



GNDS 412/820

Gendered Selves/Sexual Subjects

aka

Sex & Subjectivity: States of Gender and Sexuality

Contact Hours

Mondays 11:30 am-2:30 pm

Course Description

We examine the emergence and evolving signficance of sexual identity and identification in the context of modern history and the present. Close readings of key works in queer theory and the history of sexuality and of gender (Michel Foucault, Gayle Rubin, Eve Sedgwick, Judith Butler, Denise Riley et al) are the focus of class discussions and course work.

A collaborative, creative, and Al-aware approach informs all phases of the course.

Required Course Materials

All required readings are available online or through the GNDS 412/820 course eReserve.

In addition, I highly recommend (but do not require) that you obtain a copy of Foucault's text,

The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- unpack and critically analyze the intersectional formation of gender and sexuality as lived experience and as discursive and historical construction
- compare and contrast several diverse theorizations of gender and sexuality
- articulate the ways in which sexuality and gender manifest as both different and indistinguishable
- articulate how gender and sexual distinctions are fundamental to social, economic, political phenomena at every level

Course Evaluation

- Weekly in-class writing: 30%
- Seminar participation: 30%
- Essay topic + bibliography: 15%
- Final essay: 25%

NB: some of your writing in the course will be done collaboratively in small groups

Topics in Course Outline

- sexuality and gender as subjectivity, as identity
- subjectivity/subjectification via gender and sexuality
- gender and sexuality as regulatory categories
- power and sexuality (passim)
- distinguishing sex, sexuality, and gender
- Foucault's legacy: ethical bodies and pleasures

- the historical context of queer theory
- queering sexuality, questioning identity.
- language and/of sexual difference
- Eve Sedgwick's queer theory
- Denise Riley on language and gender