

## Gender and Sexuality: History, Culture, and Politics

The Evergreen State College, Fall and Winter 2008-2009

Program Website: <http://acdrupal.evergreen.edu/gensex/>

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## Winter Research Projects

### Meeting Day/Times

Tuesday 1:00-3:00 Sem II C1105

3:00-5:00 Sem II B3107, 3109

Films, whole group activities

Seminars

### Program Description

Building on our fall quarter work, we will continue to emphasize the place that leisure, playfulness, and entertainment plays in the histories, cultures and politics of gender and sexuality. We will extend our fall quarter work chronologically as well, focusing on the 1970s 1980s, and 1990s. The bulk of our work this quarter will be research projects, which students may pursue individually or in groups. These can be “traditional” research projects that result in an extended piece of writing, or they can bring theory into practice by “doing” history—for example, by creating an archive, or conducting oral histories. The style and substance of these projects is limited only by time, finances, and your creativity; so, work with the faculty closely to craft a rewarding research project. Ideally, the results of your research will be of value to audiences outside the program, and we will find a way to disseminate the results of our work (by, for example linking your archive with an established archive so that your work can be consulted by future generations).

### Reading Assignments

Essays and articles are available via ARES, the library’s electronic reserve system.

Two books are available for purchase in the bookstore:

Samuel Delaney, *Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand* (1984)

Michelle Tea, *Rose of No Man’s Land* (2006)

### Writing Assignments

1. Beginning Week Two, every Monday by noon post on your Moodle BLOG a statement of work that you accomplished the previous week.

2. Two pages describing your work on and observations of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and the Presidential Inauguration. How is Dr. King’s life commemorated, and how is the new administration celebrated? What have your observations taught you about politics and society in the United States?

3. Your final project is due in stages so that the work doesn't pile up at the end. If you are writing a long paper, submit drafts in stages. If your project does not involve a long paper, consult faculty early about how to document your progress in stages.

### **Public Presentation of Project Work**

During Week Ten, we will reconvene all students in "Gender and Sexuality: History, Culture and Politics." Internship students will learn what the research students have accomplished and vice versa. Each person will have about 10 minutes to provide an essential overview of your work.

### **Final Portfolio and Self Evaluation**

Compile your portfolio in a lightweight file folder. The portfolio must contain evidence of your research work throughout the quarter and the final project. We will evaluate (1) your posts on your Moodle blog, which include the RESEARCH PLAN and weekly statements of work accomplished; (2) the paper, including bibliography; or, if your project is more innovative, some form of documentation of your project—agreed upon with faculty early in the quarter. A draft of your self-evaluation is due with your portfolio Monday of week 10 at 1:00 pm.

### **To Earn Full Credit**

The expectations for full credit are the following:

- Attend weekly meetings
- Post your Research Plan Week Two and weekly statements of work accomplished to your Moodle blog on Mondays at noon
- Submit two pages of reflection on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Inauguration
- Attend individual conferences with faculty (show up for conferences)
- Submit your project in stages throughout the quarter
- Present your work and attend other presentations during Week 10 symposium events
- Submit a complete final portfolio of all work
- Submit a final Self-Evaluation for transcript
- Submit your evaluation of the faculty

### **Weekly schedule**

#### **Week 1: A Case of Dancing**

*New York City Drag Ball Cultures in the 1980s*

Tuesday, January 6:

**Due in class:** Submit in class your RESEARCH PLAN for your winter quarter project. At the top of this proposal, begin by stating each of your learning goals. Follow this with the types of activities you will do each week to accomplish these goals. Be specific—include the hours you estimate spending on each activity; (2) a timeline for completion; (3) and, the form in which your final project will exist.

**Screening:** Fall slide show and Jennie Livingston, *Paris is Burning* (1990)

## **Week II: A Case of Music and Festival**

*The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival from 1976 to the Present* <http://www.michfest.com/>

Monday, January 12

**Due:** By noon, post on your Moodle BLOG a revised FINAL version of your RESEARCH PLAN for your winter quarter research, with a statement of work accomplished week one.

Tuesday, January 13:

**Readings:** (1) Emi Koyama, "A Handbook on Discussing the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival for Trans Activists and Allies" (2) Laurie J. Kendall, "From the Liminal to the Land: Building Amazon Culture at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival"

## **Week III: Cases of Remembering, Inaugurating, and Parading**

*Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr. and Inaugurating Barack Obama*

Monday, January 19:

Observe/create a rally, parade, celebration, or participate in a service opportunity for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Information about service opportunities at: <http://www.evergreen.edu/diversity/events/mlkday.htm>

**Due:** By noon, post on your Moodle BLOG a statement of work that you accomplished the previous week.

Tuesday, January 20:

We will gather at 8:30 am to watch the Presidential Inauguration and Parade. Location TBA

**Read:** The following coverage of debates over the inclusion of Reverend Rick Warren in President Obama's Inauguration Ceremony

*The Advocate:*

[http://www.advocate.com/news\\_detail\\_ektid68652.asp](http://www.advocate.com/news_detail_ektid68652.asp)

[http://www.advocate.com/news\\_detail\\_ektid69604.asp](http://www.advocate.com/news_detail_ektid69604.asp)

[http://www.advocate.com/news\\_detail\\_ektid69037.asp](http://www.advocate.com/news_detail_ektid69037.asp)

Leonard Doyle in *The Independent:*

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/high-culture-meets-homophobia-at-obama-inauguration-1203698.html>

Frank Rich in *New York Times:*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/28/opinion/28rich.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/28/opinion/28rich.html?_r=2&hp).

