

CULS5206 Gender, Love and Sexuality in Intercultural Studies

1st Semester, 2025-2026

Time: Friday 10:30 - 13:15

Instructor: PANG Ka Wei, Janet

Venue: WMY 406

Tutor: WONG Ka Hei, Cecilia

Course Description

Gender, love and sexuality are essential in our everyday life. At the same time, love, gender and sexuality are not entirely essential, but socially and culturally constructed. We have been gendered even before we were born. Being bound by various dominant ideologies, we may easily judge others whose gender performance, love relationship and/or sexual expression are different from ours as normal or abnormal, good or bad. In this course, we will examine with a critical distance issues related to gender, love and sexuality, as well as scrutinize the related norms. In the light of critical gender and sexuality theories, this course aims at raising students' consciousness on topics such as sexual identity, gender roles, feminist movements, LGBT movements, sexual violence, migrant workers, and the sex industry. Students are also encouraged to critically and empathetically understand the diversity and fluidity of gender, love and sexuality, and to reflect upon their own selves.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

1. articulate the key issues of gender, love and sexuality informed by the relevant critical theory,
2. interrogate the dominant norms of gender, love and sexuality and their implicit assumptions,
3. demonstrate an understanding of the sophistication of gender issues contextually and relate these issues to their daily life, and
4. critically analyze on specific gender issues with illustration from cultural texts.

Assessment Scheme

✧ Love Letter or Gender Autobiography (800-1200 words)	30%
✧ Group Presentation & Participation	30%
✧ Final Paper (English: 3000 words/ Chinese: 4000 words)	40%

Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction

5 Sep

bell hook. "To Love Again: The Heart of Feminism." In *Feminism is for Everyone: Passionate Politics*, 100-104. New York; Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2014.

畢恆達。〈性別，要怎麼閱讀？〉。載《空間就是性別》，11-37。台北：心靈工坊文化事業股份有限公司，2004。

Week 2 Doing Gender: Some basic concepts

12 Sep

Johnson, Allan. "Where Are We?." In *The Gender Knot: Unraveling our Patriarchal Legacy*, 3-25. Philadelphia:

Temple University Press, 2014.

Rubin, Gayle. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." In *Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader*, edited by R. Parker & P. Aggleton, 143-178. London: UCL Press, 1999.

Butler, Judith. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire." In *Gender Trouble*, 1-46. New York: Routledge, 1999.

Week 3 Screening

19 Sep

Week 4 Masculinities in the Making

26 Sep

bell hooks. "Feminist Manhood." In *The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, and Love*, 107-124. New York: Atria Books, 2004.

Johnson, Allan. "Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, a Them or an Us." In *The Gender Knot: Unraveling our Patriarchal Legacy*, 26-47. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2014.

Jung, Sun. "K-Pop Idol Boy Bands and Manufactured Versatile Masculinity: Making *Chogukjoe* Boys." In *Korean Masculinities and Transcultural Consumption: Yonsama, Rain, Oldboy, K-Pop Idols*, 163-170. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2011.

Kondo, Dorinne. "Fabricating Masculinity: Gender, Race and Nation in a Transnational Frame." In *Between Woman and Nation: Nationalisms, Transnational Feminisms, and the State*, edited by Caren Kaplan, Norma Alarcón, and Minoo Moallem, 296-319. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999.

Week 5 Perfect Match: Heterosexual romance

3 Oct

Rich, Adrienne. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence." *Signs* 5, no.4 (1980): 631-660.

Friedan, Betty. "The Problem that Has No Name." In *The Feminine Mystique*, 15-32. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2001.

Ding, Naifei. "Wife-in-Monogamy and 'the Exaltation of Concubines.'" *International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* 9, no.2 (2007): 219-237. doi: 10.1080/13698010701409160.

Hong Fincher, Leta. "China's 'Leftover' women." In *Leftover Women: The Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China*, 14-43. London: Zed Books. 2014.

Week 6 Happy Family: Fatherhood and motherhood

10 Oct

Liong, Mario. "Marrying Masculine Responsibility." In *Chinese Fatherhood, Gender and Family: Father Mission*, 139-170. London, United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

de Beauvoir, Simone. "The Mother." In *The Second Sex*, 576-648. Translated by Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier. New York: Vintage Books, 2011.

Chodorow, Nancy. "Women's Mothering and Women's Liberation." *The Reproduction of Mothering: Psychoanalysis and the Sociology of Gender*, 211-220. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978.

黃慧貞。〈宗教、情慾、家庭在香港的政治糾結〉。載《連結性：兩岸三地性／別新局》，71-89。台北：中央大學性／別研究室，2010。

Week 7 Sex, Sexuality and Work

17 Oct

Kong, Travis S. K. "Outcast Bodies: Money, Sex and Desire of Money Boys in Mainland China." In *As*

Normal as Possible: Negotiating Sexuality and Gender in Mainland China and Hong Kong, edited by Yau Ching, 15-35. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010.

Ko, Gaphee. "Sex Trade/Sex Work in Korea and Asia." *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 7, no.2 (2006): 322-325. doi: 10.1080/14649370600674019.

McRuer, Robert. "Compulsory Able-Bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Existence." In *The Disability Studies Reader*, 395-405, edited by Lennard J. Davis. New York, NY: Routledge, 2016.

