

**Modern Pleasures**  
Women's Studies 120A  
Spring 2008

Professor Noelle M. Stout  
Class Location: HOB2 131  
Meeting Times: Tues. & Thurs. 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.

Office Hrs: Thurs. 5-6 p.m.  
or By Appointment  
Office: KH 369  
Email: stout@fas.harvard.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course we will explore the interdependence of the modern and the pleasurable, with a focus on gender, sexuality, and bodily practices. We will examine modernity's investment in a variety of technologies, ideologies, and geographies of pleasure, including spectatorship, tourism, and sexual commerce. Ideologies and practices of representation will be examined to better understand how they work to craft modern categories of gender, sexuality, race and nation. The historical and contemporary production of socially illicit and taboo modes of pleasure and displeasure will be explored. Using interdisciplinary methods and examining a variety of cultural sites, our class will engage with ongoing intellectual and activist debates about pleasure and politics.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Midterm Take-Home Exam (5-7 pgs) | 30 pts.  |
| Final Essay (6-8 pgs)            | 30 pts.  |
| Reading Quizzes (3)              | 15 pts.  |
| Class Participation              | 15 pts.  |
| Presentation                     | 10 pts.  |
| Total                            | 100 pts. |

**Midterm:** The midterm exam questions will be handed out in class two weeks prior to the due date. Students will chose two out of four essay questions based on course readings and will be required to incorporate at least two readings into each of their answers. Midterms are due in-class Tuesday, May 6.

**Final Paper:** The final paper will be a 6-8 page analytical paper that will respond to one of four questions presented in class. Final papers are to be emailed to me by 5 p.m. June 11. Extensions will NOT be granted without documentation of an emergency.

**Reading Quizzes:** Throughout the course, you will have three unannounced pop quizzes covering topics in that week's reading.

**In-class presentation:** Working in groups of two or three students will spend 15-20 minutes presenting the readings. Presentations will include a brief explanation of the text and its significance for our course. Each presentation must include a hand-out to distribute to class and should end with questions to inspire class discussion. The presenters will write a "debriefing" paragraph and post it to the course website after the class.

Participation:

In preparation for the seminar meeting, students must post 2-3 questions or specific points for discussion on the readings by 5 p.m. the day before class. Your questions should pose questions regarding the content and framing of the author's arguments.

Attendance is mandatory. Come to class prepared, with your materials and books in hand and contribute thoughtful and engaged comments to class discussions. Please bring printed copies of the readings for the week to the class meeting. Articles can be downloaded through the course website. More than two absences will affect your grade.

NOTE: Students registered in this course are expected to attend both the FIRST and SECOND CLASS MEETINGS of the course or they may be required to drop the course electronically by the end of the second week of classes.

Information for Students with Disabilities: Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Also contact the Disability Services Center at (949) 824-7494 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Plagiarism: Submitting a paper or presentation that includes information that is not cited is grounds for failure in the course. All information borrowed from print sources or the internet must be identified. Violations of academic honesty will be grounds for dismissal from the course and can affect a student's graduation, financial aid, and eligibility for honors. Submitting the same work for more than one class without notifying the instructor is considered plagiarism.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*

Stuart Hall, *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices* (Sage, 1997)

Additional readings are available on the course website.

## COURSE CALENDAR:

### Week One: Introduction

Tues. April 1

Introduction

Thurs. April 3

Stuart Hall, "The Work of Representation" in *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices* (1997) pp. 36-63.

### Week Two: Genealogy of Sexuality

Tues. and Thurs. April 8/10:

Michele Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*

### Week Three: Colonialism and Imperialism

Tues April 15

Ann Laura Stoler, "Rethinking Colonial Categories: European Communities and the Boundaries of Rule" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol 31, No. 1 (Jan 1989) pp. 134-161.

Ann Laura Stoler, "Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Colonial Cultures" in *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (Nov. 1989) pp. 634-660.

Thurs. April 17

Ann McClintock, "Family Feuds: Gender, Nationalism, and the Family" in *Feminist Review*, No. 44, Nationalisms and National Identities. (Summer, 1993) pp. 61-80.

