

Module Title: Gender, Sexuality and Human Rights
Credit Points: 10 ECTS / 20 UK credits

Overview:

This module combines analysis of current law with a critical exploration of the structures, potential, and limits of law and legal reform. The focus of the module is human rights, both as a legal regime with specific application to gender and sexuality issues, and as a political sphere within which issues relating to gender and sexuality are negotiated. The module includes discussions of domestic, European, and international developments. As such, this module provides grounding in the key issues of gender, sexuality and human rights discourse whilst ensuring that students will gain an understanding and appreciation of those issues such as recognition of gender identity which are at the cutting edge of these discussions.

Aims (To provide students with):

- a practical and theoretical understanding of human rights law and its relevance to issues around gender and sexuality;
- the ability to locate the sources and apply in practice the principles of human rights law as it relates to issues of gender and sexuality;
- the ability to draw comparisons and distinctions between treatment of gender and sexuality issues in different jurisdictions;
- the capacity to recognise how human rights law can be deployed to further advance equality in relation to issues of gender and sexuality;
- a foundation for pursuing further study at doctoral level

Module Content

- An Introduction to Gender Issues: Feminism
 - First Wave feminism
 - Second Wave feminism
 - Liberal Feminism
 - Radical Feminism
 - Postmodern & Poststructuralist feminism
- The Evolution of Gender as a Rights Issue
 - Commission on the Status of Women
 - UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979
 - UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 1993
 - Beijing Conference, 1995, The Beijing Platform, Beijing +5 and Beijing +10. Pornography
 - Pornography as a violation of women's civil rights
 - The Dworkin-MacKinnon Antipornography Civil Rights Ordinance
 - Pornography and freedom of expression.
- Female Genital Cuttings
 - Traditional cultural practice
 - FGC as a form of violence against women
- Queer Theories
 - Gender Trouble and the heterosexual matrix
 - Language and labels
 - Criticism of queer theory
- Transsexual and Transgender
 - Biological approach to determining legal sex
 - Harmonisation approach to determining legal sex
 - Gender recognition as a human right, The Yogyakarta Principles
 - Limitations to the manner in which recognition rights have been interpreted
 - Intersexuality
 - Historical hermaphrodites
 - Medical management of intersex
 - Legal recognition of intersex

Indicative Reading

- Butler, J., 1993. *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex* Routledge.
- Butler, J. 1999. *Gender Trouble* 2nd ed., Routledge.
- Cornell, D., 1998. *At the Heart of Freedom : Feminism, Sex, and Equality* Princeton University Press.
- Cornell, D., 2000. *Feminism and Pornography* Oxford University Press.
- Dworkin, A. & MacKinnon, C.A. 1988. *Pornography and Civil Rights: A New Day for Women's Equality Organising Against Pornography* available online at
- <http://www.nostatusquo.com/ACLU/dworkin/other/ordinance/newday/TOC.htm> .
- Fineman, M.A, Jackson, J.E. & Romero, A.P. 2009. *Feminist and Queer Legal Theory: Intimate Encounters, Uncomfortable Conversations* Ashgate (Forthcoming)
- Groz, E., 1994. *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism* University of Indiana Press.
- Halberstam, J., Eng, D., & Muñoz, J.E. eds. 2005. *What's Queer about Queer Studies Now?* Duke University Press
- Hosken, F., 1994. *The Hosken Report: Genital/Sexual Mutilation of Females* 4th ed., Women's International Network News.
- James, S.M., & Robertson, C.C.. (eds) 2002. *Genital Cutting and Transnational sisterhood: Disputing US Polemics* University of Illinois Press.
- OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM & WHO, 2008. *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement* World Health Organisation.
- MacKinnon, C.A. 2006. *Are Women Human?* Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Mullally, S., 2006. *Gender, Culture and Human Rights : Reclaiming Universalism* Hart Publishing
- Sharpe, A., 2001. *Transgender jurisprudence : Dysphoric Bodies of Law* Cavendish
- Stryker, S. & Whittle, S., (eds.) 2006. *The Transgender Studies Reader* Routledge.
- Yoder, P.S., Abderrahim, N. & Zhuzhuni, A., 2004. *Female Genital Cutting in the Demographic and Health Surveys: a Critical and Comparative Analysis*. Macro International Inc

Assessment methods

70% Exam

30% Assignment