

**Inquiry into Gender and Sexuality as Performance**  
**Instructor: Taryn Norman**

**Course description:**

This course will explore gender and sexuality as constructed identities that we perform. We will investigate representations of gender and sexuality in literature, popular culture and history and use theoretical lenses to explore the performative nature of these representations. Discussions will engage a variety of texts from Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, to *America's Next Top Model*, to rap and hip-hop music and videos. This topic is wide in range and offers ample opportunity for multidisciplinary study. Students will be asked to think critically about the ways in which their own sense of a gendered and sexual identity is constructed. Our modes of inquiry will include conducting surveys, interviews, archival and library research, to name just a few.

Course assignments will include weekly responses and discussion questions, two formal papers, an annotated bibliography and a final project. The final project may take the form of a formal paper, PowerPoint presentation, documentary-style film, poster campaign or theatrical presentation.

Email [tnorman@utk.edu](mailto:tnorman@utk.edu) for further information.