

WS 301.01 PHIL 330.02
Gender and Sexuality
Spring 2006

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322-2637

Course Description:

This course is an introduction and survey of two prominent strands in feminist theories of gender and sexuality: psychoanalytic theory and discursive analysis. The convergence of these two approaches to gender, sex and sexuality form the basis of some of the most important and exciting work in contemporary feminist theory and queer theory. With psychoanalytic theory, questions of sexuality and sexual difference are taken seriously by the intellectual establishment. Discourse analysis challenges the psychoanalytic approach and provides a genealogical or archeological approach to sex and sexuality. Both approaches, particularly as they have been employed by feminist theorists such as Judith Butler, Teresa de Lauretis, Elizabeth Grosz, and Eve Sedgwick, examine the construction and disciplining of norms of gender, sex and sexuality.

This semester we engage some of the most significant texts by various psychoanalytic feminist theorists, including Kristeva, Sedgwick, Seshdri-Crooks, Butler, de Lauretis, Grosz, and Chow, after a brief introductory discussion of Freud and Lacan on feminine/female sexuality. We will also read Foucault on sexuality in order to appreciate the development of discursive analysis in feminist and queer theory, particularly in the work of Butler, de Lauretis, Sedgwick, Spivak and Stoler. Throughout the semester we will explore the productive ways in which these two theoretical approaches work with and against each other. Our theoretical explorations will be enlivened by illustrations and elaborations through film and essays by feminist film critics, including Bell Metereau, Lieberfeld & Sanders, Chow, de Lauretis, Flitterman-Lewis, and Wallace.

Required Texts:

Judith Butler, *Bodies that Matter*.
Sigmund Freud, *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love*.
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, volume 1.
Kelly Oliver, *The Colonization of Psychic Space*.

Reading Packet available at the bookstore.

Films:

Marleen Gorris, *A Question of Silence*
Billy Wilder, *Some Like it Hot*
Jenny Livingston, *Paris is Burning*
David Cronenberg, *M Butterfly*
Douglas Sirk, *Imitation of Life* (1959)

Method of Evaluation:

Everyone is expected to participate in class discussions regularly. Everyone will turn in one final 15-20 page paper at the end of the semester.

Schedule

1/11 Introduction

1/18 **Film: A Question of Silence**

1/25 Oliver, *The Colonization of Psychic Space*, “The Depressed Sex”; Kristeva *The Portable Kristeva*, selections; Freud “Mourning and Melancholia”

2/1 Freud, *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love*: “Female Sexuality,” “Psychogenesis of a Case of Homosexuality in a Woman” “Fetishism,” “Some Consequences..”

2/8 Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet*, Introduction, p. 22-44

2/15 Lacan, “The Meaning of the Phallus”; “The Mirror Stage”; (**Lisa W?**)

2/22 **Film: Some Like it Hot**

3/1 Bell-Metereau, *Hollywood Androgyny C.2*; Sikov, *Laughing Hysterically*, Lieberfeld and Sanders, “Keeping the Characters Straight”

3/8 SPRING BREAK

3/15 **Film: M Butterfly**

3/22 Chow, “The Dream of a Butterfly”; de Lauretis “The Stubborn Drive,” Garber, *Vested Interests*, intro??

3/29 de Lauretis *The Practice of Love*, “Perverse Desire”, Butler “The Lesbian Phallus”; Grosz “Lesbian Fetishism”; Oliver “Lesbian Desire”

4/5 Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, Parts I, IV, V; Butler, *Gender Trouble*, selections
Mary Beth Mader guest lectures

4/7 **Film Screening: Paris is Burning in Buttrick**

4/12, Butler, *Bodies that Matter*, *Psychic Life of Power*, selections; Wallace, “Paris is Burning”

4/19 Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire*, chapter VI “The Education of Desire and the Repressive Hypothesis”; Spivak “Can the Subaltern Speak?”

4/21 **Film Screening: Imitation of Life in Buttrick**

4/26 Butler, “Lana’s Imitation”; Oliver/Trigo *Noir Anxiety*, “Noir in Black and White”; Flitterman-Lewis, “Imitation(s) of Life”

4/28 Final Papers due by noon in my mailbox