

ENGLISH 2200 READING POLITICS: GENDER AND SECUALITY (Half-year course)

Instructor: Dr. Louise Saldanha

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Delivery Mode: Lecture/Seminar

*3(3-0-0) Prerequisite: 6 credits of junior English

Calendar Description: An introduction to dynamics of gender and sexuality in literary and other cultural texts, and to the critical concepts and methods key to their study.

Course Description:

This course will be an introduction to the history, critiques, and representation of gender and sexuality in literary theory, as well as a look at how literary texts demonstrate and resist the politics of all these categories. The course will introduce students to literary theory and how it is useful in mediating questions and representations of gender and sexuality, as well as asking where the theoretical field and literature itself needs to go. We will also examine some primary texts in relation to the theory, in order to investigate how literature can be used as a mode of resistance. We will study a variety of theoretical positions including feminism, queer theory, anti-racist critiques, psychoanalysis, semiotics (theories of language and discourse) and cultural studies. Students will be provided with tools for reading and critical thinking and will be encouraged to engage in their own active processes of questioning.

Required Texts & Resources:

Including but not limited to:

Kate Bornstein, *Gender Outlaw*

Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands*

Trinh T. Minh-ha *Woman, Native, Other*

Coursepack of selections including but not limited to:

Michel Foucault *The History of Sexuality* (selections); Gayle Rubin “*The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex*”; Helene Cixous “*Sorties*”; Audre Lorde “*Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference*”; Andrienne Rich “*Notes Toward a Politics of Location*”; Teresa de Lauretis “*The Technology of Gender*”; Judith Halberstam, “*F2M: The Making of Female Masculinity*”; Toni Morrison “*Playing in the Dark*”; Rey Chow *Diaspora* (selections); Jamaica Kincaid *A Small Place* (selections); Susan Bordo “*Material Girl: The Effacements of Postmodern Culture*”; Helen Hoy *How Should I Read These* (selections); Sapphire *American Dreams* (selections); bell hooks *Outlaw Culture* (selections); Laura Mulvey “*Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema*”; Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (selections); Pierre Bourdieu, *Masculine Domination* (selections); Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*; -, *Undoing Gender* (selections); Sigmund Freud, “*Theories of Sexuality*”; “*Femininity*”; “*Female Sexuality*”; Toril Moi, *What Is A Woman?* (selections); Sherry Ortner, *Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture* (selections); Monique Wittig, *The Straight Mind and Other Essays* (selections); Maxine Hong Kingston *The Woman Warrior* (selections); Judith Butler “*Imitation and Gender Insubordination*”; Erna Brodber *Myal* (selections); Eileen Myles *Cool For You* (selections); Sara Suleri *Meatless Days* (selections); Lynne Tillman *Haunted Houses* (selections); Virginia Woolf *Orlando* (selections); Sandra Cisneros “*I the Woman*”; Emily Dickinson “*My Life Had Stood a Loaded Gun*”; Shyam Salvadurai “*Pigs Can’t Fly*”; Mary Wollstonecraft *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (selections); Sojourner Truth “*Ain’t I a Woman*”; Judith Fetterly “*On the Politics of Literature*”; Luce Irigaray “*The Power of discourse and the Subordination of the Feminine*” and “*Commodities amongst Themselves*”; Maya Angelou “*Still I Rise*”; Louise Erdrich “*Fleur*”; Cherrie Moraga “*For the Color of My Mother*”; Paula Gunn Allen “*Who Is Your Mother? Red Roots of White Feminism*” 889; Jonathan Dollimore (selections); Alan Sinfield (selections)

Evaluation:

Participation 10%

Presentation 20%

Essay One 15%

Essay Two 25%

Final 30%