

History 275, Spring 2011: Trans/Gender in Historical Perspective
Professor Anne Enke
Office Hours: 3408 Sterling, Thurs 12:00-12:30 and 2:30-3:15

Throughout recorded history, humans have constituted the sex/gender categories of maleness and femaleness. At the same time, many cultures have elaborated more than two categories for sex and gender; even cultures that have appeared to mandate a binary sex/gender system, have, within sanctioned contexts, permitted a wide range of gender variation. No matter how a given culture may define sex and gender categories, humans have exceeded these categories, sometimes crossing from one to the other (and sometimes back again), sometimes “passing,” sometimes “becoming,” and sometimes refusing an either/or designation altogether. Biological bodies, as well as social roles, tell a complex story in which the determination of male and female is neither obvious nor simple: what is sex/gender, and does it reside in body, behavior, psyche, clothing, or culture? How have contacts across cultures through migrations and colonization affected people’s understanding of sex/gender possibilities?

This course focuses on a variety of sex/gender crossings, including Ancient Greece, 17th and 20th century Japan, 19th century Europe, and 20th century North America. We will consider the perspectives of people who themselves passed, crossed, transitioned, transed, or otherwise exceeded binary sex/gender appearances. Alongside, we will consider the ways that dominant social institutions reinforce sex/gender norms and occasionally permit variation of those norms. We will examine social histories, medical and legal perspectives, gender theory, popular culture, and the work of contemporary trans activists.

Our sources include memoir, medical documents, historical monographs, autobiography, law, queer and transgender theory, *manga* and *anime*, and social movement treatises.

Required Course Books

(available at Room of One’s Own; and on Reserve at College Library)

Stryker, *Transgender History*
Foucault, *Herculine Barbin*
Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*
Boylan, *She’s Not There*
Beattie, *Labor of Love*

Required Course Reader

(available at Student Print on East Campus Mall; and on Reserve at College Library)

Course Requirements:

You must fulfill all requirements in order to receive a passing grade.

Attendance at all lectures and discussions sections is required.

Lectures: You should come to lectures having read the material for that day, and be ready to actively engage in lecture/discussion. I will give you *self*-graded quizzes that are designed to help *you* assess your understanding of the material (you will not hand them in).

Attendance and Participation in Discussion Sections: 20%

Your teaching assistant, Faron Levesque, will clarify the components and expectations for your section participation grade.

One Historical Analysis Paper, 2 single-spaced pages. 15%.

You will receive detailed assignment sheet. Due April 21.

Two Exams: 20% each (total 40%) February 22 and March 31.

Exams will be based on lecture material, readings and discussions. Study guides for the exams will provide a list of possible terms and questions that might appear on the exam.

Media Project: 5%. Required but ungraded. You are to find one example of trans and/or intersex represented in popular print media before the year 2000, and provide a brief (1-2 pages) but scholarly and historical assessment. You will receive a detailed assignment sheet. Due May 3.

Final Take Home Exam 20%

Due on or before May 10.

Accessibility: Everyone, regardless of disabilities or special needs, is welcome in this course. Please let me know if you need any accommodations in the instruction or evaluation procedures in order to facilitate your full participation. The McBurney Center provides useful assistance and documentation.

Computers and cell phones: I ask that you do not use laptops in class unless, for reasons of disability and accessibility, you need one to fully participate in lecture (let me know if this is the case). I also ask that you turn off cell phones before lecture starts, and keep them in your bag for the duration of lecture.

Class Schedule:

Introduction: Sex/Gender Variations: Language and Lexicons

Jan 18 (no reading)

Jan 20 Stryker, *Transgender History*, Prologue and Chapter 1

Jan 25 Santo Kyoden, *The Unseamly Silverpiped Swingers* (PDF sent to you electronically via email, and also posted on your Learn@UW) Note that the page numbers proceed from “back” to “front;” each individual page reads right to left and top to bottom.

Osamu Tezuka, *Princess Knight*, vol 1:1-69 (PDF sent to you electronically) Note that the page numbers proceed “back” to “front;” each page reads right to left, top to bottom.

You will also receive *Ranma ½* electronically, as optional reading. This reads “front” to “back” and left to right, as English-language books typically do.

Jan 27 Sabine Lang, “Various Kinds of Two-Spirit People”

Wesley Thomas, “Navajo Cultural Conceptions of Gender and Sexuality”

Feb 1 Towles and Morgan, “Romancing the Transgender Native”

Meyer-Cook and Labelle, “Namaji: Two-Spirit Organizing in Montreal”

Unit Two: Biological Variation and the Medical Creation of Binary Sex

Feb 3 Anne Fausto Sterling, “Dualing Dualisms” from *Sexing the Body*

Feb 8 Foucault, *Herculine Barbin*, “My Memoirs” p. 3-115

Feb 10 *Herculine Barbin*, “The Dossier” and “A Scandal at the Convent” (119-end)

Feb 15 Elizabeth Reis, “Hermaphrodites, Monstrous Births, and Same-Sex Intimacy in Early America” and

“From Monsters to Deceivers in Early 19th Century” from *Doubtful Bodies*

Feb 17 Reis, “The Conflation of Hermaphrodites and Sexual Perverts at Turn of Century”
Cheryl Chase, “Hermaphrodites with Attitude”

Feb 22 **Exam One**

Unit Three: Passing and the Rhetoric of Deception: Mid-20th Century

Feb 24 Stryker, *Transgender History*, Chapter 2

Mar 1 Harold Garfinkel, “Passing and the Managed Achievement of Sex Status”

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Mar 3 Stryker, *Transgender History*, Chapter 3
Virginia Prince, "Men Who Choose to be Women"

Mar 8 Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues* and take a look at:
Feinberg, "A Movement Whose Time Has Come" (you will receive this electronically)

Mar 10 *Stone Butch Blues*

Mar 15 and 17: SPRING BREAK

Mar 22 *Stone Butch Blues*

Mar 24 *Stone Butch Blues*
Sylvia Rivera, "Queens in Exile"
Transgender History, Chapter 4

Mar 29 Brice Smith guest lecture, take a look at:
Harry Benjamin Institute *Standards of Care* (you will receive this electronically)

Mar 31 **Exam Two**

Unit Four: Transgender Activism and Social Institutions

Apr 5 Jennifer Finney Boylan, *She's Not There*

Apr 7 *She's Not There*

Apr 12 Taylor Flynn, "The Ties that (Don't) Bind"

Apr 14 Dean Spade, "Compliance Is Gendered"
Talia Bettcher, "Evil Deceivers and Make-Believers"

Apr 19 Ryka Aoki, "When Something Is Just Not Right"
International Bill of Gender Rights

Apr 21 **Historical Analysis Paper Due**

Unit Five: Transgender in Popular Media

Apr 26 Thomas Beattie, *Labor of Love*
Apr 28 *Labor of Love*

May 3 **Media Assignment Due**

May 5 Last Lecture: How do things look from an historical perspective?