

History 346, Spring 2014: Trans/Gender in Historical Perspective
Professor Finn Enke
Office Hours: Tues 1:30-2:00 Sterling 3408, Thurs 12:30-1:30
for Thursday office hours, email day before for location.

How can we consider trans/gender/variation in historical perspective?

Throughout recorded history, humans have conceptualized categories of sex and gender in a variety of ways; some have elaborated just two main sex/genders, others have elaborated more than two categories. At the same time, regardless of how a given culture has defined sex and gender and the behaviors and appearances deemed appropriate, humans have always exceeded those definitions. Quite simply, the determination of male and female and any other sex or gender category is neither obvious nor simple: what is sex, what is gender? Do they reside in the body, behavior, psyche, clothing, or social processes such as racialization? To make matters still more complicated, cultural beliefs about sex/gender have changed across time. How have contacts across cultures through migration and colonization affected people's understanding of sex/gender possibilities and norms?

This course focuses on sex/gender crossing and variation in historical contexts including Japan, South Africa, Europe, the African diaspora, and the United States. We will consider perspectives of people who themselves passed, crossed, transitioned, transed, or otherwise exceeded their culture's definitions of normative sex/gender. Alongside, we will consider the ways that dominant social institutions reinforce norms, recognize, tolerate, punish and/or celebrate gender variation. We will examine cases expressed in popular culture, medical and legal perspectives, memoir, queer and trans theory, and social movement treatises.

Required Books available at Room of One's Own on Gorham

Susan Stryker, *Transgender History*

Amanda LockSwarr, *Sex in Transition: Remaking Gender and Race in South Africa*

Geri Nettick/Beth Elliott, *Mirrors: Portrait of a Lesbian Transsexual*

Janet Mock, *Redefining Realness: My Path*

Required Course Reader available at Student Print, East Campus Mall

All articles are in your Reader unless otherwise noted.

Course Requirements:

You must fulfill all requirements in order to receive a passing grade.

Attendance is required. Attendance constitutes 10% of your final grade, with each absence decreasing your attendance grade by one full letter. Please do not schedule appointments, meetings, or trips during lecture or discussion section. If you are ill or have other extenuating circumstances that prevent your attendance, please let me know as soon as you can.

Class periods: 10%. You should come to class having read the material for that day, and be ready to actively engage in lecture and discussion. Bring your questions to class. Be sure you are following the lecture and raise questions if you feel unclear about anything.

Weekly Written Engagement: 40%. One paper due each week except first and last weeks. You may hand it in on Tuesday or Thursday, but your engagement must correspond to the readings for the day you hand it in. You may miss one paper; a total of 12 are required.

These should be typed. They will be graded on a check, check-plus basis. The primary purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to actively engage and reflect on the reading. It also gives me a sense of how the class in general is doing with readings and lecture.

Each response should include:

- A) a brief (1-2 sentences) note on your comprehension of previous class period and any concerns you may have had.
- B) a self-rating of your comprehension of the present day's readings; rate yourself on a 3-pt scale, with 1 being low feeling of understanding and 3 being you feel pretty clear and comfortable with the reading. 3+? You are jamming.
- C) a 2-3 sentence statement of the authors' main points.
- D) what stood out most to you: what do you find compelling here? This may be a paragraph (or more if you're into it) for each reading.
- E) Optional: a note about any concerns you may have about lecture material.

Two take-home essay exams: You will receive the questions for the exam two weeks before it is due. Exam One, 15%, due March 4; Exam Two, 25% due May 12.

Accessibility: Everyone, regardless of disabilities or special needs, is welcome in this course. Please let me know if you need any accommodations in the instruction or evaluation procedures in order to facilitate your full participation. The McBurney Center provides useful assistance and documentation.

Computers and cell phones: I ask that you do not use laptops in class unless, for reasons of accessibility, you need one to fully participate in lecture. Please let me know if this is the case for you. Please turn off your cell phones before lecture starts and keep them in your bag for the duration of class.

Unit One: Introduction to Major Themes and Questions in Trans History

Jan 21 Pretty Fish and Other Cool Things of Note (no reading required)

Jan 23 Stryker, *Transgender History*, Prologue and Chapter 1

Jan 28 Santo Kyoden, *The Unseamly Silverpiped Swingers* (PDF sent to you electronically via email and posted on learn@uw). Note that page numbers proceed from “back” to “front;” read each page right to left and top to bottom.