Geoffrey Garin in the *Washington Post:*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/19/AR2008121902414.html>

Rick Warren on Rick Warren

<http://www.rickwarren.com/>

Thursday, January 22 at 6 pm in LH 5

**Screening:** Parvez Sharma, *Jihad of Love* (2007) at the SESAME Film Festival, and Q&A with Director Parvez Sharma. <http://www.ajihadforlove.com/>

## **Week IV: A Case of Fantasy**

*Science Fiction and Samuel Delaney*

Monday, January 26

**Due:** By noon, post on your Moodle BLOG a statement of work that you accomplished the previous week.

Tuesday, January 27

**Due:** In class, submit two pages of reflection on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Inauguration from the previous week.

**Read:** Samuel Delaney, *Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand* (1984)

**Screening:** Fred Barney Taylor, *The Polymath: or the Life and Opinions of Samuel R. Delaney, Gentleman* (2007)

<http://www.tribecafilm.com/filmguide/archive/12720897.html>

## **Week V: A Case of Quilting**

*Sexual Exuberance, the Rise of HIV/AIDS, and Stories from the Quilt*

Tuesday, February 3

**Due:** Submit in class the first third of your final research project, and an explanation of what work remains to be done.

**Reading:** (1) Gregg Stull, "The AIDS Memorial Quilt: Performing Memory, Piecing Action," *American Art* 15, No. 2 (Summer, 2001): 84-89; (2) Peter S. Hawkins, "Naming Names: The Art of Memory and the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt," *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 19, No. 4 (Summer, 1993): 752-779.

**Screening:** Joseph Lovett, *Gay Sex in the 70s* (2005); Rob Epstein, *Common Threads* (1989)

**Recommended Viewing:** *The Age of AIDS* (2006) made for *Frontline*. This is a four-hour documentary that provides an excellent overview and history of the epidemic. You can view it in parts on line at:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/aids/view/>

## **Week VI: Cases of Selling and Consuming Arousal**

*Sex Work and Pornography*

Monday, February 9

**Due:** By noon, post on your Moodle BLOG a statement of work that you accomplished the previous week.

Tuesday, February 10

**Read:** (1) Stacy Reed, "All Stripped Off," in *Whores and Other Feminists* (1997): 179-88; (2) Katherine Frank, "Keeping Her Off the Pole? Creating Sexual Value in a Capitalist Society," in *Flesh for Fantasy: Producing and Consuming Exotic Dance* (2006): 203-13; (3) Laura Kipnis, "The Eloquence of Pornography"

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/porn/special/eloquence.html>

(4) Barbara DeGenevieve, "Ssspread.com: The Hot Bods of Queer Porn" and (5) Mireille Miller-Young, "Sexy and Smart: Black Women and the Sexual Politics of Self-Authorship in Netporn," in *C'Lick Me: A Netporn Studies Reader*, eds. Katrien Jacobs, Marije Janssen and Matteo Pasquinelli (Amsterdam: Institute of Network Cultures, 2007): 233-9 and 205-16. (Download PDF at

this link) <http://networkcultures.org/wpmu/portal/publications/inc-readers/the-art-and-politics-of-netporn/>

**Recommended Viewing:** *American Porn* (2002) made for Frontline.  
Watch on line at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/porn/>

### **Week VII: Visiting Artist and Scholar Susan Stryker**

(Please note that this week we meet twice on Thursday and NOT on Tuesday.)

Monday, February 16

**Due:** By noon, post on your Moodle BLOG a statement of work that you accomplished the previous week.

Thursday, February 19

1-3pm: Seminar with Susan Stryker. Location and reading TBA.

7pm: College-wide lecture by Susan Stryker in the Com Bldg Recital Hall

**Read:** TBA

### **Week VIII: Cases of Imagination and Abandon**

Tuesday, February 24: *Fiction and Michelle Tea, Harry Dodge and Silas Howard*

**Due:** Submit in class the first two thirds of your final research project, and an explanation of what work remains to be done.

**Read:** Michelle Tea, *Rose of No Man's Land* (2006)

**Screening:** Harry Dodge and Silas Howard, *By Hook or By Crook* (2001)

### **Week IX: A Case of Camp**

Tuesday March 3

**Screening:** Pedro Almodóvar, *Law of Desire* (1987)

### **Week X: A Case of You (Presentations and Celebration)**

Monday, March 9

1:00 pm Final Project & Portfolio Due (include draft self-evaluation)

1:00-3:00 Student Internship Presentations                      Location TBA

Tuesday, March 10

10:00-noon Student Presentations                                      Location TBA

1:00-3:00 Student Presentations    Sem II C1105

3:00-5:00 Evaluation Writing    Computer Lab (GC2 Solarium)

Wednesday, March 11

10:00-noon Student Presentations                                      Location TBA

Early evaluation conferences    Faculty Offices

Thursday March 12

Early evaluation conferences    Faculty Offices

Equality Day Rally    State Capitol

Friday, March 13

Early evaluation conferences    Faculty Offices

Evening: Celebration    Location TBA

**Evaluation Week:** Please do not make travel plans until you have scheduled your evaluation conference.