Week 8 Mom's Not Home: Overseas foreign workers

24 Oct

Lan, Pei-chia. "Jealous Madams and Anxious Mothers." In *Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domesticity and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan*, 94-124. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006.

顧玉玲。《我們：移動與勞動的生命記事》。台北：INK 印刻文學生活雜誌出版有限公司，2008。

蘇美智。《外傭：住在家中的陌生人》。香港：三聯書店香港有限公司，2015。

Week 9 No, I Don't: Sexual violence

31 Oct

Healicon, Alison. "Sexual Violence." In *The Politics of Sexual Violence: Rape, Identity and Feminism*, 1-15. New York: Palgrave Pivot, 2016.

Ensler, Eve. *The Vagina Monologues*. London: Virago, 2001.

何春蕤。〈第二章：性騷擾—性壓抑的貧瘠情慾文化〉。載《豪爽女人》，29-41。台灣：皇冠文學出版有限公司，1994。

Week 10 Forbidden Love: The lesbian, gay, bisexual and...

7 Nov

Wittig, Monique. "The Straight Mind." In *The Material Queer: A LesBiGay Cultural Studies Reader*, edited by Donald Morton, 207-212. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1996.

Kam, Lucetta Yip Lo. "Negotiating the Public and the Private." In *Shanghai Lolas: Female Tongzhi Community and Politics in Urban China*, 73-88. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2013.

周華山、趙文宗。《衣櫃性史：香港及英美同志運動》。香港：香港同志研究社，1995。

Week 11 Beyond the Binary: Trans & Intersex

14 Nov

Cheung, Eleanor. "GID in Hong Kong: A Critical Overview of Medical Treatments for Transsexual Patients." In *As Normal as Possible: Negotiating Sexuality and Gender in Mainland China and Hong Kong*, 75-85, edited by Yau Ching. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010.

Spurgas, Alyson K. "(Un)Queering Identity: The Biosocial Production of Intersex/DSD." In *Critical Intersex*, edited by Morgan Holmes, 97-122. Farnham, England; Burlington, VT: Ashgate 2009.

Week 12 Gender Workshop

21 Nov

Week 13 Re-thinking Gender, Love and Sexuality

28 Nov

bell hooks. "When Angels Speak of Love." In *All About Love*, 225-237. New York: William Morrow, 2000.

Lorde, Audre. "The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power." In *Sexualities & Communication in Everyday Life: A Reader*, edited by Karen E. Lovaas and Mercilee M. Jenkins, 87-91. Thousand Oaks, Calif.:

SAGE Publications, 2007.

Ahmed, Sara. "Feminist Attachments." In *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*, 168-190. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2014.

Ahmed, Sara. "Conclusion 1. A Killjoy Survival Kit," and "Conclusion 2. A Killjoy Manifesto." In *Living a Feminist Life*, 235-268. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017.

Assessments

1. Love Letter or Gender Autobiography (800-1200 words) *

- ✧ You may choose to write a love letter or a gender autobiography.
- ✧ You are expected to demonstrate your awareness and reflectivity in this assignment.
- ✧ No citation or bibliography is needed.
- ✧ Hardcopy submission: 17 October, 2025 (Friday) 10:30am
- ✧ One letter grade will be lowered per day delay.

2. Group Presentation

- ✧ Tutorials will be scheduled on 3 Oct, 10 Oct, 17 Oct, 24 Oct, 31 Oct, and 7 Nov.
- ✧ Each group is expected to be in charge of one tutorial presentation and discussion facilitation.
- ✧ The tutorial session will be comprised of a 20-minute presentation and 30-minute discussion.
- ✧ You should present on the topic covered in the previous week while deepening the discussion by critically and contextually analyzing a text or case.
- ✧ Please prepare a printed outline/script for the instructor and/or the tutor, and a soft copy of it for your fellow classmates.
- ✧ The tutorial presentation will be assessed by the instructor and/or the tutor and your fellow classmates.

3. Final Paper *

- ✧ You are expected to write a 3,000-word English paper or a 4,000-word Chinese paper.
- ✧ Due date: VeriGuide [Assignment no.1] – 28 November, 2025 (Friday) 2am
- ✧ One letter grade will be lowered per day delay.

- * The assignments could be written in either Chinese or English.
Please observe the below formatting guidelines before submission.

 - ✧ File format: Word file (.docx)
 - ✧ Font: Chinese font 新細明體 or 微軟正黑體
English font: **Arial**, Garamond or Times New Roman;
Font size: 12; Font colour: Black
 - ✧ Line Spacing: 1.15

Grade Descriptors

- A** Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
- A-** Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
- B** Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
- C** Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
- D** Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes
- F** Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

All assignments must be your own original work. The use of generative AI (GenAI) is allowed during the pre-writing process, such as brainstorming and refining ideas, as well as for spelling and grammar checking. However, using GenAI to produce a significant portion of your paper, or to complete an assignment without proper attribution, is considered plagiarism.

If you choose to utilize AI tools for any part of an assignment, whether it is brainstorming or text editing, please provide a short paragraph at the end of the assignment that indicates which AI tools were used and explains how the generated materials were incorporated into your work. Utilizing GenAI to provide or help generate content is not encouraged. If need be, proper citations are needed, following the guidelines from the [Chicago Manual of Style](#). By submitting assignments in this class, you pledge to affirm that they are your own work and you have attributed the use of any tools and sources.

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.