

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: THST 4290	Course Title: <i>Approaches to Research II : Performance, Media, Sexuality</i>	Date of Offering: Winter 2017
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Course Instructor: Mark Lipton	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis: This advanced research seminar explores negotiations, debates, and affordances in current scholarship about sex and sexuality; students examine specific performances, cultural practices, and media texts that epitomize issues about conceptions of sex and sexuality in the 21st century. To analyze diverse representations of sexuality in a variety of discourses, this course engages intersectionality, psychoanalysis, and semiotic theory so as to examine the operations of explicit imagery within a complex web of attitudes and cultural practices. Intersectionality and semiotics are considered as method and practice, in part, because of the explicit contributions (i.e., a sophisticated languages) for unpacking the important [tricky, thorny, sticky, prickly] subject of this course. Ideologies of gender, the privatization of sexual activity, and the political uses of language (eg., medical, camp) are emphasized as influencing viewer-text interactions.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

The no-talent show | media/performance work: 30%
Class performance, participation, leadership: 10%
Reflective Writing | 10 weekly responses: 30%
Exhibition & accompanying catalogue 10%
Scholarly Writing | first draft 10% | second draft 10%

Readings

Julia Kristeva, (1982). *Powers of Horror*, New York; Columbia U.P.
J. Halberstam, (2011). *The Queer Art of Failure*, Durham, N.C.; Duke U. P.
Anonmyous. (1880s). *My Secret Life*, London; Charles Carrington, Reprint as Penguin
New American Library, (1982).
Diana Taylor, (2003). *The Archive and the Repertoire*, Durham, N.C.; Duke U. P.

Collection of (provided) essays including the writings of Munos, Phalen, Butler, Foucault, Puer, Laqueure, Shahani, Zizek, and others.

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