Description: This course will examine the visualization and representation of gender and sexuality within different East Asian film and screen cultures such as mainstream and arthouse cinema, VR movies, anime and manga, digital and social media. Students will be introduced to film and media analysis within East-Asian media with a specific focus on historical and contemporary representations of sexuality and gender in Hong Kong. There will be also a focus on the influence of Japanese media and sex cultures within the great Chinese region. Students will develop analytical tools and a final research project to get
immersed in a new understanding of sexual representation from a Cultural Studies perspective.

Language of instruction: Classes and assignments will be carried out in the English language and your active participation in both lectures and tutorials will be required.

Learning Activities: The course combines theoretical lectures with the viewing of film and media examples, and a designated fieldtrip that support and reinforce the topic of discussion for each week.

Students are required to complete the readings and attend a 3-hour class each week. There will also be discussion activities based on the lectures and on the weekly readings. All students are required to act as in-class citizens and engage in in-class discussions as well as critical listening when other students are talking or presenting work.

In addition to the weekly readings, students will also conduct research and planning for their assessments and oral presentations independently and in groups.

Please be advised that this course will involve some screenings and discussions of sexually explicit materials. You are not required to watch these materials if it would make you uncomfortable and please talk to your teachers if this would be the case.

In this class you will not be allowed to use your cellphones or laptop/tablet devices unless these are used for in-class activities.

Assessment:

Assessment Type Weighting Date Due

Assessment 1 Attendance and Participation 10%

Assessment 2 Weekly Oral Presentations and Blackboard Reflections 40%

Assessment 3 Essay and Presentation on the theme of “Hong Kong Screens and Sexualities” 50%

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the course, you will be able to:
1. Understand the diversity and similarities of different East Asian film and screen cultures and subcultures in how they represent gender and sexuality.

2. Understand the unique position of Hong Kong, China and East Asia in current discourses on gender and sexuality.

3. Able to critically apply or interrogate theories of film and media

4. Able to critically apply or interrogate theories of gender and sexuality

5. Able to understand the relationship between cultural representations and social or political conditions of the body and gender/sexuality

Session Outline and Readings

Week 1. Sept 4 Introduction Course and Major Themes

Sign-up For Oral Presentations

First Exercise (due on Blackboard week 3) 500 words and 2 images

Spend one afternoon with a classmate and observe, discuss, speculate how their gender and sexual identity is informed by their digital media consumption (any social media platforms or websites of your choice).

Week 2. Sept 11 The ‘Lolita’ Complex and its Legal Controversies

Depictions of young girls in East Asian in Western Media causing legal controversies

Reading (short reflection due on Blackboard BEFORE class)


Justin Mullis, “All the Pretty Little Ponies,” In The Retro_Futurism of Cuteness,” pp. 88-110

Week 3: Sept 18 Hong Kong Sex Workers on The Hollywood Screen

Concepts of gender and ethnicity in Hollywood and Cantonese cinema

Screening excerpts:

Richard Quine, The World of Suzie Wong(1960)
Angela Chan, *My Name Ain’t Suzie* (1985)

Reading (short reflection due BEFORE class)

Gina Marchetti, *Romance and the Yellow Peril*, Race, Sex and Discursive Strategies in Hollywood Fiction, University of California Press, 1993, ch.6 White Knights in Hong Kong

Kenneth Brorson Film Review *My Name Ain’t Suzie*
http://www.sogoodreviews.com/reviews/mynamemaintsuzie.htm

Week 4 Oct 25 Cyborgs in Manga and Anime

Philosophical questions about VR technology’s effects on concepts of the body and nation-states.

Screening excerpts:

*Mamoru Oshii, Ghost in the Shell* (1995)

*Mamoru Hosada, Summer Wars, (2009)*

Reading (short reflection due BEFORE class)

Joseph Christopher Schaub, “Kusanagi’s Body: Gender and Technology in Mecha-anime”

Week 5 Oct 2 Non-Binary Subjectivity in Cosplay and Dollplay

An analysis of non-binary Subjectivity in East-Asian visual fantasy cultures such as Cosplay and doll play.

Readings (Sort reflection BEFORE class)

Katrien Jacobs, *Wandering Dolls: Cosplay Journey Across East Asia*


Week 6 Oct 9 Queer Sexuality in Boys’ Love Media and Fandoms

An analysis of the queer sexual fantasies and identities of Boys’ Love Fandom.

Readings:
Yu June, The fancy of Japanese Yaoi


Week 7: Oct 18-19 Symposium East-Asian Pornographies and Online Porn Cultures

Week 8: Oct 23: Sexually Explicit media and Sex Education

How are young adults from different cultures being affected by pornography? Can pornography be seen as a sex education?

Readings (reflection due BEFORE class)

Alex McNair, “Rethinking the Effects Paradigm in Porn Studies.”

Kath Albury, “Porn and Sex Education, Porn as Sex Education”

Week 9: Oct 30 Presentations of Final Research Project Proposals

Week 10. Nov 6 Fieldtrip (date and time will be announced) Participation is necessary and field trip activities will be used in final assignment

Week 11: November 13 Transsexuality in mainstream and documentary media

Analysis of cross-dressing and transsexualities within East Asian contexts

Reading (Reflection due BEFORE class)


Screening Excerpts:

Jennie Livingston, Paris is Burning(1990)
Kim Loginotto, Shinjuku Boys (1995)
Fan Popo, Be a Woman (2011)

Week 12. Nov 19 Reading Week
Week 13 Nov 25 December 26 In-Class Presentations Final Projects.
Final Papers Due

Recommended Reading List/References

Research and sources on Japanese animation


Chua, Beng Huat."Conceptualizing an East Asian Popular Culture." Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, Volume 5, Issue 2, pp. 200 – 22, 2004

Fong, H. "Hong Kong Connection: Pretty Bizarre". RTHK Hong Kong Public Television Hong Kong, 2005.


Lent, John. A. "Animation in Asia: Appropriation, Reinterpretation, and Adoption or Adaptation." Screening the Past, 2000


Mackie, Vera "Transnational Bricolage: Gothic Lolita and the Political Economy of Fashion" In Intersections, Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific Issue 20, April 2009


Ng, Wai-Ming. "アジアにおける日本の大衆文化ブーム：グローバル化、日本化と現地化をめぐって


Wang, Yang "The Dissemination of Japanese Manga in China." University essay from Lunds universitet/Centrum för öst- och sydöstasienstudier, 2005