GSWS 002: Gender & Society
Summer Session II
Tuesday/Thursday 1:15pm-5:05pm

Instructor: Mary Zaborskis
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Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
How do gender, sex, and sexuality influence our understandings of ourselves, each other, and the worlds we inhabit? In this course, we will consider how categories of gender, sex, and sexuality structure our everyday lives. We will think about how a host of institutions--legal, medical, political, social, cultural--are invested in generating these categories as stable and fixed entities and ask why that may be. We will consider how other social markers, such as race, class, ability, religion, national origin, and citizenship status, impact perceptions of gender, sex, and sexuality. Some issues we will grapple with in this course include: the construction and maintenance of norms around gender and sexuality; the pathologization and policing of genders and sexualities; the ways gender, sex, and sexuality organize familial, social, and professional life; and how media representations impact our understandings of gender, sex, and sexuality.

Course requirements will include: weekly reflections (1-2 pages in which you bring a course reading into conversation with a piece of contemporary media); an in-class presentation; and a 5-7 page final paper.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 29: Welcome to the (Drag) Show
-introductions
In class:
-excerpt from Judith Butler’s Gender Trouble (1990)
-clips from Paris is Burning (1990); RuPaul’s Drag Race (2009—); Toddlers & Tiaras (2009—)

Tuesday, July 4: Independence Day
-no class

Thursday, July 6: Born This Way or Become This Way?
-Judith Lorber’s “The Social Construction of Gender” (1990)
-Lois Gould’s “X: A Fabulous Child’s Story” (1978)
-Karin Martin’s “William Wants a Doll. Can He Have One? Feminists, Child Care Advisors, and Gender-Neutral Child Rearing” (2005)

Tuesday, July 11: Denaturalizing Reproduction
-film: Abby Epstein’s The Business of Being Born (2008)
-selection from Maggie Nelson’s The Argonauts (2015)
-Alison Kafer’s “At the Same Time, Out of Time: Ashley X” (2013)
Thursday, July 13: Who Gets Represented For Whom?
-film (select scenes): Jennifer Siebel Newsom’s Miss Representation (2011)
-Natalie Hill’s “Miss Representation: A Critical Review” (2011)

Tuesday, July 18: Homonormativity and Queer Representation
-Wan-Hsiu Sunny Tsai’s “Assimilating the Queers: Representations of Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexual, and Transgender People in Mainstream Advertising” (2010)
-DarkMatter’s “The Other Side of Pride: In the Fight for LGBT Rights, Visibility for Some Doesn’t Mean Justice for All” (2015)

Thursday, July 21: Does It Get Better?
-introduction to Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick’s Tendencies (1993)
-Dan Savage’s It Gets Better website

Tuesday, July 25: Sexual Violence
-film: Kirby Dick’s The Hunting Ground (2015)
-Jennicet Gutiérrez’s “I Interrupted Obama because we need to be heard” (2015)
-Lady Gaga’s “‘Til It Happens To You” music video

Thursday, July 27: Pathologizing Difference
-film: Annalise Ophelian’s Diagnosing Difference (2009)
-Riva Lehrer’s TEDx Talk “Valuable Bodies”
-Kim Hall’s “Reimagining Disability and Gender through Feminist Disability Studies” (2011)

Tuesday, August 1: Beyond Binaries
-film: Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson’s Kumu Hina (2014)
-excerpt from J. Jack Halberstam’s Female Masculinity (1998)