

**Course Syllabus**  
**By Huai Bao**  
**(revised on December 6 2013)**

**GRSJ224: Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice in Literature**

**Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, UBC**

Winter 2014-2015

Start: September 2014    Finish: November 2015

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**Course Description:**

This is an introductory course that explores the ways in which literature, films and theatre reflects, influences, creates, and reveals cultural beliefs about gender, sexuality, race and social justice. Throughout the semester we will be “traveling” from England, to France, to Russia and Eastern Europe, to America and Canada, to China, East Asia and South Asia, to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Iran, and to Africa and Latin America. We will watch films, read religious texts as well as a wide range of short stories, novels, poems, and plays from a diversity of eras and national traditions. We will also study seminal works in feminist theory, queer studies, and the history of sexuality, from early thinkers to today’s cutting-edge theorists. Throughout the course, we will explore the ways in which gender intersects with other crucial cultural issues such as race, nationhood, globalization, and class.

As the instructor, my advantages for teaching this course include my bi-cultural background, my on-set film and TV training and work experiences, and my long journey of having lived, worked and traveled in more than 13 countries in five continents. For the course I have designed over 300 PPT slides with tons of film clips and pictures. During the semester I also invite 3-4 guest speakers with unique background to share with us their valuable stories, deepest secrets and most private visions related to certain content of the course. Although the course sounds overwhelming, students find it entertaining, informative, relaxing and inspirational.

This course will use a variety of teaching and learning tools including lectures, discussions, group work, guest speakers and related media. I have also invented new learning techniques to help students digest the lectures. Students will be expected to complete the required readings prior to class and to come to each lecture prepared with questions and comments on the assigned materials.

The geographic regions the course covers include—

- England
- America
- Canada
- France
- USSR/Russia
- China and East Asia
- Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon
- Iran
- Latin America

The scholarly works we read include—

- *Gender Trouble* by Judith Butler
- *The History of Sexuality* by Michel Foucault
- *On Sexuality* by Sigmund Freud
- *The Second Sex* by Simone De Beauvoir

Other world-renowned scholars we introduce include—

- Magnus Hirschfeld
- Harry Benjamin
- Carl Jung
- Alfred Kinsey

The poetry/novels/films/plays we discuss include—

- *Billie Eliot*
- *The Resurrection* by Tolstoy
- *David Copperfield* by Dickens
- *In Search of Lost Time* by Proust
- *One Hundred Years in Solitude* by Marquez
- *The Lover* by Duras
- *Brokeback Mountain*, short story by Proulx and film by Ang Lee
- *Lust, Caution*, short story by Eileen Chang and film by Ang Lee
- *Lily in the Snow* by Yan Li
- *Chinese Botanist's Daughter* by Sijie Dai
- *Snow Flower and Secret Fan* by Lisa See
- Love poetry to “Sue” by Emily Dickinson
- *Farewell my Concubine*, directed by Kaige Chen
- *Monster* starring Charlize Theron
- *International Girl* (USSR)
- *The Dawns Here Are Quiet* by Sholokhov
- *Air Crew* (USSR)
- *Office Romance* (USSR)
- *M. Butterfly*, directed by Cronenberg
- *Jane Eyre* by Bronte
- *Wilde* starring Stephen Fry
- *The Love of Siam*, directed by Sakveerakul
- *White Haired Girl* (Ballet)
- *On the Dock* (Jingju/Beijing Opera)
- *The Azalea Mountain* (Jingju/Beijing Opera)
- *Arabian Nights*, directed by Pasolini

The religious texts we cover are—

- The Bible (Gen, Lev, Rom, Tim, Pauline letters and Mark's gospel)
- The Quran
- Buddhist sutras

The topics we cover include—

- Victorian female romantic friendship
- Nativity of the Buddha and Jesus
- Religions and sexual misconduct
- The use of cinematic language in expressing a forbidden desire
- Lesbianism and patriarchy
- Socialist feminism, model plays and female masculinity

