

HL3016: Gender and Sexuality Studies

AY2019-20, Semester 2

Lecturer: Dr. Kate Wright

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 theory texts (to be provided by the lecturer)

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

Core short stories (to be provided by the lecturer)

- A.S. Byatt, 'Cold'
- Angela Carter, 'The Erl-King'
- Will Eaves, 'Murmur'
- Zadie Smith, 'Miss Adele Amidst the Corsets'
- Amanda Lee Koe, 'Siren'

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

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

Core films (available for viewing in the NTU Chinese Library media suite)

- Ang Lee (Dir.) *Brokeback Mountain*
- David Lynch (Dir.) *The Elephant Man*
- Kimberly Pierce (Dir.), *Boys Don't Cry*
- J.L. Brooks (Dir.), *As Good As It Gets*

Class overview:

- The focus of these classes is literary theory. As such, the core theory texts will form the primary focus of class discussion.
- The literary and filmic texts will be used as material for the exploration of the principles/issues/questions discussed in the core theory texts.
- **To enable fruitful discussion, it is essential that students read/view the core material in advance of class.**

Assessment overview

- Coursework essay 1 (20%): theory close reading
- Coursework essay 2 (30%): theory and fiction/film
- Blog project (20%): theory and the world outside the classroom
- In-class test (30%): theory and fiction/film

Week	Topics	Theory/Fiction/Films
1.	Module introduction	
2.	Historicising/Socialising the Body	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Foucault, 'We "Other Victorians"', from <i>The History of Sexuality</i> • Judith Butler, 'Performative Acts and Gender Constitution' <p>Fiction (short story):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zadie Smith, 'Miss Adele Amidst the Corsets'
3.	Feminist Heroines: Reforming Womanhood	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone de Beauvoir, 'Introduction', from 'Facts and Myths', <i>The Second Sex</i> • Hélène Cixous, 'The Laugh of the Medusa' <p>Fiction (short story):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Carter, 'The Erl-King'
4.	Female/Feminine/Femininity	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luce Irigaray, 'Women on the Market', from <i>This Sex</i> • Susan Bordo, 'Reading the Slender Body', from <i>Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture and the Body</i> <p>Fiction (short story):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.S. Byatt, 'Cold'
5.	Male/Masculine/Masculinities	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antony Easthope, 'The Masculine Ego', from <i>What a Man's Gotta Do: Masculine Myth in Popular Culture</i> • Anne Fausto-Sterling, 'How to Build a Man' <p>Film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ang Lee (Dir.), <i>Brokeback Mountain</i>
6.	Heterosexuality/Homosexuality	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Butler, 'Imitation and Gender Insubordination' • Donald E. Hall, 'A Brief, Slanted History of Homosexual Activity', from <i>Queer Theories</i> <p>Fiction (novel):</p> <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', from <i>Making Things Perfectly Queer</i> • Eve Sedgwick, 'Queer and Now', from <i>Tendencies</i> <p>Film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Eaves, 'Murmur'
	RECESS WEEK	
8.	Transgender Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Halberstam, 'Boys will be Bois' • Nikki Sullivan, 'Transsexual Empires and Transgender Warriors' <p>Film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimberly Pierce (Dir.), <i>Boys Don't Cry</i>

9.	Virtual Bodies	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donna Haraway, 'A 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' • Aaron Ho, 'How to Bring Singaporeans Up Straight' <p>Fiction (short story):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Lee Koe, 'Siren', from <i>Ministry of Moral Panic</i>
11.	Disability Studies	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lennard J. Davis, 'Constructing Normalcy', from <i>Enforcing Normalcy</i> • D.T. Mitchell and S.L. Snyder, 'Narrative Prosthesis', from <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, 'Tiny Tims, Supercrrips, and the End of Pity', 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 (Dir.), <i>As Good As It Gets</i>
13.	In-class test	

Contact

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Please email me if you would like to book a consultation.