

HL3016: Gender and Sexuality Studies AY2017-18, Semester 2

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This course examines the intersections of gender, sexuality, place, ability, status, race, and class in the cultural construction of bodies. It focuses on the relationship between the normal and the abject to highlight how that relationship influences which bodies arouse our desire and move us in disgust. We will consider a selection of texts and films in order to investigate the rhetorics of the exotic, the realistic, the sentimental, the inscrutable, and the repulsive in regard to these bodies. More than just looking at 'images of...' and 'identities', we will concentrate on theories of the production and perpetration of the bodies we see and how we see them.

Core texts (to be provided by the lecturer)

- A selection of short works that address theories of gender and sexuality (see the material listed in the weekly schedule below)

Short stories:

- A.S. Byatt, 'Cold'
- Angela Carter, 'The Erl-King'
- Will Eaves, 'Murmur'
- Zadie Smith, 'Miss Adele Amidst the Corsets'
- Stories from Amanda Lee Koe, *Ministry of Moral Panic*

Core texts (to be acquired by the students; no specific edition)

Novels:

- Ali Smith, *Girl Meets Boy*
- Jeanette Winterson, *The Stone Gods*

Core films (to be provided by the lecturer)

- Niki Caro (Dir.) *Whale Rider*
- Ang Lee (Dir.) *Brokeback Mountain*
- Stephen Frears (Dir.) *My Beautiful Laundrette*
- David Lynch (Dir.) *The Elephant Man*
- Kimberly Pierce, *Boys Don't Cry*
- J.L. Brooks, *As Good As It Gets*

Class overview:

The classes for this module will adhere generally to the following class structure.

- First half of class: a talk to be presented by the lecturer on the theory of the week.
- Second half of class: student-led discussion on the week's theory and fiction/film. The discussion will often start with the student presentation of the week.
- **In order to enable fruitful discussion, it is important that students read/view the theory and fiction/film in advance of class.**

Assessment

- 25% - Coursework Essay 1: theory close reading (1,500 words)
- 25% - Coursework Essay 2: theory and fiction/film (2,500 words)
- 25% - Class Presentation
- 25% - In-class test

Week	Topics	Theory/Fiction/Films
1.	Module introduction	
2.	Historicising/Socialising the Body	Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Foucault, from <i>The History of Sexuality</i> • Judith Butler, 'Performative Acts and Gender Constitution' Fiction (short stories): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Eaves, 'Murmur' • Zadie Smith, 'Miss Adele Amidst the Corsets'
3.	Feminist Heroines: Reforming Womanhood	Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Butler, from <i>Antigone's Claim</i> • Hélène Cixous, 'The Laugh of the Medusa' Film: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niki Caro (Dir.) <i>Whale Rider</i>
4.	Female/Feminine/Femininity	Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone de Beauvoir, from <i>The Second Sex</i> • Luce Irigaray, 'Women on the Market' (from <i>This Sex</i>) • Susan Bordo, from <i>Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture and the Body</i> Fiction (short stories): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.S. Byatt, 'Cold' • Angela Carter, 'The Erl-King'
5.	Male/Masculine/Masculinities	Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Easthope, from <i>What a Man's Gotta Do: Masculine Myth in Popular Culture</i> • Anne Fausto-Sterling, 'How to Build a Man' • R.W. Connell, 'History of Masculinity', from <i>Masculinities</i> Film: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ang Lee (Dir.) <i>Brokeback Mountain</i>
6.	Heterosexuality/Homosexuality	Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Butler, 'Imitation and Gender Insubordination' • Donald E. Hall, from <i>Queer Theories</i> Fiction (novel): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ali Smith, <i>Girl Meets Boy</i>

7.	Queering the Subject	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Doty, 'There's Something Queer Here' • Eve Sedgwick, from <i>Tendencies</i> <p>Film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Frears (Dir.) <i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i>
	RECESS WEEK	
8.	Transgender Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Halberstam, 'Boys will be Bois' • Nikki Sullivan, 'Transsexual Empires and Transgender Warriors' • Germaine Greer, 'Pantomime Dames' (from <i>The Whole Woman</i>) <p>Film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimberly Pierce, <i>Boys Don't Cry</i>
9.	Virtual Bodies	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donna Haraway, 'Cyborg Manifesto' • Marianne von den Boomen, 'Hacking Barbie in Gendered Computer Culture' <p>Fiction (novel):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeanette Winterson, <i>The Stone Gods</i>
10.	Nation, Ethnicity, Sexuality: a Singaporean Perspective	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heng and Devan, 'State Fatherhood: The Politics of Nationalism, Sexuality and Race in Singapore' • L. Manderson and M. Jolly, from <i>Sites of Desire/Economics of Pleasure: Sexualities in Asia and the Pacific</i> <p>Fiction (short stories):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories from Amanda Lee Koe, <i>Ministry of Moral Panic</i>
11.	Disability Studies	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lennard J. Davis, from <i>Enforcing Normalcy</i> • D.T. Mitchell and S.L. Snyder, <i>Cultural Locations of Disability</i> <p>Film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Lynch (Dir.) <i>The Elephant Man</i>
12.	Crip Theory	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J.P. Shapiro, 'Introduction: You Just Don't Understand', from <i>Not Pity: People with Disabilities Forging a New Civil Rights Movement</i> • Robert McRuer, 'As Good As It Gets: Queer Theory and Critical Disability' <p>Film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J.L. Brooks, <i>As Good As It Gets</i>
13.	In-class test	