- Rape-murder and social justice
- Colonialism and identity reconstruction
- Immigrants, women of colour and diasporic literature
- Orientalism and the sexual other
- Female offenders and death penalty
- Two Spirit culture in First Nations tradition
- Rasputin and the Romanov dynasty
- Prostitution and mail order brides in Russia
- Urfi marriage in Egypt

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To develop an understanding and knowledge of the central theoretical debates and differing perspectives within feminist theory and queer theory.
2. To critically analyze the texts relevant to the study of gender and feminism in political science such as the state, patriarchy, privilege and power.
3. To examine processes of gendering and the construction of gender and racial hierarchies and sexuality dynamics as revealed in literature.
4. To explore the activism of women and queer bodies in official and unofficial spaces of politics as revealed in literature.
5. To strengthen the verbal, reading, research and written communication skills of students.

### **Required Texts:**

- Bao, Huai. 2012. "The Law of Attraction" in Interracial Homoerotic Desires. In *SQS Journal of Queer Studies*. 1-2/2012: 27-38.  
[http://www.helsinki.fi/jarj/sqs/sqs12\\_12/sqs122012bao.pdf](http://www.helsinki.fi/jarj/sqs/sqs12_12/sqs122012bao.pdf)
- . 2013. Repression, Silence, and Cinematic Language: Eastern Sensibilities in Visualizing Brokeback Mountain. In *Journal of East-West Thought*. Vol. 2.
- . 2012. Buddhism: Rethinking Sexual Misconduct. In *Journal of Community Positive Practices*. Volume 2, June, 303-321.  
<http://www.jpcc.ro/reviste/JCPP%20Nr.%202%202012/articole/art10.pdf>
- . 2013. Media Review: A Jihad for Love. In *Journal of Homosexuality*. 60: 796-800.
- Hart, Bruce. 1996. The Construction of Gendered Self. In *Journal of Family Therapy*. 18: 43-60.
- Salih, Sara. 2007. On Judith Butler and Performativity. In *Sexualities & Communication in Everyday Life: A Reader*. Karen E. Lovaas, , Mercilee M. Jenkin, Ed. Thousand Oaks, London, New Dheli: Sage Publications.
- Seidman, Steven, et al. 2006. Theoretical Perspectives. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*. New York, London: Routledge. 3-13.
- Towle, Evan B., Morgan, Lynn M. 2002. Romancing the Transgender Native. In *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. 01-01. 8:4. 469-497.
- Valentine, David. 2003. "I went to bed with my own kind once": the erasure of desire in the name of identity. In *Language and Communication*. 23: 123-138.

### **Course Evaluation and Requirements:**

Research Paper: 30%

Midterm Exam: 30%  
Final Exam: 30%  
Attendance and Participation: 10%

Research Paper Proposal: due November \_\_\_\_ 2013

A two page proposal (double spaced) outlining the thesis and major arguments of the paper should be submitted two weeks prior to the research paper. Failure to submit the proposal will result in a deduction of 5% from the final mark of the paper. External resources are not required for this assignment; however any materials used must be properly referenced. Students are encouraged to discuss ideas for the paper with the instructor in advance of submitting their proposal during office hours or by appointment.

Research Paper (30%): due December \_\_\_\_ 2013

Students will be required to complete a research paper, which should be between ten and twelve double-spaced pages (2,500-3,000 words). They will be expected to extensively research one of the contemporary issues relating to gender, race, sexuality, and politics addressed in the weekly topics of the course within a specific geographic context. The paper should specifically indicate how gender, race, sexuality and/or social justice are implicated or affected politically within this context.

Students are encouraged to select a topic from the themes provided in the syllabus, but are also welcome to examine other issue-areas with the permission of the instructor. The student will be expected to utilize course materials and a minimum of eight to ten external academic resources.

If you are unclear on what constitutes an academic resource, please consult the instructor. All materials must be properly referenced in your chosen documentation style (APA, MLA or Chicago). Emailed submissions will not be accepted. All submissions should include a title page with the author's name, student number, date of submission and title along with numbered pages. All electronic submissions must be in Word, HTML or PDF format.

Attendance and Participation (10%):

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class every week. Attendance will be checked in the beginning and/or at the end of the class.

