

Graduate Introduction to the Study of Sexuality

Arts and Sciences 7XX

Professor Tanya Erzen

Office: 433 Hagerty Hall

Phone: 247-7288

Email: erzen.2@osu.edu

Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:30

What does it mean to study sexuality? Does it change over time and space? How does identity affect sexuality? In this graduate class, we will address these and other questions through an interdisciplinary approach that draws on theoretical perspectives from history, science, sociology, anthropology, political science, women's studies, education, and social work. We will pay particular attention to how the category "sexuality" relates to concepts of race, gender, nation, class, globalization, and politics. The course will first cover some critical readings from feminist, queer, and scientific perspectives in relation to sexuality. Then, armed with these tools, we will address key topics in the field around science and sexology, histories of sexuality, reproductive politics, queer theory and pedagogy, health, and global issues in sexuality such as trafficking.

TEXTS:

The required course reader will be available through Zip Copy and on regular reserve at the Main Library.

Course Requirements:

Part of your final grade is your participation and engagement in the class discussion. Each week, groups of 2-3 students will make a **20-minute presentation** that summarizes the readings and presents questions for discussion. In collaboration, the group will compose a list of 6-8 questions that address the major themes and issues raised in the readings. You must email me the questions the night before the class session so I can provide each member of the class with a copy.

Other requirements include a **reading response** every other week that engages the readings for that week [2 pages single space, 12 point]. You will supply these responses to the group via e-mail attachment by the **Monday** night before our seminar meeting. One of the other seminar members (who is not writing a response that week) will be responsible for writing a response to either one or all of the submissions [1 page single space, 11-12 point]. These responses will be emailed to all seminar members by the **Wednesday night before our seminar meeting**. Everyone will be writing something every week.

At least three weeks before you turn in your final project, you should prepare and submit an **annotated bibliography** of 5-7 works of criticism (essays, chapters, online resources, books) related to the topic you plan to write on. Bibliographies should adhere to the guidelines relevant to your discipline of study (e.g., language and literature students should use the *MLA Handbook*). Bibliographies will be graded on organization,

formatting accuracy, and coherence and clarity of annotations.

The **Final Project** can take various forms as long as it is related to the theme of sexuality. You may wish to write a research essay of 12-15 pages, a conference paper, or an article designed for possible publication in a specific journal. I will distribute guidelines for paper topics in class.

Evaluation:

Participation:	10%
Response Papers:	20%
Peer Reading Response:	20%
Annotated Bibliography	20%
Final Project:	30%
Total Possible:	100%

Policies:

Student Conferences: You should plan to meet with me at least once during the quarter to discuss your paper. However, feel free to stop by office hours or schedule an appointment if necessary. Email is always the fastest way to reach me.

Attendance and Participation:

I expect students to be active participants in their educations. This means that each student should come to class having carefully read the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them. Because knowing how to articulate your ideas is a crucial part of the learning process, I expect you, as a member of the seminar, to contribute your own unique perspective to our discussions.

The real action of our seminar takes place in the classroom. Therefore, it is important and expected that you will be at every class session. Inevitably, an occasion may arise when you are unable to attend. Out of fairness to your classmates who do attend every class, chronic lateness and/or more than one unexcused absence will detract from your participation grade. To make up for a missed class, you may turn in a 2-page, single-spaced précis summarizing the reading for the class you missed. Finally, if you have any special needs or concerns with this course, please feel free to come and talk with me.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND CONDUCT

Any student with a documented disability who may require special accommodations should identify him- or herself to the instructor as early in the quarter as possible to receive effective and timely accommodations. You may also wish to contact the Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307).

Students are expected to know and understand the rules regarding academic misconduct, particularly the rules regarding plagiarism, as stated in the University's Code of Student

Conduct. All cases of plagiarism will be treated very seriously according to the University's guidelines.

COURSE OUTLINE (all works are available in course packet or on reserve in Main Library)

The Interdisciplinary Study of Sexuality

Week 1: How to study sexuality?

- David Halperin, "Is there a History of Sexuality?" in *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, ed. Henry Abelove, et. al.
- John D'Emilio and Estelle Freedman, "Family Life and the Regulation of Deviance," in *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*.
- Ann DuCille, "Othered Matters: Reconceptualizing Dominance and Different in the History of Sexuality in America."
- Carole S. Vance, "Pleasure and Danger: Towards a Politics of Sexuality," in *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*, ed. Carole S. Vance.
- Nayan Shah, "Sexuality, Identity and the Uses of History," in *Q & A: Queer in Asia America*, ed. David Eng and Alice Horn.

