FREN 445 STUDIES IN GENDER, FEMINISM, AND SEXUALITY
--Radical Feminism, Gender, and Queer Theory in France: Philosophy, Literature, Film, and Politics

FALL 2018
Location: VKC 104
M/W: 12pm -1.20 pm
Prof. Antónia Szabari
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Office: THH 155B
(hint: my office is inside the main office suit of the Department of French & Italian)
Office Hours: M/W, 10am - 12pm am and by appointment

In this class, we study the politics, academics, and culture of sexual difference in France from about 1990 to today. Special emphasis will be on the differences in the political cultures of the US and France, the movement of “French” feminist theory to the US and of “American” gender theory to France, and the possibilities of minority voices and knowledges in the French Republic.

Class taught in French & English; Readings in French & English as specified

I. Overview: Queer Movements in France from the Late 1980's to Today
Week 1: Who is Afraid of Gender Theory?
Monday, August 20: Introduction, on the reception of gender theory/queer theory in France (lecture, distribution and discussion of the syllabus )
Wednesday, August 22: “Gender Theory” Re-Policized

Week 2: The AIDS epidemic and Activism (1989)
Monday, August 27: Discussion of film 120 battements par minute (dvd on 3-hour reserve at Leavey)
Wednesday, August 29: “SIDA : Zap Act Up à la Concorde” (watch the video)
II. From French Theory to Gender and Queer Theory

Week 3: French Theory before 1990 I
Monday, September 3: NO CLASS
Wednesday, September 5: excerpts from *Le deuxième sexe II*: “Enfance,” “La jeune fille” (handout)

Week 4: French Theory before 1990 II
Monday, September 10: excerpts from *Le deuxième sexe II*: “La lesbienne,” “La femme mariée,” “La mère” (handout)
Wednesday, September 12: “Homosexuality” in Foucault. Reading: L’histoire de la sexualité 1 (1976) / The History of Sexuality (1978) “We Other Victorians”

Week 5: French Theory before 1990 III
Monday, September 17. Reading: “The Incitement to Discourse”
Wednesday, September 19: *The feminism of Irigaray: Le temps*, excerpts (handout)

Week 6: French Theory before 1990 IV
Monday, September 24: *Le temps*, excerpts (handout)
Wednesday, September 26: Midterm (in-class writing on essay questions handed out in class)

Week 7: 1990: Gender and Queer Theory: Judith Butler
Monday, October 1: *GT* Ch 1
Wednesday, October 3: *GT* Ch 1

III. Minority Voices in the République

Week 8: *Le feminism “trop radical”?*
Monday, October 8: Listen: “Monique Witting (1935-2003), écrivain et lesbienne révolutionnaire” France culture, 03/17/2018
Wednesday, October 9. Reading: *La Pensée Straight*, extraits (bookstore).

Week 9: *Family, Nation, and other Communities*
Monday, October 15. *My Father and I* (bookstore)
Wednesday, October 17. Continued

Week 10: *Nina Bouraoui*
Monday, October 22. Reader *GM*, 7-68 (bookstore)
Wednesday, October 24. *GM*, 69-111

Week 11: *Critiquing the social contract*
Monday, October 29. Bourcier, “Nique la Rép” (handout)
Wednesday, October 31. NO CLASS

Week 12: Representing Coming Out in France.
Monday, November 5: finish reading *GM*. First Essay Due on questions distributed in advance
Wednesday, November 7: View *La vie d’Adèle* (Leavey)

Week 13-14: *Abdellah Taïa*
Monday, November 12: Read excerpts from *Le Bleu est une couleur chaude* (BD) (handout)
Wednesday, November 14: Taïa, TBD (bookstore)
Monday, November 19: Taïa, TBD
Wednesday, November 21: NO CLASS
Week 15: Tomboy
Monday, November 26: View Tomboy (Leavey)
Wednesday, November 28. Conclusion

Final essay due: TBD

Requirements
Regular class participation (please note that you cannot regularly participate if you do not attend class)
Weekly journal assignments
Midterm exam (in-class writing assignment)
Two essays to be prepared at home (3 and 4 pages in length, respectively)
Two short oral presentations

Each Wednesday, students are be asked to hand in their reading journals with comments on the readings and other materials of the week (one or two paragraphs per week). (Suggestion: write these journals as you prepare for the classes. For extra credit, include a list of useful vocabulary when appropriate.)

MAKE-UP POLICY

Students who can verify that they missed class or were prevented from completing assignments are permitted to make up the work they missed if the absence is due to one of the reasons listed below. It is the students' responsibility to provide original documentation to their instructor for the following valid absences:
- illness: 1) a medical excuse from a doctor or appropriate health-care provider; 2) two “self-care” days are allowed upon presentation of the “Medical absence Excuse Form”;
- performance in university-sponsored events (athletic competitions, fine arts performances, ROTC activities, etc.): an original memo from the appropriate advisor must be provided;
- a death in the immediate family: documentation from a newspaper, funeral, memorial service, etc.
- religious holidays
- jury duty

Personal reasons for missing class cannot be excused. These include personal trips to attend university-sponsored events as a spectator, to visit family, to attend weddings or graduations, to attend court (except for jury duty), and other personal reasons, even when plane tickets have been purchased.

Please note: Documentation must be original, will be verified, and will be kept on file.

Grade breakdown
Regular class attendance and participation: 20%
Journal: 20%
Midterm: 15%
Essay 1: 15%
Essay 2: 20%
Short presentations: 10%

Readings

Bourcier, Marie-Hélène/Sam. « Sexpolitiques, nique le genre, nique la Rép, » Queer Zones 2

Campillo, Robin (dir.). *120 battements par minute*, film, 2017 (Leavey library, 3-hour reserves)


Kechiche, Abdellatif (dir.) *La Vie d’Adèle* (« Blue is the Warmest Color »), film, 2013. (Leavey, 3-hour reserves)

Maroh, Julie. *Le Bleu est une couleur chaude*. Glenat, 2013. BD (excerpts, handout)

Sciamma, Céline (dir.). *Tomboy*. 2011 (Leavey 3-hour reserves)

“SIDA : Zap Act Up à la Concorde” (http://www.ina.fr/video/PAC02035225)


Taïa, Abdellah. *Le rouge du tarbouche*. Points; 275782788X

Witting, Monique. *La pensée straight*. Editions Amsterdam, 2013. (bookstore)


**French Honors Program**

Are you a French major (or thinking about becoming one)? Do you enjoy independent research? If so, you should consider honors in French. As an honors student, you will have the opportunity to work closely with French faculty on a thesis project related to your research interests. Each student who successfully completes the project receives the designation "B.A. in French with Honors" on her or his transcript (and a prize!). For a summary of the program requirements, please see our webpage: https://dornsife.usc.edu/fren-ital/the-ba-in-french-with-honors/ For more information, you may contact the Director of the French Honors Program, Dr. Olivia C. Harrison (oharriso@usc.edu).