



## Syllabus of Record

**Program:** CET Taiwan

**Course Code / Title:** (TP/GENS 350) Gender and Sexuality in Taiwan

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** Gender Studies / LGBTQ+ Studies; Sociology; East Asian Studies; History

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites / Requirements:** Prior coursework in Gender Studies recommended

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### Description

This interdisciplinary course explores how gender and sexuality are socially, historically, and culturally constructed in Taiwan. Through readings, multimedia, and class discussion it covers a broad range of issues in the fields of gender, masculinity, LGBTQ+, femininity, and sexual identity studies, allowing students to conceptualize these topics in both the past and present, and from theoretical and practical perspectives. The class includes analyzing how gender and sexuality as both a lived experience and topic of study intersect with other identities shaped by class, race, ethnicity, and age.

For each of the three core topics of LGBTQ+, masculinity, and femininity, the course considers the historical development of ideas and realities about gender and sexuality. Moving to the modern and contemporary eras, it surveys the emergence of political and social movements for rights and legitimacy. In seeking to understand the relationship between sexuality, gender, and power, course topics also include issues of migration and global human flow, sex work, family and reproduction, domestic and sexual violence, and the path to and aftereffects of the 2019 decision to legalize same-sex marriage in Taiwan, which made it the leader of the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights in Asia. At least one field class increases the diversity of voices in the course.

### Content warning:

At times, this course intentionally invites students to engage with readings and content that are controversial. Students might find this disturbing. The intention is not to endorse perspectives, but rigorously engage with them. If certain material is emotionally challenging, students can discuss with the professor before or after class. Students may also leave the classroom without academic penalty if the discussion becomes too emotionally challenging. Students are, however, responsible for all missed material, and so should arrange to get notes from another student or see the professor individually.

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### Objectives

In this course, students:

- gain the ability to situate gender and sexuality within Taiwanese cultures and its social, cultural, legal, economic, and institutional settings.
- master key concepts, theories, and histories underpinning the field of gender and sexuality studies.
- distinguish the power structures that shape dominant assumptions about gender and sexuality and develop greater awareness of people whose lived experiences do not neatly fit these expectations.
- strengthen critical understandings and attitudes towards new sexual forms that permeate everyday encounters.
- advance or refine skills in critical reading of primary and secondary sources; researching and collecting information, evaluating evidence, developing arguments, and formulating conclusions; and communicating orally and in writing in a clear, concise, and cogent manner.

### Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend each class as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Active participation in class is essential. Students are to read or view all assigned materials before each class session and come prepared to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. Reading assignments average about 50-80 pages per class.

In addition to course preparation and participation, graded assignments include:

- A 10-minute class presentation with slides on a topic related to the course
- Four short response papers on the assigned class readings
- A final research paper (15 pages/ 3,750 words) on a topic connected to our course and determined in consultation with the professor

### Grading

- 20% Preparation for class and participation in discussions
- 20% Individual presentation to the class
- 20% Short response papers (4 papers, at 5% each)
- 40% Final research paper

### Readings

Aizura, Aren. *Mobile Subjects: Transnational Imaginaries of Gender Reassignment*. Duke University Press, 2018.

Bedford, Olwen, and Shu-Ling Hwang. "Flower Drinking and Masculinity in Taiwan." *The Journal of Sex Research* 48, no. 1 (2011): 82-92.

Brown, Melissa J. "Gendering Cosmopolitanism." In *Private Lives, Public Histories: An Ethnohistory of the Intimate Past*, edited by Rachel Corr and Jacqueline H. Fewkes, 123-144. London: Lexington Books, 2020.

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Chang, Doris T. "Studies of Taiwan's Feminist Discourses and Women's Movements." *International Journal of Taiwan Studies* 1, no. 1 (2018): 90-114.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Women's Movements in Twentieth-Century Taiwan*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2009.

Chang, Weijung. "Exploring the Significance of "Japaneseness": A Case Study of Fujoshi's BL Fantasies in Taiwan." In *Boys' Love, Cosplay, and Androgynous Idols*, edited by Maud Lavin, Ling Yang, and Jing Jamie Zhao, 179-194. Hong Kong University Press, 2017.

Chen, Li-Chi. "'Smash this Sissy Boy's Mouth, Cuiguo!': Framing and Humor in Gay Taiwanese YouTubers' Self-disclosures about Being Bullied." *Discourse & Communication*, November 4, 2022. doi.org/10.1177/17504813221132978.

Chen, Yi-Chien. "Gender Identity, National Identity and the Right to Self-Determination: The Peculiar Case of Taiwan." In *Trans Rights and Wrongs: A Comparative Study of Legal Reform Concerning Trans Persons*, edited by Isabel C. Jaramillo and Laura Carlson, 133-148. Springer, 2021. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-68494-5\_8.

Chen-Dedman, Adam. "Seeing China Differently: National Contestation in Taiwan's LGBTQ (*tongzhi*) Movement." *Nation and Nationalisms* 28, no. 4 (2022): 1212-1229.

