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, Segdewick, 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*

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


2/22 Film: Some Like it Hot


3/8 SPRING BREAK

3/15 Film: M Butterfly


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”


4/21 Film Screening: Imitation of Life in Buttrick

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

4/28 Final Papers due by noon in my mailbox