Week 2: Theoretical Perspectives on Sexuality from Cultural Studies, Education and Sociology

- Michel Foucault, "The Repressive Hypothesis," *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, Volume I*. New York: Vintage.
- Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality" in *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, ed. Henry Abelove, et. al. New York: Routledge, 1993.
- A.R. D'Augelli, "Teaching Lesbian/Gay Development: From Oppression to Exceptionality," *Journal of Homosexuality*, 1992.
- Jennifer Harding, "Investigating Sex: Essentialism and Constructionism," in *Constructing Sexualities: Readings in Sexuality, Gender and Culture*, ed. Suzanne LaFont, 1998.
- Lauren Berlant, "Sex in Public" written with Michael Warner. *Critical Inquiry* (Winter 1998).

Week 3: Theorizing Sexual Differences

- The Combahee River Collective, "The Combahee River Collective Statement," in *HOMEGIRLS: A Black feminist anthology*, ed. B. Smith.
- Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 5 (Summer 1980).
- Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" and "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power," in *Sister Outsider*.
- Cherrie Moraga, "A Long Line of Vendidas," *Loving in the War Years*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: South End Press, 2000.

-Chela Sandoval "US Third World Feminism: The Theory and Method of Oppositional Consciousness in the Post-Modern World," *Genders* 10 (Spring 1991).

-Dana Y. Takagi, "Maiden Voyage: Excursion into Sexuality and Identity Politics in Asian America," *Amerasia Journal* (1994).

Week 4: Scientific Perspectives on Sexuality

-Anne-Fausto Sterling, "Gender, Race and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of Hottentot Women in Europe, 1815-1817," in *Deviant Bodies*, eds. Jennifer Terry and Jacqueline Urla.

-Evelyn Hammonds, "Toward a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality," in *Feminist Theory and the Body: A Reader*, ed. Janet Price and Margaret Shildrick. New York: Routledge, 1999.

-Siobhan Sommerville, "Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 5.2: 243-266.

-Carol Groneman, "Nymphomania: The Historical Construction of Female Sexuality," *Signs* (Winter 1994).

Film: *The Life and Times of Sara Bartmann*

Week 5: The Construction of Sexual Identity from Sexology to the Gay Gene Debates

-Lucy Bland and Laura Doan, ed., *Sexology Uncensored: The Documents of Sexual Science* (primary documents from Freud, Ellis, Kinsey, and Ulrichs).

-George Chauncey, "From Inversion to Homosexuality: Medicine and the Changing Conceptualization of Female Deviance," *Salmagundi* 58/59.

-Lisa Duggan, "The Trials of Alice Mitchell: Sensationalism, Sexology, and the Lesbian Subject in Turn of the Century America," *Signs* 18 (1993).

-Simon Levay, excerpts from *The Sexual Brain*. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1993.

-Jennifer Terry, "The Seductive Power of Science in the Making of Deviant Subjectivity," in *Science and Homosexualities*, ed. M.D. Rosario. New York: Routledge, 1997.

Proposal for Final Paper Due

Week 6: Histories of Sexuality: The Case of Race, Rape and Lynching

-Paula Giddings, "The Last Taboo," in *Racing Justice, Engendering Power: Essays on Anita Hill, Clarence Thomas, and the Construction of Social Reality*, ed. Toni Morrison.

-Darlene Clark Hine, "Rape and the Inner Lives of Black Women in the Middle West: Preliminary Thoughts on the Culture of Dissemblance," *Signs* 14 (August 1988).

-Martha Hodes, "The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics: White Women and Black Men in the South after the Civil War," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 3.3 (1993).

-Kimberle Crenshaw, "Whose Story Is It Anyway?" in *Race-ing Justice, Engendering Power*, ed. Toni Morrison.

Film: *Frontline special on Anita Hill, Clarence Thomas*

Week 7: Sexuality and Reproductive Politics Past and Present

- Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action," in *The Moynihan Report and the Politics of Controversy*, ed. Rainwater and Yancey.
- Gwendolyn Mink, "The Lady and the Tramp: Gender, Race and the Origins of the American Welfare State," in *Women, the State and Welfare*, ed. Linda Gordon.
- Regina Kunzel, "White Neurosis, Black Pathology: Constructing Out of Wedlock Pregnancy in the Wartime and Postwar United States," in *Not June Cleaver*, ed. Joanne Meyerowitz.
- Rickie Solinger, "Race and 'Value': Black and White Illegitimate Babies in the USA 1945-1965," in *Unequal Sisters*, 2nd ed., ed. Vicki Ruiz and Ellen Carol DuBois.
- Hartouni, Valerie, "Containing Women: Reproductive Discourses in the 1980s," in *Technoculture*, ed. Constance Penely and Andrew Ross.
- Ellen Lewin, "On the Outside Looking In: The Politics of Lesbian Motherhood," *Conceiving the New World Order*, ed. Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp.