Presentation and Roundtable Discussions

In the end of November students will present their research proposal in class, after the instructor has approved it. Each student has three minutes only.

Within five or six weeks from mid-October through late November, we will hold in-class roundtable discussions on a selected opinion piece. The date of the round-table discussion and the opinion piece will be made available to students at least a week beforehand. Students will be expected to come prepared with discussion questions and commentary.

Commentary will be evaluated on the comprehension of the key issues of the piece, the linkages made to the major themes and theories of the course and communication of individual perspectives. The instructor reserves the right to discredit any unreasonable, offensive, incomplete or plagiarized comments.

Final Exam (30%): due December 18 2013

Students will be required to complete a final exam, which will be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar before or during the official December examination period. The final exam will be cumulative and will consist of both short answer and essay questions. Answers should be written in an essay format and

integrate materials introduced throughout the course.

## **General Course Policies and Guidelines**

### Submission Requirements

Late assignments will be penalized at rate of 5% per day (including weekends) to a maximum of five days, after which they will no longer be accepted and will receive a mark of 0. Unless arranged with the instructor in advance, extensions will be granted for medical reasons only and must be verified with a doctor's certificate. Papers submitted after the stated deadline, including those granted extensions will be marked, but will not include comments.

### Grading Guidelines

A+ 96-100 A 90-95 A- 85-89  
B+ 80-84 B 75-79 B- 70-74  
C+ 65-69 C 60-64 C- 55-59  
D 50-54 F <49

FD Failure with dishonesty (i.e. plagiarism, cheating, texting during exam, using a paper or work for more than one course, etc.)

### Grade Petitions

Grade appeals must be provided in writing and must be received no more than five days after the return of the assignment. The appeal must directly refer to the comments provided by the instructor and identify the specific reasons why a change of grade is deserved. Upon reviewing the work, the instructor reserves the right to increase, decrease or maintain the original mark provided.

### **Exams**

Students must be available to write the final exam in the time slot allotted by the Office of the Registrar at the end of the term. In the extreme case that an Exam deferral is required, the student must contact their Faculty Office directly with the appropriate supporting documentation for consideration.

### **Etiquette in Class**

Please do not text message, check your voice mail during lectures or debates or use your laptops and/or tablets in class for purposes other than note taking. These activities are both disruptive and distracting to the instructor and your fellow classmates. In cases where this behavior is deemed excessive, you will be asked to leave. This course will grapple with some controversial and sensitive topics regarding women, gender, race, sexuality and politics. You are asked to always be respectful and courteous to your fellow classmates in the classroom environment and to avoid comments that could be deemed inappropriate or offensive. If at any point during the course, you are displeased with the content of the materials or the commentary of the students or the instructor, please see the instructor immediately.

### **Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings**

(The dates are subject to change.)

## **CONCEPTUALIZING GENDER, SEXUALITY, RACE AND POLITICS**

### **Week 1:**

#### **September 4 2013**

- Self-introduction
- Introduction to the course

- Discussion of course objectives and expectations
- Opinion piece preparation
- Q&A

### **September 6 2013**

Seidman, Steven, et al. 2006. Theoretical Perspectives. In *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*. New York, London: Routledge. 3-13.

In-class film viewing:

*Fearless from Red China*. Part A. Dir. Huai Bao. 2009.

### **Week 2:**

### **September 9 2013**

In-class film viewing:

*Fearless from Red China*. Part B. Dir. Huai Bao. 2009.

### **September 11 and 13 2013**

Butler, Judith. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge.

De Beauvoir, Simone. 1989. *Introduction to The Second Sex*. New York: Vintage Books.

Hart, Bruce. 1996. The Construction of Gendered Self. In *Journal of Family Therapy*. 18: 43-60.

Salih, Sara. 2007. On Judith Butler and Performativity. In *Sexualities & Communication in Everyday Life: A Reader*. Karen E. Lovaas, , Mercilee M. Jenkin, Ed. Thousand Oaks, London, New Dheli: Sage Publications.

