thai Gender Reassignment Clinics" [PDF]
- Evan Towle and Lynn Morgan, "Romancing the Transgender Native: Rethinking the Use of the 'Third Gender' Concept" [TSR pgs. 666-684]
- Short exploratory paper due [paper copy in class]

Monday, 3/21: Global Trans

- Rustem Ertug Altinay, "Reconstructing the Transgender Self as a Muslim, Upper-Class Woman: The Case of Bulent Ersoy" [PDF]
- Afsaneh Najmabadi, "Verdicts of Science, Rulings of Faith: Transgender/Sexuality in Contemporary Iran" [PDF]

Monday, 3/28: Butch/FTM Masculinity

- Gayle Rubin, "Of Catamites and Kings: Reflections on Butch, Gender, and Boundaries" [*TSR* pgs. 471-481]
- Jack Halberstam, "Transgender Butch: Butch/FTM Border Wars and the Masculine Continuum" [PDF]
- Jamison Green, "Part of the Package: Ideas of Masculinity among Male-Identified Transpeople" [PDF]
- Dani McClain, "Being 'Masculine of Center' While Black," *Colorlines* [PDF]
- Ian Harvie Superhero*, selected scenes [in class]

GSWS EVENT

National Conference: Doing the Body in the 21st Century
March 31, 2016 - 9:00am - April 2, 2016 - 7:00pm
Pittsburgh Athletic Association, Cathedral of Learning, University Club
Hosted by GSWS

GSWS EVENT

Performance: Kate Bornstein
April 2, 2016 - 5:30pm - 7:00pm
Title TBA
Location TBA
Sponsored by GSWS
This event is part of the undergraduate conference on gender and the body

Monday, 4/4: Sexuality

- C. Jacob Hale, "Leatherdyke Boys and Their Daddies: How to Have Sex without Women or Men" [PDF]
- David Valentine, "'I Went to Bed with My Own Kind Once': The Erasure of Desire in the Name of Identity" [*TSR* pgs. 407-419]
- Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues* (excerpt) [PDF]
- Transparent*, selected scenes [in class]
- Draft of final paper & annotated bibliography due [paper copy due in class]

Monday, 4/11: Feminist Encounters

- Talia Bettcher, "Feminist Perspectives on Trans Issues," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* [<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-trans/>]
- Janice Raymond, "Sappho by Surgery: The Transsexually Constructed Lesbian-Feminist" [*TSR* 131-143]
- Carol Riddell, "Divided Sisterhood: A Critical Review of Janice Raymond's The Transsexual Empire" [*TSR* pgs. 144-158]

Monday, 4/18: Feminist Encounters

- Judith Butler, "Doing Justice to Someone: Sex Reassignment and Allegories of Transsexuality" [*TSR* 183-193]
- Jay Prosser, "Judith Butler: Queer Feminism, Transgender, and the Transubstantiation of Sex" [*TSR* 257-280]

Monday, 4/25: Rethinking Trans

- Talia Bettcher, “Trapped in the Wrong Theory: Rethinking Trans Oppression and Resistance” [PDF]
- Final paper workshop
- Final paper due (date TBA)

Additional Info...

ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION

Assignment descriptions and grading rubrics will be handed out in class and posted to courseweb under documents.

You are responsible for submitting 5 separate sets of bullet points by the end of the term. You may submit them for any week of readings, but you may only submit one per class. Please see the assignment description for more details.

A sign-up sheet will be circulated in class to schedule short presentations. Your critical review is due the day you present. Please see the assignment description for more details.

GSWS EVENTS (extra credit)

Extra credit will be given for 1 page (single spaced) responses to GSWS events. Responses must be turned in within 2 weeks of the event. You may submit a maximum of 3 responses. Late responses will not be accepted.