

FALL 2008 GENDER & SEXUALITY
ICPR H 290 INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER:
POWER, PERFORMANCE, AND IDENTITY

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and
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Fall 2008: Mondays 1:30-4:00 @Haverford College

Over the last decade, this “core” course for the program in Gender and Sexuality Studies has been conceptualized as a junior seminar using contemporary feminist scholarship to examine gender as a mark of social and cultural differentiation, and organized around different themes and questions as a means of presenting key issues in feminist and gender studies to majors, concentrators, and minors.

This year, we will start by working our way through a series of essays designed to outline some of the major questions animating the multi-disciplinary study of gender and sexuality. We will then focus on American categories and rituals of membership (weddings, parenthood, childhood, citizenship, faith, innocence, experience, etc.), and explore how gender and sexuality are performed, reified, resisted, and reinvented in and through those categories and rituals.

REQUIREMENTS

- Reading-response papers (2-3 pages) 30%
- Attendance and class participation 20%
- Presentations and paper 25%
- Final paper, 12-15 pages 25%

Course Design and Readings

GETTING SITUATED

Joan W. Scott, “Experience,” *Feminists Theorize the Political*. Eds. Judith Butler and Scott. New York: Routledge, 1992. 22-40.

Joan W. Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis.” *Feminism and History*. Ed. Scott. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. 152-180.

Bat-Ami Bar On, “Marginality and Epistemic Privilege.” *Feminist Epistemologies*. Eds. Linda Alcoff and Elizabeth Potter. New York: Routledge, 1993. 83-100.

Henry Abelove, “Some Speculations on the History of Sexual Intercourse During the Long Eighteenth Century in England.” *GENDERS*, Number 6, Fall 1989. 125-131.

MAPPING THE BODY

Gail Rubin, Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality.” *American Feminist Thought at Century’s End: A Reader*. Ed. Linda S. Kauffman. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell, 1993. 3-64.

Michel Foucault, “We ‘Other Victorians’” and “The Repressive Hypothesis.” *The History of Sexuality, Volume I: An Introduction*. trans. Robert Hurley. New York: Vintage, 1980. 3-13, 17-49.

Judith Butler, “Imitation and Gender Insubordination.” *Inside/Out*. Eds. by Diana Fuss. New York: Routledge, 1991. 13-31.

Susan Bordo, *The Male Body: A New Look at Men in Public and in Private*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000. Excerpt.

Jackie Kay, *Trumpet: A Novel*. New York: Vintage/Random House, 2000.

COMING OF AGE: SEEING IS BELIEVING?

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* (2004)

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (2006)

VOICE/ARTISTRY

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own* (1929). Excerpt.

Gloria Anzaldúa, *Making Face, Making Soul/Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists of Color*. Ed. Gloria Anzaldúa. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1990.

Kendall Thomas, “‘Ain’t Nothin’ Like the Real Thing’: Black Masculinity, Gay Sexuality, and the Jargon of Authenticity.” *Representing Black Men*. Eds. Marcellus Blount and George P. Cunningham. New York: Routledge, 1996. 55-69.

CHURCH/STATE

Michael Warner, “Tongues Untied: Memoirs of a Pentecostal Boyhood.” *The Material Queer: A LesBiGay Cultural Studies Reader*. Ed. Donald Morton. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1996. 39-45.

Suzan-Lori Parks, “Fucking A.” *Red Letter Plays*. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 2000.

CITIZEN/SOLDIER

Iris Marion Young, “The Logic of Masculinist Protection: Reflections on the Current Security State.” *Women and Citizenship*. Ed. Marilyn Friedman. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. 15-34.