

English 96: Theories of Gender and Sexuality
Fall 2004
M W 6-7:30
STIT B21

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This course introduces students to key texts and debates in feminist, queer, and transgender theory. We will consider the long history of feminist politics and thought, with a particular focus on rifts that emerged along lines of class, color, and sexual and gender identity in the last decades of the twentieth century. We will also attend to the methodological and political challenges involved in doing “the history of sexuality.” The second half of the class will be organized around a series of contemporary topics and debates: pornography, sex work, and gender inequality; women and globalization; gay marriage; violence and the domestic sphere; the metrosexual; and transgender activism. Readings to include work by: Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir, Adrienne Rich, Michel Foucault, Gayle Rubin, James Baldwin, Catherine MacKinnon, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Judith Butler, bell hooks, Michael Warner, Angela Davis, Cherríe Moraga, Leslie Feinberg, Susan Stryker, and others. We will also watch some films and look at some popular texts (journalism, ads, music, zines, etc.)

Required Texts (Available at Penn Book Center, 34th and Walnut)

James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room*
Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*
Gayl Jones, *Corregidora*
Cherríe Moraga, *Loving in the War Years*
Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

A coursepack of readings will be available at Wharton Reprographics.
Readings and films for the course are on reserve at Rosengarten (Van Pelt).

Requirements

- 2 Short papers (4-5 pages each, due October 13 & November 17)
- 1 Write-up on an outside event this semester. The lectures by Eng, Nussbaum, and Freeman are recommended, though with permission you may write up another event. Write-ups due no more than one week after event. (2-3 pages)
- 1 Mid-term exam (October 27)
- 1 Final exam (Date and time to be announced)

A Note Regarding Attendance

You are allowed to miss two classes during the semester, no questions asked. More than two absences, and your grade may be affected. I will pass around an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class.

Course Schedule

* Course Pack

@ on the web

Wed, Sept 8

Introduction: What is Gender? What is Sexuality? What is Theory?

I. THE WOMAN QUESTION

Week 1: Making Demands

Mon, Sept 13

- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* @ <http://www.bartleby.com/144/>
Read sections: Author's introduction & chapters 1, 2, 4

Wed, Sept 15

- *Vindication*, Chapters 5,9,13
- Seneca Falls (1848) @ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/Senecafalls.html>
- Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I A Woman" (1851) @ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sojtruth2.html>

Week 2: Making Connections

Mon, Sept 20

- Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Wed, Sept 22

- *A Room of One's Own*

Week 3: Biology, Culture, Kinship

Mon, Sept 27

- Simone De Beauvoir *The Second Sex* (excerpts) @ <http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/fr/2ndsex.htm>
Read introduction, Chs. 1-3, conclusion

Wed, Sept 29

- *Second Sex*
- Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex"*

II. SEX AND THE ARCHIVE

Week 4: Is There a History of Sexuality?

Mon, Oct 4

- John Boswell, “Revolutions, Universals, and Sexual Categories”*
- David Halperin, “Sex Before Sexuality: Pederasty, Politics, and Power in Classical Athens”*

Wed, Oct 6

- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, vol 1* (excerpts)*

Week 5: In the Shadows

Mon, Oct 11

- James Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*
- John D’Emilio, “The Bonds of Oppression”*

Film Screening <i>Looking for Langston</i>	Tues, Oct 12 8:00 Loc TBA
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Wed, Oct 13

- *Giovanni’s Room*
- Film: Isaac Julien, *Looking for Langston*

FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Week 6: Sex With Gender, Sex Against Gender

Mon, Oct 18

- Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex”*
- Catherine MacKinnon, “Sexuality”*

Required Event Mon, Oct 18	Screening, “Live Nude Girls Unite!” Talk by director Julia Query 7:30 pm Location TBA
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Thu, Oct 14 Lecture by David Eng 5 pm Penn Humanities Forum
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Wed, Oct 20

- Adrienne Rich, “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”*
- Moraga and Hollibaugh, “What We’re Rollin’ Around in Bed With”*
- Valerie Solanas, “The SCUM Manifesto” (1968) @ <http://www.ai.mit.edu/%7Eshivers/rants/scum.html>

Week 7: Fall Break & Midterm Exam

Mon, Oct 25

Fall Break—no class today

Wed, Oct 27

MIDTERM EXAM

III. IDENTITY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Week 8: Living Outside

Mon, Nov 1

- Cherríe Moraga, *Loving in the War Years*

Wed, Nov 3

- *Loving in the War Years*
- Gloria Anzaldúa, “La Conciencia de la Mestiza”*

Week 9: Speaking Against, Speaking For

Mon, Nov 8

- Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (excerpts)*

Wed, Nov 10

- Martha Nussbaum, “The Professor of Parody”*
- Responses to Nussbaum by Butler and others*
- Chandra Talpade Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes”*

Thu, Nov 11 Lecture by Martha Nussbaum 5 pm “Gender Justice, Human Rights, and Human Capabilities” Location TBA
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IV. GAY AND NORMAL? STRAIGHT AND QUEER?

Week 10: Wouldn't It Be Nice?

Mon, Nov 15

- Foucault, “Friendship as a Way of Life”*
- Andrew Sullivan, “Virtually Normal”*
- Laura Kipnis, “Adultery”*

Wed, Nov 17

- Michael Warner, “Beyond Gay Marriage”*
- Forum in *The Nation* on Gay Marriage*

Thu, Nov 18 Lecture by Elizabeth Freeman 5 pm LGBT Center
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SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Film Screening <i>Fight Club</i>	Sun, Oct 21 8 pm Loc TBA
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Week 11: Hard Target

Mon, Nov 22

- Film: David Fincher, *Fight Club*
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, “Gender Asymmetry and Erotic Triangles”*
- Marc Simpson, “Meet the Metrosexual” @ <http://archive.salon.com/ent/feature/2002/07/22/metrosexual/>

Wed, Nov 24

Thanksgiving—no class today

V. FEELING THE BLUES

Week 11: Sex After History

Mon, Nov 29

- Gayl Jones, *Corregidora*
- Angela V. Davis, “‘I Used To Be Your Sweet Mama’: Ideology, Sexuality, and Domesticity in the Blues of Gertrude ‘Ma’ Rainey and Bessie Smith”*
- bell hooks, “Violence in Intimate Relationships: A Feminist Perspective”*

Wed, Dec 1

- *Corregidora*
- Hortense Spillers, “Mama’s Baby, Papa’s Maybe”*
- Excerpt from “The Moynihan Report” @ <http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/history/moynchapter2.htm>

Week 12: Transgender Blues, Transgender Rage

Mon, Dec 6

- Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*

Wed, Dec 8

- *Stone Butch Blues*
- Susan Stryker, “My Words to Victor Frankenstein Above the Village of Chamounix: Performing Transgender Rage”*

FINAL EXAM: Date and time to be announced.

Information on speakers:

David Eng http://english.rutgers.edu/faculty/faculty/assoc_professors/eng.html

Martha Nussbaum <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/faculty/nussbaum/>

Elizabeth Freeman <http://www.english.ucdavis.edu/faculty/Freeman/Freeman.htm>