

HQ5010: Introduction to Gender and Diversity

Module Convener: Grace Lim

AY23/24, Semester 1

Weekly Lecture: Tuesday Venue: LT 28

Module Overview:

Introduction to Gender and Diversity explores a range of identity discourses, positioned within the field of literary studies. The module engages with constructions of gendered identity within culture-based categories such as gender roles, non-binary identities, race, nationality, globalization and the media, and the ways in which these categories underpin contemporary debates about diversity. Equally, the module examines how various mediums have enabled debates about gendered identities. We will consider how these debates are characterized by a focus on subjectivity, performativity, intersectionality, sexuality and an interrogation of heteronormativity.

Core Reading:

The core texts are listed below on the Weekly Schedule. Access to the reading material will be provided by the lecturer at the start of the semester.

Assessment Overview:

Critical engagement portfolio (60%)

- Subsections:

o Close-reading; 700 words (30%)

o Op-ed; 700 words (30%)

End-of-term exam (40%) Exam is OPEN BOOK.

Module structure:

- 1 3-hour class a week. The class will comprise a lecture and some seminar-style discussion. It is essential that you complete the core reading before a class to participate effectively in discussion.

- The NTUlearn module site will be used as the repository for all module materials, including class slides, readings and all assessment information.

Weekly Schedule:

Please note that the module coordinator may make alterations to the course content, depending on the availability of the reading material.

Wk	Topic	Core Reading
1	Module introduction	N/A Friedan, Betty. <i>The Feminine Mystique</i> . Norton. P, 1963. [Excerpt]
2	Doing Gender	West, Candace. and Don H. Zimmerman. "Doing gender." <i>Gender and Society</i> , vol. 1, no. 2, June 1987, pp. 125-51.
3	CNY	NA

4	Critical Engagement Portfolio Discussion	Marzano-Lesnevich, Alex. "How Do I Define My Gender if No One is Watching Me?" <i>New York Times</i> , April 2, 2021, https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/02/opinion/transgender-nonbinary-pandemic-transition-.html
5	Intersectionality: Theory and Practice	Crenshaw, K., "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics." <i>University of Chicago Legal Forum</i> , Vol. 1989, no. 1, pp. 139-167. [Excerpt] Toni Morrison. <i>The Bluest Eye</i> . Vintage, 1994. [Excerpt]
6	Queering the Subject	Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. "Queer and Now." <i>Tendencies</i> , Duke UP, 1993, pp. 1-20. [Excerpt] Obendorf, Simon. "Both Contagion and Cure: Queer Politics in the Global City-State." <i>Queer Singapore: Illiberal Citizenship and Mediated Cultures</i> , Hong Kong UP, 2012. Pp. 97-116. [Excerpt] Tan, Chris K.K. "'Oi, Recruit! Wake Up Your Idea!': Homosexuality and Cultural Citizenship in the Singaporean Military." <i>Queer Singapore: Illiberal Citizenship and Mediated Cultures</i> , Hong Kong UP, 2012, pp. 71-82.
7	Transgenderism and non-binary identities	Halberstam, Jack. <i>Trans*: A Quick and Quirky Account of Gender Variability</i> . U of California P, 2017. [Excerpt] Zimman, Lal. "Transmasculinity and the Voice: Gender Assignment, identity and presentation." <i>Language and Masculinities: Performances, Intersections, Dislocations</i> . Edited by Tommaso M. Milani, Routledge, 2016, pp. 197-219. [Excerpt]
8	Recess Week	N/A
9	Language, citizenship and the nation	Poems: Yap, Arthur. "2 mothers in a h d b". <i>Writing Singapore: A Historical Anthology of Singapore Literature</i> , pp. 232-33. Leong, Liew Geok. "Forever Singlish." <i>Writing Singapore: A Historical Anthology of Singapore Literature</i> , pp. 288-289.

10	Screening	<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i> . Directed by George Miller, 2015.
11	Dystopias: Challenging or Enforcing Gender and Hierarchy?	<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i> . Directed by George Miller, 2015.
12	Disability and Communities	<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i> . Directed by George Miller, 2015.
13	Social Justice and Online Media	Boyle, Karen. "Silence Breaking." <i>#MeToo, Weinstein and Feminism</i> , Palgrave, 2019. Guuse. "I Sexually Identify as an Attack Helicopter" (Isabel Fall). Team Fortress 2, 17 March 2014. Note: https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/i-sexually-identify-as-an-attack-helicopter#fn1
14	Final exam Discussion	Please see the NTU database for the HQ5010 exam date, time and location. Please Note that the Exam is <u>OPEN-BOOK</u> . All WRITTEN/PRINTED materials are allowed including post-its, annotated texts, personal notes, lecture slides and core texts.

AI Course Policy:

HQ5010 does not allow the use of Generative AI in graded coursework assignments.