Chiang, Howard. *Transtopia in the Sinophone Pacific*. Columbia University Press, 2021.

Connell, R. W., and James W. Messerschmidt. "Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept." *Gender & Society* 19, no. 6 (2005): 829-859.

Coston, Bethany M., and Michael Kimmel. "Seeing Privilege Where It Isn't: Marginalized Masculinities and the Intersectionality of Privilege." *Journal of Social Issues* 68, no. 1 (2012): 97-111.

Ding, Naifei. "Parasites and Prostitutes in the House of State Feminism." *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 1, no. 2 (2000): 305-318.

Esslinger, Jan M. and Yen-Jung Chang. "Identity Diffusion Among Generation Z Males in Neoliberal Societies: A Spotlight on Germany and Taiwan." 2022 International Conference on Future Trends of Counseling. New Taipei City, Tamkang University, 2022.

Ferber, Abby L., Kimberly Holcomb, and Tre Wentling. *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality: The New Basics*, 3rd Edition. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Friedman, Sara L., and Chao-ju Chen. "Same-Sex Marriage Legalization and the Stigmas of LGBT Co-parenting in Taiwan." *Law & Social Inquiry* (2022): 1-29.

Gao, Yuan. "'Amit, Wake Up': Indigenization, Gender and Taiwanese Pop Star Chang Hui-mei's Music." *Continuum* 34, no. 4 (2020): 543-555.

Ho, Ming-sho. "Taiwan's Road to Marriage Equality: Politics of Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage." *The China Quarterly* 238 (2019): 482-503.

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- Hu, Yu-Ying. "Are You a T, Po, or Bufen?": Transnational Cultural Politics and Lesbian Identity Formation in Contemporary Taiwan." In *Perverse Taiwan*, edited by Howard Chiang and Yin Wang, 89-109. London: Routledge, 2016.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Mainstreaming Female Masculinity, Signifying Lesbian Visibility: The Rise of the Zhongxing Phenomenon in Transnational Taiwan." *Sexualities* 22, no. 1-2 (2019).
- Immortal's Play* [神戲]. Directed by Li-Chun Lai and Jia-Ru Peng. Taiwan, 2016.
- Kandiyoti, Deniz. "Bargaining with Patriarchy." *Gender & Society* 2 (1988): 274-290.
- Kao, Ying-Chao. "The Coloniality of Queer Theory: The Effects of 'Homonormativity' on Transnational Taiwan's Path to Equality." *Sexualities* (October 2021).
- Kao, Ying-Chao, and Heng-Dar Bih. "Masculinity in Ambiguity: Constructing Taiwanese Masculine Identities Between Great Powers." In *Masculinities in a Global Era*, edited by Joseph Gelfer, 175-191. New York: Springer, 2014.
- Kimmel, Michael S. "Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame, and Silence in the Construction of Gender Identity." In *Toward a New Psychology of Gender: A Reader*, edited by Mary M. Gergen and Sarah N. Davis, 213-219. New York: Routledge, 1997.
- Ko, Dorothy. "The Body as Attire: The Shifting Meanings of Footbinding in Seventeenth-Century China." *Journal of Women's History* 8:4 (1997): 8-27.
- Lan, Pei-Chia. *Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domesticity and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Migrant Women Bodies as Boundary Markers: Reproductive Crisis and Sexual Control in the Ethnic Frontiers of Taiwan." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 33:4 (2008): 833-861.
- Lee, I-Ching, and Wei-Fang Lin. "Us versus Them: The Debates on the Legislation of Same-Sex Marriage (1994-2015) in Taiwan." *Journal of Homosexuality* 69, no. 4 (2022): 655-676.
- Li, Po-Wei, and Chia-Rung Lu. "Articulating Sexuality, Desire, and Identity: A Keyword Analysis of Heteronormativity in Taiwanese Gay and Lesbian Dating Websites." *Sexuality & Culture* 24 (2020): 1499-1521.
- Lesbian Factory* [T 婆工廠]. Directed by Susan Chen. Taiwan, 2010.
- Lim, Song Hwee. "How to Be Queer in Taiwan: Translation, Appropriation, and the Construction of a Queer Identity in Taiwan." In *AsiaPacifiQueer: Rethinking Genders and Sexualities*, edited by Fran Martin, Peter A. Jackson, Mark McLelland, and Audrey Yue, 235-250. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2008.

