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**“The American Gender Archive”**

**American Studies 201**

**(Counts for WGS 2000)**

**Tuesdays, 12:45 – 2:45**

**Location: Robinson Hall, Basement Conference Room**

**Robert F. Reid-Pharr**

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**Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2pm – 4pm**

**(Zoom appointments preferred)**

This course will be divided into two parts. In the first we will examine the works of a group of contemporary scholars (**Tiya Miles, Marisa Fuentes, Sarah Haley, Saidiya Hartman, Jose Munoz, and Daphne Brooks**) who are deeply interested in the function of gender in our societies and whose work is either exclusively or largely focused on the Americas. More importantly, each of the individuals whose work we will examine is committed both to using traditional archives in innovative and unexpected ways and to expanding radically what we mean when we use the word “archive.” We will not attempt to survey the massive amount of American-focused and archivally based work on gender. Instead, the goal of the course is to familiarize students with key texts as a prelude to their beginning to develop their own rich theoretical apparatuses and starting the process of defining their own fields of inquiry. Thus, in the second part of the course students will begin work with archival materials (located at Harvard or elsewhere) that will hopefully prove useful to them as they move forward in their careers. These efforts will culminate with the creation of a public facing website in which students will present their work and upload both bibliographies of secondary materials and narrative descriptions of the archival materials that they are using.

#### **Requirements:**

**Students will be expected to present ten-page conference papers based on the archival materials they have discovered. In addition to the conference papers students will be required to produce a five-to-ten-page document describing their archives. This document should also address any challenges that these materials pose and any new possibilities that they might create. Students will also be responsible for compiling an extensive bibliography of secondary sources that inform and support their research agendas. The conference papers, bibliographies, and narrative descriptions of students’ chosen archives will be presented publicly and posted online.**

In the course of the semester the class will consult with staff at both the Schlesinger Library and the Bok Center for Teaching and Learning who will 1) familiarize students with basic archival practices; 2) draw their attention to particularly rich archives located at Harvard; and 3) help them with the mechanics of mounting the class website.

All of the required readings are on order at the Harvard Coop [here](#) and are [on reserve](#) at Lamont Library.