ENGL 645: Topics in Gender, Literature, and Culture
Topic: Gender and Cold War Narratives

Spring 2015
Sally Robinson
W 12:40-3:40

This course counts toward the WGST Graduate Certificate. It also fulfills the English distribution requirement of a course organized around Concepts and Issues.

This will be a cultural studies course, focusing on the ways in which the narratives produced in the shadow of the cold war reproduce, challenge, and/or remake gender. There has been an explosion of interest in the Cold War recently, with a large number of books by literary and cultural critics, historians, and political theorists on topics ranging from race and the cold war; sexuality and the cold war; brainwashing; feminism and the cold war; the cold war and interior design; the cold war and television; and so on. Materials for the course will include films and novels, (and maybe a play), some popular sociological writings published during the period, theoretical work on gender and sexuality in the cold war context, and historical constructions of the period.

I am still working on final selections, but texts will likely be drawn from this list:
E.L. Doctorow, *The Book of Daniel*
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
Ira Levin, *The Stepford Wives*
Joan Didion, *Democracy*
Tim O’Brien, *The Nuclear Age*
Don DeLillo, *Libra*
Tony Kushner, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*

Films:
The Manchurian Candidate
Goldfinger
JFK

A large selection of other primary and of secondary reading, to be posted to eCampus.

Course work:
A book review, to be presented to the class; a "teaching session" on one of the assigned articles/chapters; a final paper.