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- Lin, Hao-li. "Muscular Vernaculars: Braggadocio, 'Academic Rappers,' and Alternative Hip-Hop Masculinity in Taiwan." In *Made in Taiwan: Studies in Popular Music*, edited by Eva Tsai, Tung-Hung Ho and Miaoju Jian, 157-168. New York: Routledge, 2019.
- Liu, Huwy-min. "Substance, Masculinity, and Class: Betel Nut Consumption and Embarrassing Modernity in Taiwan." In *Popular Culture in Taiwan: Charismatic Modernity*, edited by Marc L. Moskowitz, 131-148. London: Routledge, 2011.
- The Lost Youth: Women and Industrial Work in Taiwan* [她們的故事]. Directed by Ke Wan-ching. Taiwan, 2008.
- Louie, Kam. "Introducing *Wen-Wu*: Towards a Definition of Chinese Masculinity." *Theorizing Chinese Masculinity: Society and Gender in China*, 1-21. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Mann, Susan. *Precious Records: Women in China's Long Eighteenth Century*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1997.
- Marin, Fran. "Girls Who Love Boys' Love: BL as Goods to Think with in Taiwan." In *Boys' Love, Cosplay, and Androgynous Idols: Queer Fan Cultures in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan*, edited by Maud Lavin, Ling Yang, and Jing Jamie Zhao, 195-220. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2017.
- McLelland, Mark, and Vera Mackie, editors. *The Routledge Handbook of Sexuality Studies in East Asia*. London: Routledge, 2014.
- Messerschmidt, James W., and Tristan Bridges. *A Kaleidoscope of Identities: Reflexivity, Routine, and the Fluidity of Sex, Gender, and Sexuality*. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2022.
- Moskowitz, Marc. "Multiple Virginity and Other Contested Realities in Taipei's Foreign Club Culture." *Sexualities* 11, no. 3 (2008): 327-51.
- Rubin, Gayle. "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex." In *Toward an Anthropology of Women*, edited by Rayna R. Reiter, 157-210. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1975.
- Schweig, Meredith. "'Young Soldiers, One Day We Will Change Taiwan': Masculinity Politics in the Taiwan Rap Scene." *Ethnomusicology* 60, no. 3 (2016): 383-410.
- Small Talk* [日常對話]. Directed by Huang Hui-zhen. Taiwan, 2016.
- Wang, Hong-Zen, and Ching-Ying Tien. "Who Marries Vietnamese Bride? Masculinity and Cross-Border Marriages." In *Cross-Border Marriages with Asian Characteristics*, edited by Wang, Hong-Zen and Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao, 13-37. Taipei: Academia Sinica, 2009.
- Wiegman, Robyn, and Elizabeth A. Wilson. "Introduction: Antinormativity's Queer Conventions." *differences* 26, no. 1 (2015): 1-25.

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Wong, Heung-wah, and Hoi-yan Yau. "The Anthropology of Chinese Masculinity in Taiwan and Hong Kong." In *Changing Chinese Masculinities: From Imperial Pillars of State to Global Real Men*, edited by Kam Louie, 220-244. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Sex as a Ritual: Transforming Women's Sexual Being from 'Human-like' to 'Animal-like' in Taiwan." *East Asia* 28, no. 1 (2010): 37-55.

Yeh, Te-Hsuan. "Defacing Shame." In *Perverse Taiwan*, edited by Howard Chiang and Yin Wang, 183-209. London: Routledge, 2018.

Yueh, Hsin-I Sydney. "From Japanese *Otaku* to Taiwanese *Zhainan*: Understanding Transcultural Masculinity through a Cultural Term in Taiwan." *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication* 12, no. 2 (2019): 111-127.

## Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Introduction: Terms and definitions; conceptualizations

Topic 2: Women's Studies in Taiwan

Theory: Reconsidering the analytic framework and re-reading the past

History: From gender traditions to modernizing experiences

Traditional female virtues and markers of the feminine

Topic 3: Feminist movements in Taiwan

Pioneers and the emergence of modern feminism in the 1970s and the 1980s

Legislation and the emergence of scholarship in the 1990s

Contemporary feminism and women's issues

Indigenous women's issues

Topic 4: Masculinity Studies in Taiwan

Theory: Patterns of Chinese patriarchy; Polygyny and patrilineality

History: What has shaped masculinity historically?

Indigenous ideals and practices of masculinity

Contemporary notions of Taiwanese masculinities

Homosocial and toxic masculinity

Topic 5: LGBTQ+ in Taiwan

History: Traditional LGBTQ+ sexuality and culture

Modern and Contemporary LGBTQ+ life and culture

Discrimination: Life under authoritarian rule

Crystal Boys to Qiu Miaojin

Coming out and family relations

Topic 6: The legalization of same-sex marriage in Taiwan

The rise of a rights movement

The path to the 2019 new law: political and culture obstacles and how they were overcome

Life after the law: pros and cons

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- Topic 7: Trans, Queer, and Nonbinary life in Taiwan
- Topic 8: Gendered confinement and sexual violence  
Domestic violence, sexual harassment and assault, legislative remedies
- Topic 9: Migration, labor, and gender in contemporary Taiwan  
Transnational marriage and the emergence of immigrant spouses in Taiwan  
Southeast Asian migrant workers in Taiwan
- Topic 10: The commercialization and commodification of sex in modern Taiwan  
The wartime "comfort women" and sexual slavery in Taiwan  
From prostitution to sex work
- Topic 11: Family and reproduction in Taiwan  
Pregnancy and abortion; the declining birth rate; alternative/assisted reproduction