Critical Gender Studies 105 – Queer Theory
*Nayan Shah, Department of History*

#708101  TuTh  12:30 – 1:50pm   CSB 005


In this course, we will seek to answer this and other questions by exploring the theoretical frameworks, political debates, and social and cultural practices that make up the field of queer studies. Applying an interdisciplinary approach to historical and contemporary readings, media screening, and class discussions, we will examine theories and histories of U.S and diasporic queer and trans identities, communities and cultures, paying special attention to how they intersect with social categories of race, class, and nationality. Together, we will challenge ourselves to complicate our understandings of seemingly ‘natural’ social categories such as sex/gender, man/woman or homosexual/heterosexual as we experience them in our own daily lives, and perceive them in the world around us.

Critical Gender Studies 106 – Gender Equality and the Law
*Mattheus E. Stephens, Lecturer*

#708102  Tu  6:30 – 9:20pm   WLH 2111

This course explores the legal treatment of discrimination on the basis of gender, including equal protection doctrine and some statutory law such as Title VII and Title IX. Topics include the law’s treatment of gender equality in such areas as single sex education, military service, sexual harassment, discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, and other current legal issues.
In the past half-century, critical theory has built upon the argument that gender and sexuality are essentially performative. But much of this theory has failed to take into account intersections of race, ethnicity, class, and dis/ability with gender/sexual performance. This class will consider how Trans theory might bring these intersections more sharply into focus. Students will be expected to read foundational theories of gender performance; explore Trans theory and visual culture from a range of traditions and geopolitical locations; write several short response papers; and create final small-group projects in consultation with the professor.