CULS 6030 Topics in Literature, Society and Politics / CULS 5203 The Body in Culture and Art

The Sexual Body in Art and Media

Venue: MMW 715

Thursdays 2:30pm -5:15 pm

Prof. Katrien Jacobs
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Room 307
Leung Kau Kui Building

Course Description (Chinese and English)

The course in visual culture studies and gender studies will give an overview of different modes of visualization, media paradigms and bodily aesthetics that define contemporary sexuality. We will focus on theories of culture and art, new media, performativity, surveillance, globalization, and democracy/activism. Student will be encouraged to respond to theories, audio-visual examples, cyberculture and partake in extensive debates about trends in sexuality and media. They will also learn how to apply innovative and interdisciplinary research methods to study media formats and regimes.
Assessment Scheme

Attendance and participation, weekly presentations 30%

In class presentation manifesto “future of sexuality” 30%

Final Project: Analytical paper based on online ethnography and audio-visual documentation 40%

Course Syllabus

Week 1. jan 9 Introduction

Overview of syllabus and assignments

In-class exercise: students interview each other about definitions of sexual pleasure and look for examples of sexual representations.

Week 2. jan 16 Definitions of Pornography and Eroticism


Screenings: Sola Aio and Silk Labo.

Week 3. jan 23 Queer Sex on the screen

Readings:


Screenings: Shine Louise Houston, Crash Pad Marrit Ostberg shortfilms and documentary.

Week 4. jan 30. No class: Chinese New Year

Week 5. feb 6 Male bodies and female voyeurism
Screening and discussion, Steven Soderberg *Magic Mike*

**Week 6.  **feb 13. Transgenderism and ethnography


Terre Thaemlitz, “Viva Mc Glam” (online article)

Screenings, Jennie Livingston *Paris is Burning*, Fan Popo, *Be A Woman*

**Week 7.  **feb20. Digital Sexualities and Virtual Worlds Research

Guest lecture and documentary Isaac Leung on sex machines.

Reading:  Julie Bradford, University of Sunderland, “Rewriting the Script: Women, Pornography and Web 2.0

Workshop, manifesto on the future of sexuality

**Week 8.  **feb 27 Midterm presentations: Group manifesto “The future of Sexuality”

**Week 9.  **march 6  Performance Art and Nudity Blogging

Readings:


**Week 10.  **march 13 Workshop Final Project and Paper:: Digital Sexualities:: Online ethnography and audio-visual documentation (New Media Lab)

**Week 11.  **march 20. Sexuality and Surveillance Culture
Readings:


Screening, Ai Wei Wei, Never Sorry.

**Week 12.** March 27 Sexual Afterlife of the Cinema

Readings:


Rey Chow, ‘Framing the Original: Toward a New Visibility of the Orient’ In *Entanglements, Or Transmedial Thinking about a Capture,* pp. 168-183.

**Week 13.** April 3 Women’s Manga and the Homo-Erotic Imagination

Readings:


**Week 14** April 10 Project presentations Online Ethnography of Digital Sexualities

**Week 15** April 17. Project presentations Online Ethnography of Digital Sexualities
Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe recent developments in contemporary art and media by studying aspects of the body, gender and sexuality.
2. Identify key theoretical approaches to contemporary sexuality and queer studies.
3. Understand contemporary representations of sexual politics and censorship within local culture and network culture.
4. Apply research methods in visual culture and online ethnography.

Feedback for Evaluation

- End-of-term university course evaluation will be conducted in class.
- Students’ comments and feedback on the course through e-mails or personal meeting with the instructor are always welcomed.

References


Jones Amelia, *Body Art: Performing the Subject*, Univ of Minnesota Press, 1989


Yau, Ching (2010) “Porn Power: Sexual and Gender Politics in Li Han-hsiang’s *Fengyue Films,*” in Yau Ching (ed) *As Normal as Possible: Negotiating Sexuality and Gender in Mainland China and Hong Kong*, Hong Kong University Press.


**Recommended Readings**


Pei, Yuxin and Sik Ying Ho, ‘Gender, Self and Pleasure; Young Women’s Discourses on Masturbation in Contemporary Shanghai,” *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*, 1:.5 ( 2009),pp. 515-528.


