

# CUS 215 GENDER, SEXUALITY AND CULTURAL POLITICS

Fall 2006, 3 hours per week

Dr. Yau Ching, Department of Cultural Studies

Lingnan University, Hong Kong

yauching@ln.edu.hk

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This course provides students with an introduction to the histories and theories of feminist and LGBTQ (lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and queer) cultural politics. After examining briefly the cultural and socio-historical construction of gender and sexuality according to Euro-American discourses, we will go on to address some of the specific issues feminist and LGBTQ movements are confronted with in various cultural contexts, namely in the US, Hong Kong and Taiwan. This course seeks to expand students' understanding of the intersections between gender, politics and sexuality through an investigation of global and local lesbian and gay social movements and the more recent "queer" and "tongzhi" politics which calls for a reexamination of identity categories and a more inclusive subjecthood.

## Course Requirements

This course encourages close textual study of reading materials and applying your readings to reflection on your lived experiences. One presentation plus one paper related to the topics covered are expected from each student.

Students are expected to read 2-3 articles per week. All of the books from which the readings come from are either provided at least a week in advance or in the University library. Please finish all readings before class.

**Students are expected to be open-minded in receiving new and/or sometimes controversial ideas. While students are encouraged to think and speak your minds freely and honestly, mindless and careless dismissal of reading materials is not supported. Students are expected to constantly challenge your own preconceptions and/or biases and are ready to be challenged.**

All classes are conducted in the form of seminars supplemented occasionally by video screenings. Please be active and verbal within classroom.

## Grading

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| Continuous Assessment   | 30% |
| Completion of course readings, assignments and active participation in class discussion and presentation. Attendance in seminars, screenings and discussions. |     |
| Class Presentation  | 25% |
| Final Essay   | 45% |

## Required Texts

Kate Bornstein, *My Gender Workbook: How to Become a Real Man, a Real Woman, the Real You, or Something Else Entirely*, London and New York: Routledge, 1997.

Jeffrey Weeks, *Sexuality and Its Discontents: Meanings, Myths and Modern Sexualities*, London, Melbourne and Henley: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1985.

游靜編，《性政治》，香港：天地，2005。

何春蕤編，《性工作研究》，台灣中壢：中央大學性/別研究室，2003。

### **Supplementary Readings**

Foucault, Michel (1998) *The Will to Knowledge, The History of Sexuality Volume 1*, Hurley, R. trans., UK: Penguin Books.

Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky (1990), *Epistemology of the Closet*, University of California Press.

Yau, Ching, ed. (2010) *As Normal as Possible: Negotiating Sexuality and Gender In Mainland China and Hong Kong*. Hong Kong University Press.

### **Topics Covered**

#### Sept 4 Week 1 Introducing Genders as Constructs: Boy or Girl?

Required exercises and readings from Kate Bornstein, *My Gender Workbook; How to Become a Real Man, a Real Woman, the Real You, or Something Else Entirely*, London and New York: Routledge, 1997.

#### Sept 11 Week 2 Introducing Feminisms: Rethinking Power

Excerpts from Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*, San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989.

畢恆達，〈假如我是男生〉及〈夜，永誌不忘：

記葉永誌〉，《空間就是性別》，台北：心靈工坊文化，2004，頁40-53, 215-226.

#### Sept 18 Week 3 Gender and Sexual Differences in Education

文思慧，〈學校教育有利「恐同」〉，《性政治》，香港：天地，2005，頁60-67。Melinda S. Miceli, "Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth", *Handbook of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, London, Thousand Oaks and New Delhi: Sage, 2002, pp. 199-214.

#### Sept 25 Week 4 Compulsory Heterosexuality

Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence", *Blood, Bread, and Poetry*, 1986, pp. 23-75

Monique Wittig, "One Is Not Born a Woman" (1980) and "The Straight Mind" (1981), *The Straight Mind and Other Essays*, 1992, pp. 9-32.

#### Oct 2 Week 5 History of Sexualities

Jeffrey Weeks, "Nature has nothing to do with it': the role of sexology", *Sexuality and Its Discontents: Meanings, Myths and Modern Sexualities*, London, Melbourne and Henley: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1985, pp. 61-95.

Ken Plummer, "Mapping the Sociological Gay: Past, Presents and Futures of a Sociology of Same Sex Relations", *Lesbian and Gay Studies: An Introductory, Interdisciplinary Approach*, London, Thousand Oaks and New Delhi: Sage, 2000, pp. 46-60.

#### Oct 9 Week 6 Sex-related Diseases: Why is AIDS so scary?

Cindy Patton, "Notes for a genealogy of safe sex" in Ken Plummer ed., *Sexualities, Vol IV*, London and New York: Routledge, 2002[1990], pp. 174-181.

Jeffrey Weeks, "The new moralism", *Sexuality and Its Discontents: Meanings, Myths and Modern Sexualities*, London, Melbourne and Henley: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1985, pp. 33-57.

Screening: *Philadelphia* (Jonathan Demme, 1994, USA, 119 mins.)

Oct 16 Week 7 "Immoral" Sex: Stigmatization and Sexual Hierarchies

Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality" in *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*, Pandora: 1989, pp. 267-319.

卡維波，〈同性戀/性工作的生命共同體——理論的與現實的連帶〉，《性工作妓權觀點》，台灣中壢：中央大學性/別研究室，1998，頁264-309。

Oct 23 Week 8 Boy+/-Girl: Transgenderism

Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*, Chapters 2, 5 and 19, New York: Firebrand, 1993 (with Chinese translation).

Jay Prosser, "Transgender", *Lesbian and Gay Studies: A Critical Introduction*, London and Washington: Cassell, 1997, pp. 309-326.

Transgender Quiz made by TEAM (HK)

Screening: *TransAmerica* (Duncan Tucker, 2005, USA, 103 mins.)

Oct 30 Week 9 Normativity and Queer Performativity

Excerpts from Michael Warner, *The Trouble with Normal*, Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2000.

Judith Butler, "Bodily Inscriptions, Performative Subversions", *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, London and New York: Routledge, 1990.

Nov 6 Week 10 Queer Chinese and Tongzhi Studies

趙彥寧，〈台灣同志研究的回顧與展望——一個關於文化生產的分析〉，《文化研究在台灣》，台北：巨流，2000，頁237-279。

Liu, Jenpeng, Amie Parry and Ding Naifei 劉人鵬、白瑞梅、丁乃非 (2007) *Penumbrae Query Shadow: Queer Reading Tactics* 《罔兩問景：酷兒口讀攻略》，Chungli, Taiwan: National Central University 桃園縣中壢市：中央大學性/別研究室。

朱偉誠，〈同志、台灣：性公民、國族建構或公民社會〉，《女學雜誌：婦女與性別研究》第15期，台灣，2003年5月，頁115-151。

Nov 13 Week 11 In God's Name: HK Equal Rights and the Christian Right

Lethbridge, H. 1982. 'Pandora's Box: the Inspector MacLennan enigma', *Hong Kong Law Journal* 12 (1), pp. 4-30.

Discussion of ads from Truth and Light Society and Hong Kong news clippings

Screening: *Keep Not Silent* (Ilil Alexander, Israel, 2004, 52 min.)

Nov 20 Week 12 "Sex Liberation" Movement

何春蕤，〈情欲解放運動：一個歷史——社會的觀點〉，《性政治入門：台灣性運演講集》，台灣中壢：中央大學性/別研究室，2005，頁181-230。

Talks by Guest Activists

Nov 27 Week 13

Students' Presentations

Dec 4 Week 14  
Students' Presentations