### **Week 3:**

### **September 16**

Bao, Huai. 2012. "The Law of Attraction" in Interracial Homoerotic Desires. In *SQS Journal of Queer Studies*. 1-2/2012: 27-38.

In-class film viewing:

*The Love of Siam*. Part A. Dir. Chookiat Sakveerakul. 2007.

### **September 18**

No class.

### **September 20**

In-class film viewing:

*The Love of Siam*. Part B. Dir. Chookiat Sakveerakul. 2007.

Haritaworn, Jin. 2007. Queer Mixed Race? Interrogating Homonormativity through Thai Interraciality. In *Geographies of Sexualities: Theory, Practices and Politics*. Kath Browne; Jason Lim; Gavin Brown, Ed. Aldershot, Burlington: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

Valentine, David. 2003. "I went to bed with my own kind once": the erasure of desire in the name of

identity. In *Language and Communication*. 23: 123-138.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LITERATURE**

### **Week 4:**

#### **September 23 2013**

Farr, Judith. 1992. *The Passion of Emily Dickinson*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Johnson, Thomas H. 1960. *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*. Boston, Toronto: Little Brown and Company. (249, 84, 156, 446, 518, 494, 480, 211, 1721, 611)

Parker, Christopher, Ed. 1995. *Gender Roles and Sexuality in Victorian Literature*. Aldershot: Scholar Press.

#### **September 25 2013**

Li, Yan. 2009. *Lily in the Snow*. Toronto: Women's Press.

#### **September 27 2013**

Proulx, Annie. 1997. Brokeback Mountain. In *The New Yorker*. October 13.

In-class film viewing:  
*Brokeback Mountain*. Part A. Dir. Ang Lee, 2005.

### **Week 5:**

#### **September 30 2013**

In-class film viewing:  
*Brokeback Mountain*. Part B. Dir. Ang Lee, 2005.

#### **October 2 2013**

Andre, Amy. 2006. Opinion: Bisexual Cowboys in Love: Brokeback Mountain and the Bi-Tragedy Genre. In *American Sexuality Magazine*. Winter. Web. December 16. Web. October 4, 2012.  
<http://www.amyandre.com/fullbrokeback.pdf>

Anthony, Andrew. 2003. The Long and the Short of It. In *The Observer*. *The Guardian*. July 6, 2003. Web. October 5, 2012.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2003/jul/06/artsfeatures1>

#### **October 4 2013**

Bao, Huai. 2013. Repression, Silence, and Cinematic Language: Eastern Sensibilities in Visualizing Brokeback Mountain. In *Journal of East-West Thought*. Vol. 2.

Berry, Chris. 2007. The Chinese Side of the Mountain. In *Film Quarterly*. Vol. 60, No. 3. Spring. 32-37.

Berry, Michael. 2005. Ang Lee: Freedom in Film. In *Michael Berry (Ed.), Speaking in Images: Interviews with Contemporary Chinese Filmmakers*. New York: Columbia University Press.

## **EUROPEAN LITERATURE**

**Week 6:**

**October 7 2013**

Barta, Peter I. 2001. *Gender and Sexuality in Russian Civilization*. London: Routledge.

**October 9 2013**

Kulpa, Robert; Mizielska, Joanna, Ed. 2011. *De-Centring Western Sexualities: Central and Eastern European Perspectives*. Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

**October 11 2013**

Poland, Warren S. 2003. Reading Fiction and the Psychoanalytic Experience: Proust On Reading and On Reading Proust. In *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*. 51: 1263.

Wilcox, Melissa M. 2012. "Spiritual Sluts": Uncovering Gender, Ethnicity, and Sexuality in the Post-Secular. In *Women's Studies*. 639-659.

**CHINESE AND ASIAN LITERATURE, FILM AND THEATRE**

**Week 7:**

**October 14 2013**

No class.

**October 16 2013**

**IN CLASS MIDTERM EXAM**

**October 18 and 21 2012**

Out of class film viewing:  
*Lust, Caution*. Dir. Ang Lee, 2007.

**Week 8:**

**October 23 2013**

Round-table discussions

Lu, Tonglin. 1993. *Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century Chinese Literature and Society*. Albany: State University of New York.

