

## Gender Studies 301-4 Queer Genders

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### Course Description

This course introduces students to current debates on gender identity and gender difference from queer and transgender perspectives. We will explore recent theoretical and cultural works and consider the challenges they pose to our understanding of sex, gender, sexuality, and the body. Paying attention to the tension as well as convergence between transgender, queer, and feminist perspectives, we will consider how these different communities may engage with each other and build productive alliances. While most of the theoretical works are by North American authors, we will address their limits through a consideration of films from Europe and Asia.

### Required Texts

Custom Courseware

Joan Nestle, Clare Howell & Riki Wichins, *Genderqueer: Voices From Beyond the Sexual Binary*

Chlöe Brushwood Rose & Anna Camilleri, *Brazen Femme*

Viviane Namaste, *Sex Change, Social Change: Reflections on Identity, Institution, and Imperialism*

### Films

*Juggling Gender* (dir. Tami Gold, 1992, USA)

*Long Live ... Hennie, Juul and Kitty* (dir. Michiel van Erp, 2002, The Netherlands)

*The Aggressives* (dir. Daniel Peddle, 2005, USA)

*Shinjuku Boys* (dir. Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams, 1995, UK & Japan)

*La Persona de Leo N.* (dir. Alberto Vendemmiati, 2005, Italy)

*Bad Education (La Mala Educación)* (dir. Pedro Almodóvar, 2004, Spain)

*Beautiful Boxer* (dir. Ekachai Uekrongtham, 2003, Thailand)

*Wild Side* (dir. Sébastien Lifshitz, 2004, France/Belgium/UK)

### Assignments & Grading Structure

Attendance & participation	20%
Short paper (3-4 pg)	20%
Research paper (8-10 pgs)	30%
Contributions to Film Blog	20%
Group Project	10%

## READING SCHEDULE

Please finish all assigned reading before coming to class.

### Week 1 Jan 8

Introduction

### Week 2 Jan 15

Queer Conversations on Gender

- Minnie Bruce Pratt, selections from *S/he*
- *Genderqueer* p.3-18

Screening:

- *Juggling Gender* (dir. Tami Gold, 1992, 27 min., USA)
- *Long Live ... Hennie, Juul and Kitty* (dir. Michiel van Erp, 2002, 40 min., The Netherlands)

### Week 3 Jan 22

Lesbian Feminism & Butch/Femme Politics

- Joan Nestle, “Butch-Femme Relationships: Sexual Courage in the 1950s”
- Judith Roof, “1970s Lesbian Feminism Meets 1990s Butch/Femme”
- Sally Munt, “The Butch Body”

Screening:

- *The Aggressives* (dir. Daniel Peddle, 2005, 75 min., USA)

### Week 4 Jan 29

New Queer Femininities

Chlöe Brushwood Rose & Anna Camilleri, *Brazen Femme*

- ★ Collaborative Project Group Formation

### Week 5 Feb 5

Transsexuality, Embodiment & Border Wars

- Jay Prosser, “A Skin of One’s Own: Toward a Theory of Transsexual Embodiment”
- Judith Halberstam, “Transgender Butch: Butch/FTM Border War”

Screening:

- *Shinjuku Boys* (dir. Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams, 1995, 53 min., UK & Japan)

### Week 6 Feb 12

Feminism & Trans Inclusion

- Susan Stryker, “(De)Subjugated Knowledges: An Introduction to Transgender Studies”
- Stephen Whittle, “Where Did We Go Wrong? Feminism and Trans Theory — Two Teams on the Same Side?”
- Roundtable On Proposed Research Topics (5 min. presentation from each student)

**Week 7 Feb 19**

Imperialism and Institutions: Transsexual Politics in Canada

- Viviane Namaste, *Sex Change, Social Change*

**Short Paper Due**

**Week 8 Feb 26**

Genderqueer: A New Politics of Gender?

- Joan Nestle, Clare Howell & Riki Wichins, *Genderqueer*

**Week 9 Mar 5**

Screening:

- *La Persona de Leo N.* (dir. Alberto Vendemmiati, 2005, 86 min., Italy)

**Week 10 Mar 12**

Screening:

- *Bad Education (La Mala Educación)* (dir. Pedro Almodóvar, 2004, 106 min., Spain)

**Week 11 Mar 19**

Screening:

- *Beautiful Boxer* (dir. Ekachai Uekrongtham, 2003, 118 min., Thailand)

**Week 12 Mar 26**

Screening:

- *Wild Side* (dir. Sébastien Lifshitz, 2004, 93 min., France/Belgium/UK)

**Week 13 April 2**

★ Presentation of group projects

★ End of term party

**Research paper due**