Additional PDF’s sent via email and learn@uw: Osamu Tezuka, *Princes Knight*, vol 1 (again, read back to front, and each page right to left).

Rumiko Takahashi, *Ranma ½*, vol. 1 (this reads as English comic books typically do)

Jan 30 Weismantel, “Towards a Transgender Archaeology”

Unit Two: Gender Variation: Acknowledgement and Dis/Integration

Feb 4 Miranda, “Extermination of the Joyas”
Sabine Lang, “Various Kinds of Two Spirit People”
Wesley Thomas, “Navajo Conceptions of Gender and Sexuality”

Feb 6 Towle and Morgan, “Romancing the Transgender Native”

Feb 11 Sweet, “Mutual Misunderstanding: Gesture, Gender and Healing”
Sears, “Electric Brilliancy: Cross-Dressing Law and Freak Show...”

Feb 13 Henry, “Between Surveillance and Liberation”

Feb 18 Lock Swarr, *Sex in Transition: Remaking Gender and Race in South Africa*

Feb 20 *Sex in Transition: Remaking Gender and Race in South Africa*

Feb 25 *Sex in Transition: Remaking Gender and Race in South Africa*

Feb 27 *Sex in Transition: Remaking Gender and Race in South Africa*

Unit Three: Trans Arrives: Whose Movement Is This?

Mar 4 Stryker, *Transgender History*, Chapter 2
Richard von Krafft-Ebing, “Psychopathia Sexualis”

Mar 4 Exam One Due

Mar 6 Meyerowitz, "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty"

Mar 11 Skidmore, "Constructing the 'Good Transsexual'"
Prince, "Men Who Choose to Be Women"

Mar 13 Hill, "Before Transgender: *Transvestia's* Spectrum of Gender Variance"

Mar 18 SPRING BREAK

Mar 20 SPRING BREAK

Mar 25 Stryker *Transgender History*, Chapter 3
Feinberg, "A Movement Whose Time Has Come"

Mar 27 Rivera, "Queens in Exile"
Gan, "Still at the Back of the Bus"

Apr 1 Stryker, *Transgender History* Chapter 4
Elliot/Nettick, *Mirrors*

Apr 3 Elliot/Nettick, *Mirrors*

Apr 8 *Mirrors*

Apr 10 Bailey, "Gender/Racial Realness"

Apr 15 Mock, *Redefining Realness*

April 16 Janet Mock, 7-9pm Chazen

Apr 17 Mock, *Redefining Realness*

Apr 22 Spade, "Compliance is Gendered"

Apr 24 TBA

Apr 29 TBA

May 1 Aizura, "Transnational Transgender Rights and Immigration Law"

May 6 International Bill of Transgender Rights (supplied electronically)

May 8 last class

May 12 Exam Two due

History 275 Trans/Gender in Historical Perspective
Spring 2014
Reader Table of Contents

Mary Weismantel, "Towards a Transgender Archaeology"
(Kyoden, Tezuka—sent electronically, NOT in packet)

Deborah Miranda, "Extermination of the *Joyas*"
Sabine Lang, "Various Kinds of Two Spirit People"
Wesley Thomas, "Navajo Conceptions of Gender and Sexuality"
Towle and Morgan, "Romancing the Transgender Native"

Alice Dreger, "Prologue: 'But My Good Woman, You Are a Man!'"
Richard von Krafft-Ebing, "Psychopathia Sexualis"
Cheryl Chase, "Hermaphrodites with Attitude"

Jim Sweet, "Mutual Misunderstanding: Gesture, Gender and Healing"
Todd Henry, "Between Surveillance and Liberation"
Clare Sears, "Electric Brilliancy: Cross-Dressing Law and Freak Show..."

Joanne Meyerowitz, "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty"
Emily Skidmore, "Constructing the 'Good Transsexual'"
Virginia Prince, "Men Who Choose to Be Women"
Robert Hill "Before Transgender: *Transvestia's* Spectrum of Gender Variance"

Leslie Feinberg, "A Movement Whose Time Has Come"
Sylvia Rivera, "Queens in Exile"
Jesse Gan, "Still at the Back of the Bus"
Marlon Bailey, "Gender/Racial Realness"

Dean Spade "Compliance is Gendered"
Aren Aizura, "Transnational Transgender Rights and Immigration Law"

GRADE SCALE

92-100= A
88-91=AB
82-87=B
78-81=BC
72-77=C
68-71=CD
60-67=D
0-59=F

