

HL3016: Gender and Sexuality Studies

AY2024-25, Semester 2

Lecturer: Doctor Kate Wright; Email: KEWright@ntu.edu.sg

This course examines the intersections of gender, sexuality, place, ability, status, race, and class in the cultural construction of bodies. It focuses on the relationship between the normal and the abject to highlight how that relationship influences which bodies inspire our desire and move us in disgust. We will consider a selection of texts to investigate the rhetorics of the exotic, the realistic, the sentimental, the inscrutable, and the repulsive in regard to these bodies. More than just looking at 'images of...' and 'identities', we will concentrate on theories of the production and perpetration of the bodies we see and how we see them.

Core Theory Texts (to be provided by the lecturer)

- A selection of extracts from books/essays that address theories of gender and sexuality (see the texts listed in the weekly schedule below)

Core Literary Texts (to be provided by the lecturer)

- Zadie Smith, 'Miss Adele Amidst the Corsets', from *The BBC National Short Story Award 2014* (2014) – short story
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 'The Thing Around Your Neck', from *The Thing Around Your Neck* (2009) – short story
- Annie Proulx, 'Brokeback Mountain', from *Close Range: Wyoming Stories* (1999) – short story
- Amanda Lee Koe, 'Siren', from *Ministry of Moral Panic* (2013) – short story
- Amanda Lee Koe, 'Not Gonna Get Us', from *The Paris Review* (2019) – personal essay
- Jinny Koh, 'Land of a Thousand Smiles', from *Best New Singaporean Short Stories, Vol. 4* (2019) – short story
- Jeannette Winterson, *The Stone Gods* (2007) – extract from novel

Core Texts Context

- The focus of these classes is literary theory. As such, the core theory texts will form the primary focus of class discussion.
- The literary texts will be used as material for the exploration of the principles/issues/questions discussed in the core theory texts.

Assessment Overview

- Close-reading essay: 25%
- Op-ed (an opinion piece): 20%
- Coursework essay: 40%
- Class participation: 15%
- Please note: beyond assistance for grammar and spelling, use of Gen AI is not permitted on this course.

Week	Topics	Theory and Literary Texts
1.	Module introduction	Material to be provided in class
2.	Spectacular Bodies	Theory: - Michel Foucault, 'We "Other Victorians"' - Judith Butler, 'Performative Acts and Gender Constitution' Literary Text: - Zadie Smith, 'Miss Adele Amidst the Corsets'
3.	Feminisms (1)	Theory: - Betty Friedan, 'The Feminine Mystique' - Hélène Cixous, 'The Laugh of the Medusa' Literary Text: - Jinny Koh, 'Land of a Thousand Smiles'
4.	Feminisms (2)	Theory: - bell hooks, from <i>Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism</i> - Kimberle Crenshaw, 'Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex' - J. Gwynne, 'Slutwalk, Feminist Activism and the Foreign Body in Singapore' Literary Text: - C. N. Adichie, 'The Thing Around Your Neck'
5.	Masculinities	Theory: - Antony Easthope, 'The Masculine Ego', from <i>What a Man's Gotta Do: Masculine Myth in Popular Culture</i> - R. W. Connell, from <i>The Men and the Boys</i> - C. K. K. Tan, 'Oi Recruit! Wake Up Your Idea!: Homosexuality and Cultural Citizenship in the Singapore Military' Literary Text: - Annie Proulx, 'Brokeback Mountain'
6.	Assignment Workshop	N/A
7.	Queering the Subject	Theory: - Jack Halberstam, 'Queer Temporality and Postmodern Geographies' - Eve Sedgwick, 'Queer and Now', from <i>Tendencies</i> Literary Text: Amanda Lee Koe, 'Not Gonna Get Us'
	RECESS WEEK	
8.	Gay and Lesbian Studies	Theory: Judith Butler, 'Imitation and Gender Insubordination' Donald E. Hall, 'A Brief, Slanted History of Homosexual Activity' Literary Text: - Annie Proulx, 'Brokeback Mountain'
9.	Transgenderism and Non-Binary Identities	Theory: - Judith Halberstam, 'Boys will be Bois' - Nikki Sullivan, 'Transsexual Empires and Transgender Warriors' Literary Theory:

		Amanda Lee Koe, 'Siren'
10.	Nation and Gendered Identities: Perspectives from Singapore	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heng and Devan, 'State Fatherhood: The Politics of Nationalism, Sexuality and Race in Singapore' - Aaron Ho, 'How to Bring Singaporeans Up Straight' - S. Obendorf, 'Both Contagion and Cure: Queer Politics in the Global City State' <p>Literary Theory: Amanda Lee Koe, 'Siren'</p>
11.	Differently-Able Bodies	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lennard J. Davis, 'Constructing Normalcy', from <i>Enforcing Normalcy</i> - D.T. Mitchell and S.L. Snyder, 'Narrative Prosthesis', from <i>Cultural Locations of Disability</i> <p>Literary Text: - Jeannette Winterson, from <i>The Stone Gods</i></p>
12.	Posthuman Bodies	<p>Theory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donna Haraway, 'A Cyborg Manifesto' - Paul Sheehan, 'Posthuman Bodies' <p>Literary Text: - Jeanette Winterson, from <i>The Stone Gods</i></p>
13.	Module Review	Material to be provided during class