WGS. 101 SESSION #20 OUTLINE

1. Perspectives on Transgender
   a. *Ma Vie en Rose* (1997, Alain Berliner) – Discussion groups
   b. The trans* spectrum:
      Transgender: Associations with “transcending” and “transit”

   *Transgender* (often *trans*), an umbrella term, describes a broad range of people who
would characterize themselves as gender-nonconforming; *trans* people may also
identify by other terms (e.g. *agender, genderqueer*). They may experience and/or express
their gender differently from what most (*cisgender*) people expect of them. *Trans*
people may express or present as a gender different from the sex they were assigned at
birth, cross gender boundaries (e.g., cross-dressing) or physically change their sex to
affirm/align with their internal sense of gender identity. The term *transsexual*, with
clinical roots, usually describes a person who has transitioned or is in the process of
transitioning to align with his or her internal sense of gender. This transition may involve
medical treatment such as hormones and/or surgery, but not necessarily.

2. Problems of Definition, Conceptual Confusion and False Assumptions:
   *transgender/transsexual, intersex: gender identity and sexual orientation*

3. Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Transgender
   Historical Examples: Passing; Crossing Over (e.g., Deborah Sampson)
   Two-Spirit people (Native American), *hijras* (South Asian)
   Transgender: secular identity definition

   Affiliation with lesbian/gay rights movement; distinct issues

5. Contemporary Issues
   b. Psychiatric/Medical: From “Gender Identity Disorder”
      (DSM-IV-1994-2013) to “Gender Dysphoria” (to DSM-V- 2013 on);
      insurance coverage
   c. Occupational: Legal protection against discrimination; 2012: EEOC decision
      – transgender as a category of discrimination under Title VII
   d. Representational: popular and alternative media
   e. Educational: access, visibility, safety

6. Oral Presentation