Transgender in Scandinavia

Fall 2017
Stockholm
3 Credits

Major Disciplines: Gender Studies. Sociology.
Faculty Member: TBD
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Description of Course:
Transgender celebrities such as Caitlin Jenner and Laverne Fox fueled mainstream interest in transgender lives and experiences. However, trans and queer communities have long fought for trans persons’ rights to be ‘true to self.’ This course explores the history of trans activism with a special focus on Sweden, and how legislative and medical discourses change how we think about gender identities and rights. We also explore topics such as transphobia, gender disclosure and HIV criminalization laws, reproductive rights, gender-neutral pronouns, transgender children and their families, and how race and class intersect with being trans.

Learning Objectives:
- To understand and critically evaluate the historical, cultural and political context of trans identities and trans bodies in Scandinavian and Sweden in particular.
- To critically compare the inclusion and exclusion of trans narratives in gender theory discourse and feminist movements in Europe and the U.S.
- To recognize the stakeholders and forces of influence that govern and police gender conformity.
- To identify key legislation that impact trans lives and critically examine the surrounding discourse.

Field Studies and Guest Lectures:
- **RFSL Youth** – “One of the world’s largest and most influential organizations of young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer rights. Our vision is a world filled with love and respect where all LGBTQ youth can be, live and express themselves as they wish.”
  RFSL Youth will speak about their public outreach project, “Transformering.se” a web-based resource for transgender youth in Sweden.
- **ANOVA** – Stockholm’s division for gender identity evaluation
  Stockholm’s gender team will speak about the transsexual diagnosis evaluation process and the healthcare options available for gender dysphoria.
- **Black Coffee HBTQ** – A feminist, anti-racist and separatist group and movement for blacks in Sweden.

*This syllabus is subject to change.*
Leaders of the Black Coffee HBTQ movement will speak about the intersection of HBTQ politics, feminism and race in Sweden.

- **Gender Neutral Parenting** – A Swedish family raising their children outside the gender binary will share their experiences of navigating gender neutrality in a Swedish context.

**Course Literature:**


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**Approach to Teaching:**
I see myself as more a guide than a teacher. This is a discussion-based course in which I intend to serve as prompter and mediator for passionate discourse filled with fiery opinions, personal insights, alternative perspectives, meaty theory and hardball questions.

**Expectations of the Students:**
Assigned readings are to be prior to class to encourage fruitful discourse; discourse that is to be conducted civilly with the utmost respect for one’s peers.

**Evaluation:**

20% Engaged Participation
Demonstrated by actively partaking in class discussion or by submitting reflection essays on the assigned literature.

30% Transgender Legislation Mid-Term Group Project and Presentation
1500 word report + 10 minute presentation

20% Intersectionality Reflection Assignment
1000 word essay

30% Independent Research Paper
5000-6000 words

Guidelines for all assignments are posted online by the first day of the course.

Participation in the group project is expected and absence without a documented reason will result in 0 points earned.

Reading reflections must be turned in at the beginning of the class for which the reading has been assigned and are intended to serve as a substitute for participating in classroom discussion. The written reflections do not replace attendance, only verbal participation.

To be eligible for a passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work.
Disability and Resource Statement:

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Director of Academic Support to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

Policies

**Attendance** – You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor’s note.

*(We also recommend that instructors have a policy in place for students who arrive late to class. This should be included in the syllabus, but it will be up to the instructor to decide what form it should take.)*

**Academic Honesty**: Plagiarism and Violating the Rules of an Assignment

DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of “F” and can result in dismissal. The students’ home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the Academic Handbook for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

**Policy on late papers** – This should be at the discretion of the instructor, but it is useful to state this policy (e.g. ‘Late papers will not be accepted’, or ‘Late papers will be accepted, but your grade for the paper will be reduced by half a point for each day that it is late.’)

**Use of laptops or phones in class** – DIS recommends that you are clear about classroom etiquette and the expectations you have of students using laptops in class. The decision to allow laptop use in class at all is at the discretion of the instructor.

**Schedule of classes, readings to be done for each class, and assignment due dates:**

TBD