

## **Introduction to Feminist and Queer Theory in Contemporary Art**

**Lecturer:** Mgr. Zuzana Štefková Ph.D.

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**Consultations:** Thursday 9:10 – 10:40 am, after previous e-mail request, room no. 416

**Class Time:** Tuesday 12:30 – 14:00 pm

**Location:** Room no. 138, Celetná 20

### **Course Description:**

The course seeks to introduce students to the richness and diversity of feminist and queer theory in relation to a vast array of examples of contemporary art. The course will combine lecture format with reading and interpretation of selected theoretical texts dealing with a broad variety of topics ranging from identity, embodiment, race, sexuality, post colonial condition, authorship, institutional critique, to spectacle and gaze, among others. Students will be encouraged to analyse ideological inscriptions and the effects of the sex/gender system and hetero-normativity and invited to challenge the related overlapping, and contradictory systems of power that shape our lives and political options.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### *Reading and discussion:*

Part of the course will be reading and discussion of selected texts. Texts will be made available on the course page: [http:// https://dl1.cuni.cz/course/view.php?id=7050](http://https://dl1.cuni.cz/course/view.php?id=7050)

Students from outside of the Charles University will obtain a guest login during the introductory lecture to access moodle.

Texts will be assigned for every second class. The task of the students is to read at least one of them and reflect on it through the following activities:

- 1) Summarize the content of the discussed text
- 2) Identify the main ideas of the text
- 3) Critically review the text
- 4) Choose a visual response to the text i.e. a piece of visual material that relates to the selected text). The student should then upload an image (jpg, pdf or png format) into moodle by at least 10 pm on the day before the class discussion, and mark it with a label (title / name of the artist / author of the text to which the visual response relates).

#### *Team Research Project*

The students are asked to form teams and collectively formulate a Research Project. The Research Project has to relate to the theme of the course and has to be academically challenging.

The teams have to submit Research Proposals of their Projects by March 25 via email. The Research Proposals should have a strong statement of research aims and objectives, clear methodology and means, and convincing, coherent motivation and significance.

These are the criteria by which the proposals will be evaluated:

- 1) Introduction  
Briefly summarize your research proposal. (max. 50 words)
- 2) Aims and Objectives  
What are your research aims and objectives? (max. 50 words)

3) Methodology and Means

What methodology and means will you use to reach your goals? (max. 50 words)

4) Motivation and Significance

Why is your research significant and why are you pursuing it? (max. 50 words)

The Team Research Projects will be presented via 10-15 minutes oral presentation by the end of the semester. The presentation should be spoken or read and include visual aids (for example Powerpoint presentation).

The teams are asked to collectively write a paper on the topic of their research project. The paper must have at least 9000 characters (with spaces), bibliography, and footnotes (preferably in Chicago style:  
[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html) ).

Students should feel free to consult their Team Research Project frequently and submit the first draft of their paper beforehand. The deadline for submission of the papers is May 25. Papers can be sent to the lecturer via email. Papers delivered after the deadline will lead to downgrading the mark of the paper.

**Assessment and final grade:**

*Evaluation:*

The final grade will be based on the active participation in course activities and discussions (30 %) in-class presentation of the Team Research Project 20 %, final paper summarising the Team Research Project 50 %.

*Attendance policy:*

Missing more than half of the classes will lead to failing the course.

**The following weekly schedule may be subject to change. Please check online prior every class.**

**Week 1:**

**Feb-26**

**Introduction of the course**

**Doing feminist theory**

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**Week 2:**

**March-5**

**Identity – Subjectivity**

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**Week 3:**

**March-12**

**Identity – Subjectivity (Reading)**

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**Week 4:**  
March-19  
Personal – Political

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**Week 5:**  
March-26  
Personal – Political (Reading)

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**Week 6:**  
April-2  
Postcolonialism

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**Week 7:**  
April-9  
Postcolonialism (Reading)

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**Week 8:**  
April-16  
Institutional critique

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**Week 9:**  
April-23  
Institutional critique (Reading)

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**Week 10:**  
April-30  
Invited lecture: Marissa Perel: In Every Place A Body That Does Not Fit

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**Week 11:**  
May-7  
Gaze (Reading)

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**Week 12:**  
May-14  
Research project presentations

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**Week 13:**  
May-21  
Research project presentations