

Queer Studies: Gender and Translation **PLU 6034 Littérature, cinéma et médias**

Organizers

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Description

The main focus of this course is to raise students' awareness of how gender is constructed through linguistic systems and to make visible the impact of these modes of construction on social structures (within the anglophone and francophone contexts of Europe and North America). Through a selection of texts that put the role of gender into question, we will address the central issue of Queer Theory, namely subversion and its potential for transgression. Drawing on the methods of French feminist Monique Wittig and American philosopher Judith Butler, we will 1) analyze texts that do not impose coherent stereotypical or binary gender representations (*Sphinx, Written on the Body*), 2) examine translations of these texts into French and English (and occasionally, for those who read it, in German as well) for the ways in which they raise and respond to issues of translatability, especially regarding gender politics outside of binary norms, and 3) work with *entre-genre* and *trans* texts (by Nathanaël and Trish Salah) in order to develop queer strategies of translation.

Course Objectives

- Familiarize students with feminist, queer, and trans theories
- Identify strategies of translation and rewriting
- Deepen students' knowledge of Montréal literary productions and translations
- Explore the possibilities that Queer Theory opens up for translation

Evaluation

- Course attendance is required for every session (10% of the final grade), as is informed and active in-class participation (10% of the final grade).
- Workbook and translation notes: in preparation for the Summer School, students are required to complete a short translation (texts will be provided on *Studium* on **June 1st**), which will not be graded. You will also keep a journal where you will record your translation process prior to the Summer School as well as, once the course will be under way, the ways in which texts, conferences, and discussions come to influence your thinking on these questions (translation notes, 5% of the final grade, to be submitted on **the morning of June 22** in hard copy).

- You will produce 3 reading responses to articles or book chapters assigned during the Summer School (10% x 3 of the final grade). These will be submitted on the last day of class, i.e. **June 23**, in hard copy. Each reading response should be between 750 and 1000 words and the readings must be selected from assigned readings in the syllabus. See the instructions guide « How to Write a Reading Review » which will be made available on *Studium*.
- One critical reflection, which will compare two theoretical texts encountered during the summer school (to be selected from the syllabus). This assignment should be up to 5pp. in length excluding references and should be submitted on **June 23** in hard copy (15% of the final grade).
- One final research paper of up to 15pp. in length (30% of the final grade). Your topic must be greenlit by the organizers during our wrap-up meeting, which will take place on **June 26**. You will be required to email a document outlining your research question (around 10 lines) and working bibliography to the organizers prior to the meeting. In order to complete your assignment, you will be required to refer (in depth) to at least 4 theoretical sources encountered during the course and you will also conduct independent research leading you to select at least 2 additional sources not cited in the course pack (these sources, which must be academic, must be cited in your bibliography because they will have contributed directly or indirectly to your reflection). Your final papers must be submitted in .doc or .docx format over email by **August 1st**.

Evaluation criteria:

- Knowledge and understanding of feminist, queer, and trans ideas and concepts (20%)
 - Your critiques and arguments mobilize and build upon a substantial number of relevant articles and books as well as on your lecture notes from the conferences (50%)
 - Language (20%)
 - Presentation and bibliography (10%)
- + Translation of a short text passage (into either French or English) – this exercise is obligatory, but will not be graded

NB: Please note that students taking the course for 1.5 credits do not write a final paper.

NB2: Please note that both organizers must be systematically included in all email correspondence.

Pedagogy

The School is structured around a series of conferences. Each speaker will present for 90 minutes. After the break, there will be a 60-minute discussion focusing on the readings as well as on the conference itself. Slight variations to this format are at the discretion of each speaker's individual presentation style (they might include more workshop-like elements for instance).

Plagiarism

The CERIUM takes a strong stance against plagiarism, copying and cheating during exams. Plagiarism is a serious offense and, as a consequence, it is severely sanctioned. In short, plagiarism is defined as any essay, exam or activity that appropriates and reproduces, partially or in whole, literally or not, a text that was authored by someone else without referencing it appropriately. For more information, see the disciplinary rules in the *Annuaire général de la Faculté des arts et des sciences* p. II.

Non-discrimination Policy

This summer school offers a safe, as well as culturally and intellectually inclusive space for socio-political engagement and critique. We respect all genders, sexual orientations, and amorous practices, and we expect all participants to use language that is respectful of differences in gender, sex, sexuality, and intimate relationships. No form of intolerance or violence will be tolerated. Sexism, misogyny, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, ableism, ageism, classism, xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, and all other harmful conducts will lead to immediate exclusion from the School.

Participation and Involvement

For those of you who are credited, an introductory session will take place on **June 11**. This 3-hour session will take place in room 590 of Pav. 3744, Jean Brillant. On **June 26**, credited students will be required to attend a 3-hour debriefing session during which the evaluation process will be further explained. The organizers will be available to meet individually with students to provide feedback on final papers during the week of **August 20th**.

Your participation and presence are essential to the smooth functioning of this course. Seminars are largely discussion-driven and require you to focus closely on the readings at hand. Thus, it is absolutely indispensable for you to have done the assigned readings in preparation for each class and to have prepared 2 or 3 written commentaries of the readings prior to class to be shared with your colleagues during class discussions. Your presence is required during every single session and absences must be documented with a doctor's note. In addition, you are required to arrive on time for every class (in case of unexpected causes for lateness, you are required to notify the organizers one day prior over email – failure to do so may lead to your exclusion from a given session). In order to foster an atmosphere of in-depth exchange and thinking, electronic devices can only be used to consult readings and take notes (taking notes by hand is strongly encouraged, as is the consultation of readings on tablets and/or in print). Cellphones are not permitted in class with the exception of break times. The organizers reserve the right to ban all electronic devices at any given time during a session or for the entire duration of the School.

Readings

Most required readings are available online on the *Studium* website.