

The Gender Studies Program of the University of Southern California presents  
SWMS 355 Fall 2007

## TRANSGENDER STUDIES

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Office hours: following each class, and by appointment.

This class, originated and first taught by Dr. Walter Williams and later by Dr. Connie Rogers, was among the first classes on transgender issues ever to be taught at a major university anywhere in the world. USC and the Gender Studies Program are to be congratulated for sponsoring such a pioneering course of study.

Open to students from a broad range of departments and programs, this class will cover the spectrum of transgender roles from cross-cultural, historical, sociological and psychological perspectives. Androgyny, transvestism, transsexuality, and other transgender behaviors will be examined, as well as intersexuality, medical standards, mores, laws, and social attitudes toward transgender people. Five models of transgenderism will be considered: medical, biological, psychoanalytic, cognitive-social learning, and social constructionist.

### REQUIRED READING:

Helen Boyd, My Husband Betty (Group West Press).

Vern Bullough and Bonnie Bullough, Cross Dressing, Sex, and Gender  
(University of Pennsylvania Press).

Richard F. Docter, From Man to Woman: The Transgender Journey of  
Virginia Prince (Docker Press).

Christine Jorgensen, Christine Jorgensen: A Personal Autobiography  
(Cleis Press)

Serena Nanda, Gender Diversity (Waveland Press).

Walter L. Williams, The Spirit and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in  
American Indian Culture (Beacon Press).

ADDITIONAL SOURCES (not required):

J.J. Allen, The Man in the Red Velvet Dress  
 Harry Benjamin, The Transsexual Phenomenon  
 Jennifer Finney Boylan, She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders  
 H. T. Buckner (1970). "The Transvestite Career Path." Psychiatry 33,  
 pp. 381-389.  
 Holly Devor, FTM: Female to Male Transsexuals in Society  
 Holly Devor, Gender Blending (FTM)  
 Anne Fausto-Sterling, Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the  
 Construction of Sexuality  
 James Green, Visible Man (FTM)  
 Judith Halberstam, Female Masculinity  
 T. Cohen-Kettenis, Friedemann Pfafflin, Transgenderism and  
 Intersexuality in Childhood and Adolescence (Sage).  
 Dhillon Khosla, Both Sides Now (FTM)  
 Don Kulick, Travesti: Sex, Gender and Culture among Brazilian  
 Transgendered Prostitutes  
 Joanne Meyerowitz, How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality  
 in the United States  
 Serena Nanda, Neither Man Nor Woman: The Hijras of India  
 Esther Newton, Mother Camp: Female Impersonators in America  
 Leila Rupp and Verta Taylor, Drag Queens at the 801 Cabaret  
 Daphne Scholinski with Jane Meredith Adams, The Last Time I Wore  
 a Dress (Riverhead Books)  
 W. Simon and J. Gagnon (1986). "Sexual Scripts: Permanence and  
 Change." Archives of Sexual Behavior 15, pp. 97-119.  
 June Singer, Androgyny  
 Betty W. Steiner, ed., Gender Dysphoria  
 J Stephen Whittle, Respect and Equality: Transsexual and  
 Transgender Rights (Cavendish)  
 . Walter L. Williams and Toby Johnson, Two Spirits: A Story of Life with the Navajo  
 (Lethe Press) the first historical novel with a transgender hero.  
 N. Zhou, et. al. (1997). "A Sex Difference in the Human Brain and its  
 Relation to Transsexuality." International Journal of  
 Transgenderism I, p. 1.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. USC faculty and affiliated scholars will lead discussions and lectures, but because this class is a seminar student attendance and participation are essential. Each week you will read an average of about 100 pages, which is the College Deans' standard for reading requirements in Gender Studies classes. Since you must be present in order to engage in discussions, if you miss more than one weekly meeting, you will be graded down. (10% of semester grade).

2. Midterm exam, covering the readings and discussions during the first half of the course (30% of semester grade).

3. Final exam, covering the readings and lectures during the last half of the course (30% of semester grade).

4. Term research paper (doublespaced typed 12-15 pages in Times New Roman 12 point, with one inch margins) should be carefully analyzed data gathered through research with sources other than the textbooks, and well written in style and professional citation form.

Choose a research topic related to the class subject, and intensively investigate it using at least six sources (use at least three of the following kinds of sources: books, journal articles, magazines, newspapers, unpublished manuscripts, film/video, internet sources).

Plagiarism of a paper will result in an "F" grade in this class. If it is suspected that a paper has been copied or bought, the instructor may ask the student to undergo an oral examination on the sources cited, as well as other requirements. The purpose of the term paper is to improve the student's writing and thinking processes, not just to turn in a completed work. Plagiarism will be treated as a VERY serious violation of the university's ethics rules, and may also result in expulsion from the university.

Turn in a written research proposal by the second week of classes, along with a beginning bibliography. The professor will approve or suggest changes in this topic, and the student will not change that topic unless consulting individually with the professor and turning in a new research proposal with bibliography, in writing, no later than the fifth week of classes.  
(30% of semester grade).

#### CLASS SCHEDULE (dates are approximate and may be revised)

##### WEEK OF:

August 28 Introduction to the class.

September 4 Dr. Connie Rogers guest speaker

READ: Begin doing reading to discuss in next week's class.

ASSIGNMENT: Search for a research paper topic, and locate sources.

Sept. 11 Cross-cultural perspectives

DISCUSS: Spirit & Flesh Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-4 and 11.

Sept. 18 Cross-cultural perspectives

DISCUSS: Spirit & Flesh Chapters 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12.  
Deadline to turn in research paper topic with at least four sources.

Sept. 25 Cross-cultural perspectives  
DISCUSS: Nanda, Gender Diversity

October 2 Historical Perspectives  
DISCUSS: Bullough, Cross Dressing Chs. 1-4.

Assignment: prepare take-home midterm test.  
\*\*\*\* October 9 Turn in take-home MIDTERM TEST.

October 9 Historical Perspectives  
DISCUSS: Bullough, Cross Dressing Chs. 5-8.

October 16 Variations of transgenderism  
DISCUSS: Helen Boyd, My Husband Betty

October 23 Transsexualism  
DISCUSS: Christine Jorgensen first half.

October 30 Transsexualism  
DISCUSS: Christine Jorgensen second half.

November 6 Cross dressers  
DISCUSS: Docter, From Man to Woman pp.1-100.

November 13 Drag Queens, Drag Kings and Gender Impersonators  
DISCUSS: Docter, From Man to Woman pp.100-140.  
Bullough, Cross Dressing Chs. 9-11.

November 20 Biological and medical models of transgenderism and  
intersexuality.  
DISCUSS: readings to be assigned.

November 27 Transgender Prostitution, Professionalism, and Activism  
DISCUSS: Bullough, Cross Dressing Chs. 12-14.

December 4 .Reducing prejudice against transgender people.

\*\*\*\*\* Thursday December 6.  
final deadline to turn in RESEARCH PAPER \*\*\*\*\*

FINAL EXAM, on discussions and readings since the midterm, to be turned in before the  
scheduled exam date.