Class #17 – Lecture Outline
Understanding Transgender and Transsexualism; Peer Review of Outlines

1. *Ma Vie en Rose* (1997, Alain Berliner) - In-Class writing/film discussion

2. Historical Perspectives on Transgender: Sampson, Craft, Tipton

3. Student Presentation

3. Contemporary Perspectives on Transsexualism:
   Social Constructionist, Psychiatric, Biological Perspectives

   **Social Constructionism**
   transsexualism as a manifestation of:
   (a) performative freedom in gender roles
   (b) logical outcome of rigidly defined categories of gender and sexual orientation
   (c) gender dysphoria—logical outcome of gender stereotyping and homophobia—sense of “being born into the wrong body”

4. Peer Review: Outlines, Essay #2
Social Constructionism

transsexualism as a manifestation of:
(a) performative freedom in gender roles
(b) logical outcome of rigidly defined categories of
   gender and sexual orientation
(c) gender dysphoria—logical outcome of gender
   stereotyping and homophobia—sense of
   “being born into the wrong body”
(d) Solutions to issue of extreme gender dysphoria—
   social change, legal advocacy, counseling/therapy/education,
   not surgery or hormonal treatment

b. Psychiatric Definition of Gender Dysphoria/Transsexualism

(a) Deeply rooted psychic split between gender identity of the mind
    and body—clinically distinct from normal curiosity about the
    bodily differences between the sexes—source may be
    social/familial or biological
(b) Part of a spectrum of body dysmorphic disorders
(c) Not necessarily connected to other mental health issues
(d) Hormonal treatment and sex reassignment surgery treatment are
    effective in many cases
(e) Counseling post-surgery is often necessary to deal with trans-
    formations in individual identity and negative
    reactions/discrimination in various spheres of society.

c. Biological Essentialism

(a) Asserts idea of a core gender identity
   Sees transsexualism as caused by hormonal problems in fetal
   development resulting in a gender split between body/mind
(b) Optimal treatment: hormonal, surgical