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Spring 2015 Courses



CGS 100 - Conceptualizing Gender: Theories & Methods

Sara Clarke Kaplan, Department of Ethnic Studies and Critical Gender Studies

If, as feminist scholars have argued for decades, gender is not a 'natural' category, but a social construct, then how, precisely, is it constructed? This course offers a survey of how different scholars, writers, artists, and activists have sought to answer that question. Drawing upon historical and contemporary readings, film, and new media viewings, and current political and cultural events, we will

explore both the key theoretical frameworks and various methodological approaches used in critical gender studies. We will challenge ourselves to complicate our understandings of seemingly natural concepts such as 'male/female,' 'man/woman,' and 'homosexual/heterosexual' as we experience them in our own daily lives and perceive them in the world around us. Our work will be carried out with a primary goal in mind: developing our own interdisciplinary critical apparatus through which we can better understand not only the conditions under which 'gender' is lived, but the terms through which the very concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality are produced, negotiated, and transformed.

CGS 104 – Advanced Topics in CGS: Queer Lives in Latin America

Gabriela Santizo, Critical Gender Studies Program

What does it mean to be queer? What constitutes a queer life? What does it mean to live a queer life in Latin America? These are some of the questions that will guide our study of several Latin American cultural productions, including a novel, short stories, chronicles, films, songs, and photographs. We will examine how diverse texts construct and articulate queer lives as marginal lives and radical lives. We will pay close attention to the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and class as we explore how different texts (re)frame queer lives in relation to social justice, historical memory, and various social transformations that have taken place in Latin America since the 1950s.

CGS 116 – Girls & Sexuality: Moral Panics, Perils, and Pleasures

Jillian Hernandez, Department of Ethnic Studies and Critical Gender Studies

Explores how girls' sexualities are shaped by gender, race, class, educational and penal institutions, and sexual norms. Engages with interdisciplinary scholarship that examines how and why the topic of girls and sexuality has become a volatile subject of public debate, and the manner in which girls' sexualities are represented in various media, particularly film.

CGS 165 – Sex and Gender in African American Communities

Dayo Gore, Department of Ethnic Studies and Critical Gender Studies

(Cross-listed with ETHN 165) Using films, primary sources, novels, and scholarly essays, this course will explore the ways changing constructions of sex, gender, and sexuality have influenced black life and communities in the U.S. The course will trace how these issues have taken shape both within and outside of black communities in the context of slavery, emancipation and the long black freedom struggle as well as in contemporary discourses about black family life, U.S. popular culture, and sports. This will include conversations about civil rights and black power, Beyoncé's black feminist politics, and gender and sexuality in black athletes from Michael Sam to Serena Williams.

CGS 196B – CGS Honors Thesis

Fatima El-Tayeb, Critical Gender Studies Program Director

Honors thesis research and writing for students who have completed CGS 190 and 196A. A letter grade for both CGS 196A and 196B will be given at the completion of the quarter.

Departmental Courses Applicable/Petitionable to CGS Major and Minor

#Course is eligible for major/minor credit, but must be petitioned. Please see CGS advisor for assistance with the petition. Some departmental courses may require prerequisites. If you have not met the prerequisites you may contact the department directly to ask for preauthorization.

Social Sciences

ANSC 125—Gender, Sexuality, and Society

COMM 114G—Communication and Social Institutions: Gender and Science

ETHN 128—Hip Hop: The Politics of Culture

PSYC 134 – Eating Disorders

SOCI 118 – Sociology of Gender

SOCI 119—Sociology of Sexuality and Sexual Identities

SOCI 132—Gender and Work

SOCI 139—Social Inequality: Class, Race, and Gender

Arts & Humanities

HIEA 138 – Women & the Chinese Revolution

HIEU 149—History of Women in Europe: 1870 to Present

HILA 164—Women's Work and Family Life in Latin America

HIUS 130—Cultural History from 1607 to the Civil War

HIUS 131—Cultural History from the Civil War to the Present

LTCS 132—Special Topics in Social Identities and the Media

LTEN 185—Themes in African American Literature

For additional information, please contact the Critical Gender Studies Program Office in the Social Sciences Building, Room 201A at (858) 534-9982 or e-mail cgs@ucsd.edu.

You can also visit our website at <http://cgs.ucsd.edu>.