

## **FILM 4002 B/FILM 5506 W/WGST 4812/WGST 5902 D: Transgender Cinema**

### **Course 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. Although the course’s primary focus is on audiovisual media made in the United States and Canada, we will also examine films from Europe, Asia, and Africa. 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.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this term, students will be able to:

- Give a nuanced account of gender and sexuality that takes into account historically- and geographically-specific meanings and a wide array of gender expressions and identities.
- Notice the narrative and formal elements of an audiovisual text (e.g. mise-en-scene, editing, cinematography, and sound) and use these elements to sustain an argument about a media text in conversation with existing scholarship.
- Describe the recent history of trans filmmaking in the United States, Canada, and Europe.
- Bring the latest scholarship in Transgender Studies into conversation with trans-made films and videos.

### **Assignments (Subject to change)**

- Filmmaker presentation
- Close analysis essay
- Final essay with presentation