Stuart Hall, "Captivating Culture: The politics of exhibiting" in *Representation* pp. 184-198.

### Week Four: Gender and Genre

Tues. April 22

Christine Gledhill, "Genre and Gender: The Case of the Soap Opera" in *Representation* pp. 337-365.

Thurs. April 24

Christine Gledhill, "Genre and Gender: The Case of the Soap Opera" in *Representation* pp. 365-386.

Linda Williams, "Film Bodies: Gender, Genre, and Excess" in *Film Quarterly*, Vol. 44, No. 4 (Summer, 1991) pp. 2-13.

## Week Five: Spectacle of the “Other”

Tues. April 29

Stuart Hall, “The Spectacle of the ‘Other’” in *Representation* pp. 223-280.

Thurs. May 1

Ana María Dopico, “Picturing Havana: History, Vision, and the Scramble for Cuba” in *Nepantla: Views from South* 3.3 (2002) 451-493.

## Week Six: Racialized Desire

Tues. May 6

Screening Marlon Riggs *Tongues Untied* (1990) 55 min.

### **MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS.**

Thurs. May 8

Isaac Julien and Kobena Mercer, “True Confessions: A Discourse on Images of Black Male Sexuality” in *Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men*. pp. 167-173.

Ron Simmons, “Tongues Untied: An interview with Marlon Riggs” in *Brother to Brother*, pp. 189-199.

Marlon Riggs, “Tongues Untied” in *Brother to Brother*, pp. 200–205.

Marlon Riggs, “Black macho revisited: Reflections of a SNAP! queen” in *Brother to Brother* pp. 253-257.

## Week Seven: From Tourism to Terrorism

Tues. May 13

Jasbir Kuar Puar, “Circuits of Queer Mobility” in *GLQ* 8: 1-2 (2002) pp. 101-137.

Edward Bruner and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, “Maasai on the Lawn: Tourist Realism in East Africa.” *Cultural Anthropology*, 9(4): (1994) pp. 435-470.

Thurs. May 15

Jasbir K. Puar, “Mapping U.S. Homonormatives” in *Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*. 13: 1 (2006) pp. 67-88.

Jasbir K. Puar, “On Torture: Abu Ghraib,” *Radical History Review*, no. 93 (fall 2005) pp. 13-38.

## Week Eight: The “Pleasure” Industry

Tues. May 20

Don Kulick, “The Gender of Brazilian Transgender Prostitutes” in *American Anthropologist* 99(3) (1997) pp. 574-585.

Jafari Sinclair Allen, "Means of Desire's Production: Male Sex Labor in Cuba" *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, 14 (2007) pp. 183-202.

Hodge, G. Derrick. 2001. "Colonization of the Cuban Body: The Growth of Male Sex Work in Havana." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 34 no. 5. (20-28).

Thurs. May 22

Screening: *Luchando* (2007) Noelle Stout

### Week Nine: Globalization and Sexuality

Tues. May 27

Dennis Altman, "Global Gaze/Global Gays," *GLQ* Vol. 3 pp. (1997) 417-436.

Lisa Rofel, "Qualities of Desire: Imagining Gay Identities in China", *GLQ* 5:4 (1999) pp. 451-474.

Thurs. May 29

Elizabeth Povinelli and George Chauncy, "Thinking Sexuality Transnationally" in *GLQ* 5:4 (1999) pp. 439-450.

Tom Boelstorff, "Dubbing Culture: Indonesian *gay* and *lesbi* subjectivities and ethnography in an already globalized world" in *American Ethnologist* 30(2) (2003) pp. 225-242

### Week Ten: Television and the Modern Nation

Tues. June 3

Purnima Mankekar, "Entangled Spaces of Modernity: The Viewing Family, the Consuming Nation, and Television in India" *Visual Anthropology Review* Vol. 14, No 2, (1998) p. 32-46

Lisa B. Rofel, "Yearnings': Televisual Love and Melodramatic Politics in Contemporary China," *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 21, No. 4. (Nov. 1994), pp. 700-722.

Thurs. June 5

CLASS CANCELED – Work on final papers.

**FINAL PAPERS DUE: JUNE 11, 2008**