

Course Name

GNDS 801: Theories in Gender Studies

Tuesdays 11:30-2:20

Course Description

This seminar serves as an advanced, interdisciplinary, and transnational introduction to, and inquiry of contemporary theories within and across such fields as gender studies, Black studies, critical disability/crip studies, Indigenous and postcolonial, queer and trans studies. In it we will ask: what are the political, aesthetic and epistemological projects of theory as it emerges both within and outside the academy? How might we think about gender (et al.) theory's relationships to, and histories in, disciplinary knowledge formation, the art world, colonialism, the law, the clinic, anti-colonial and revolutionary struggles and social justice movements, cultures of resistance? We will consider different ways and stakes of thinking about the human, identity, intimacy, knowledge, power, affect, the aesthetic, the social, movement, spatiality, temporality, desire, life and death. Throughout this course we will reflect upon our own formations, commitments, and aspirations in order to think about what theory might do, how it allows us to think and imagine and act, and with what conditions of possibility.

Course Objectives

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

- Identify, critically assess and think with key interdisciplinary theoretical trajectories informing contemporary Gender Studies
- Explain how key debates in Gender Studies structure the contemporary theoretical field, and reflect on the uneven and political determination (and limits) of what counts as "theory" across/between disciplines
- Account for how various Gender theories inform political and cultural practice and vice versa.
- Speak to/read with theories elaborated in different kinds of cultural production and epistemic traditions.

Instructor

See SOLUS

Required Course Texts:

- 1. Billy-Ray Belcourt. A History of My Brief Body. 2020.
- 2. Katherine McKittrick. <u>Dear Science</u>, and <u>other stories</u>. 2021.
- 3. Nat Raha and Mijke Van Der Drift. <u>Trans</u> <u>Femme Futures: Abolitionist Ethics for</u> <u>Transfeminist Worlds.</u> 2024.
- 4. Avgi Saketapoulou and Ann Pellegrini Gender without Identity. 2024.
- Lara Sheehi and Stephen Sheehi.
 Psychoanalysis Under Occupation:
 Practicing Resistance in Palestine. 2022.
- 6. Alberto Toscano. <u>Late Fascism: Race,</u>
 <u>Capitalism and the Politics of Crisis</u>. 2023.

 Additional readings by Anzaldúa, Awkward-

Rich, Byrd, Chen, Clare, Foucault, Freud, Gill-Peterson, Lowe, Massumi, Said, Sedgewick, Simpson, El-Tayeb and others will be available via E-Reserves.

Course Evaluation

- Active Participation/Attendance 15%
- Discussion Starters 2 x 5% = 10%
- In-Class Writing Exercises 10%
- Presentation/Class facilitation 25%
- Outline/Annotated Bibliography 10%
- Final Paper/Project 20-25 pages 30%