Week 8: Queering Sexual Categories

- Cherrie Moraga and Amber Hollibaugh, "What We're Rollin' Around in Bed With," in Hollibaugh's *My Dangerous Desires*.
- Anne Fausto Sterling, "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough," *The Sciences*, March/April 1993.
- Judith Halberstam, "An Introduction to Female Masculinity: Masculinity without Men" in *Female Masculinity*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Cheryl Chase, "Hermaphrodites with Attitude: Mapping the Emergence of Intersex Political Activism" *GLQ: Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies* 4.2.
- Serena Nanda, "Hijiras as Neither Man nor Woman" in *Gay and Lesbian Studies Reader*, ed. Henry Abelove, et. al.
- Deborah Britzman, "Queer Pedagogy and Its Strange Techniques," In *Lost Subjects, Contested Objects*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1998.
- K. Kumashiro. "Queer Students of Color and Anti-Racist, Anti-Heterosexist Education: Paradoxes of Identity and Activism," *Troubling Intersections of Race and Sexuality: Queer Students of Color and Anti-Racist, Anti-Heterosexist Education*. Boulder, CO: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.

Film: *Two Spirits or Paris is Burning*

Week 9: Health and Sexuality

- Paula Treichler, "AIDS, Homophobia, and Biomedical Discourse: An Epidemic of Signification" in *How to Have Theory in an Epidemic: Cultural Chronicles of AIDS*.
- Anne Cvetkovich, "AIDS Activism and Public Feelings: Documenting ACT-UP's Lesbians." *An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures*.
- David Roman, "Teatro Viva! Latino Performance and the Politics of AIDS in Los Angeles," in *Acts of Intervention: Performance, Gay Culture and AIDS*.
- Elizabeth Fee, "Venereal Disease: The Wages of Sin?" in *Passion and Power: Sexuality in History*, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons.

-Angus McLaren, "‘Race Suicide’: Birth Control, Abortion and Family Stability," and "‘Sexual Revolution?’: The Pill, Permissiveness and Politics," *Twentieth-Century Sexuality: A History*.

-Jessie M. Rodrique, "The Black Community and the Birth-Control Movement," in *Unequal Sisters*, ed. Ellen DuBois and Vicki Ruiz. New York: Routledge, 1990.

Week 10: Global Politics/Global Sexualities

-Gayatri Gopinath, "Homo-Economics: Queer Sexualities in a Transnational Frame," in *Burning Down the House: Recycling Domesticity*, ed. Rosemary George. New York: Westview, 1998.

-Priscilla Alexander, "Feminism, Sex Workers, and Human Rights," in *Whores and Other Feminists*, ed. Jill Nagle. New York: Routledge, 1997.

-Kemala Kempadoo, "Globalizing Sex Workers Rights," in *Global Sex Workers: Rights, Resistance, and Redefinition*, ed. Kamala Kempadoo and Jo Doezema. New York: Routledge, 1998.

-Barbara Ehrenreich, "Maid to Order," in *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, Owl Books, 2004.

-Nicole Constable, "Feminism and Myths of Mail-Order Marriages," *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail-Order" Marriages*. University of California Press, 2003.

Possible Final Paper Topics:

- abortion and the political struggle over abortion
- birth control and the campaigns pro and con
- moral panics in historical perspective
- chastity movements
- rape: current research, in historical perspective, or globally, relation to imperialism and "ethnic cleansing"
- prostitution and the efforts to abolish and/or reform; current decriminalization struggles;
- changing feminist views of sex work
- AIDS--activism around AIDS; its cultural construction, esp. in relation to VD
- the history of sex education
- bisexuality: its relation to gay liberation, queerness and/or feminism
- sexual abuse: childhood
- theories of causation about sexual orientation
- the sex wars within feminism
- critiques of feminist models of sexuality advanced by women and feminists of color -
- cultural collisions: recent immigrants
- adolescence and sexuality
- sexuality and urbanization: the role of public space in sexual expression
- censorship in historical perspective
- recent battles over NEA and artistic freedom
- "queering" history: queer theory's impact upon gay and lesbian history
- the invention of heterosexuality and homosexuality

- transgendered: history of sex-change operations; critiques of sex-reassignment
- sexuality in relation to women's labor force participation
- social control of sexuality
- Venereal diseases: how racially constructed
- popular music and sexual expression