**October 25 2013**

Guest speaker: Chinese philosophy on *yin* and *yang* and its impact on gender perception

In-class film viewing:  
*Farewell My Concubine*. Part A. Dir. Kaige Chen. 1993.

**October 28 2013**

In-class film viewing:  
*Farewell My Concubine*. Part B. Dir. Kaige Chen. 1993.



**Week 9:**

**October 30 2013**

In-class film viewing:

*Farewell My Concubine*. Part C. Dir. Kaige Chen. 1993.

Leung, Helen. 2010. *Farewell My Concubine: A Queer Film Classic*. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press.

Wichmann-Walczak, Elizabeth. *Actor and Role Types, Sex and Gender, and Creativity Interpretation in Jingju*. Unpublished.

Round-table discussions

**November 1 2013**

Bai, Di. 2010. Feminism in the Revolutionary Model Ballets The White-Haired Girl and The Red Detachment of Women. In *Art in Turmoil: The Chinese Cultural Revolution, 1966-76*. Ed. Richard King. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia Press. 188.

Wilkinson, J. Norman. 1974. The White-Haired Girl: From Yangko to Revolutionary Modern Ballet. In *Educational Theatre Journal*. Vol. 20, No. 2, May.

**GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN RELIGIOUS LITERATURES**

**Week 10:**

**November 4 2013**

In-class film viewing:

*A Jihad for Love*. Dir. Parvez, Shama. 2007.

**November 6 2013**

Bao, Huai. 2013. Media Review: A Jihad for Love. In *Journal of Homosexuality*. 60: 796-800.

Round-table discussions

**November 8 2013**

Bao, Huai. 2012. Buddhism: Rethinking Sexual Misconduct. In *Journal of Community Positive Practices*. Volume 2, June, 303-321.

<http://www.jppc.ro/reviste/JCPP%20Nr.%202%202012/articole/art10.pdf>

Walter, Wink. 1999. Homosexuality and the Bible. In *Homosexuality and Christian Faith: Questions of Conscience for the Churches*. Wink Walter, Ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 33-49.

**FIRST NATIONS / AMERICAN INDIAN ORAL HISTORY AND LITERATURE; LATIN AMERICA, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA**

**Week 11:**

**November 11 2013**

No class.

### **November 13 2013**

Balderston, Daniel; Guy, Donna J. 1997. *Sex and Sexuality in Latin America*. New York, London: New York University Press.

Hutchings, Jessica; Aspin, Clive, Ed. 2007. *Sexuality and the Stories of Indigenous People*. Wellington: Huia Publishers.

Luan, Tracy. Sex in the Arab World. In *Reason*. Jul 2013, Vol. 44 Issue 3, p42-48.

Round-table discussions

### **November 15 2013**

Redman, Lauren Fielder. 2010. Book Review: Gender and Sexuality in African Literature and Film, edited and introduced by Ada Uzoamaka Azodo and Maureen Ngozi Eke Trenton. In *The Journal of Modern African Studies*. Volume 48. Issue 01. March. 171-172.

Round-table discussions

## **TRENDS, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CONTEMPORARY TRANSGENDER STUDIES**

### **Week 12:**

#### **November 18 2013**

In-class film viewing:  
*Monster*. Dir. Patty Jenkins. 2003.

Round-table discussions

Bauman, John F. 2002. Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in Planning History: A Look at Trends in the Literature. In *Journal of Planning History*. 1: 225.

Round-table discussions on urban culture

#### **November 20 2013**

In-class film viewing:  
*The Crying Game*. Part A. Dir. Neil Jordan. 1992.

#### **November 22 2013**

In-class film viewing:  
*The Crying Game*. Part B. Dir. Neil Jordan. 1992.

Round-table discussions

Towle, Evan B.; Morgan, Lynn M. 2002. Romancing the Transgender Native. In *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. 01-01. 8:4. 469-497.

### **Week 13:**

#### **November 25 and 27 2013**

Research Presentation

**November 29**

Final Class—Exam Review

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”) and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in-group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.