

FILM 4002A/FILM 5506/WGST 4812/WGST 5902 (Note that FILM 4002AF/5506AF/etc. is the screening time associated with the course)

TERM: Fall 2021

COURSE TITLE: Transgender Cinema

PROFESSOR: Laura Horak

DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the widely varied and inventive world of film and media created by trans, Two Spirit, nonbinary, intersex, and gender-nonconforming people in the United States and Canada. How have trans people used audiovisual media to create new forms of community, identity, and desire? How have Black trans and Indigenous Two-Spirit people used film to expose and craft ways to collectively survive colonialism, racial capitalism, and the prison industrial complex? What challenges or paradoxes do audiovisual media pose to trans struggles for self-determination and liberation? How has “trans” changed over time and in different places? What is trans cinema? This class will analyze a variety of trans-made feature films, shorts, television shows, YouTube videos, and web series that span modes and genres, including drama, sci-fi, comedy, documentary, experimental, and pornography. We will also compare trans-made media to mainstream representations of trans people. Students will have the opportunity to conduct close analyses of trans-made audiovisual media informed by the latest scholarship in the burgeoning field of Transgender Studies.

METHOD OF EVALUATION: Writing assignments and an in-class presentation.

READINGS:

All readings are available online through Ares and Brightspace. Readings include works by Kai Cheng Thom, Susan Stryker, Julia Serano, Viviane Namaste, Cáel M. Keegan, Eliza Steinbock, Syrus Marcus Ware, Dean Spade, C. Riley Snorton, Jin Haritaworn, Chelsea Vowell, Kai Pyle, and KJ Rawson.