

Queer Lives and Knowledges

Women's Studies 157 B

Spring 2008

Professor Noelle M. Stout
Class Location: HOB2 131
Meeting Times: Tues. & Thurs. 3:30 -4:50 pm

Office Hrs: Thurs. 5-6 pm
or By Appointment
Office: KH 369
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar examines the contested relationships between sexuality, knowledge and power from an anthropological perspective. The regulatory, productive, and ironic consequences of official knowledge of queer subjects will be compared to consider how social categories of gender, sexuality, race, class, and nation naturalize and challenge one another. Debates regarding theoretical and ethnographic approaches to non-normative genders and sexualities will be examined such as studies of drag, female masculinities, transgender critiques, the emergence and circulation of Western sexual categories and rights discourse, and the migration and imposition of these categories outside of their original contexts. Drawing on queer and feminist theory, cultural anthropology, film analysis, postcolonial studies, and critical race studies, students will contribute their own ideas and experiences to ongoing dialogues regarding queer sexualities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To articulate the emergence of queer identities in 19th and 20th century Western societies.
2. To question the formulation of gender and sexuality within transnational contexts.
3. To link questions of gender and sexuality to history, politics, science, and economics.
4. To think critically about the role of representation in understanding sexual difference.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reading Quizzes (3)	15 pts.
Midterm Paper (5-7 pgs)	30 pts.
Class Presentation	10 pts.
Final Paper (6-8 pgs)	30 pts.
Class Participation	15 pts.
Total	100 pts.

Reading analysis Quiz: Throughout the course, you will have three unannounced pop quizzes covering topics in that weeks' reading.

Midterm: The midterm will be a 5-7 page analytical essay based on the material covered in the first half of the class. Questions will be posted on the website and handed out in class two weeks prior to the due date.

In-class presentation: Working in groups of two or three, students will spend 10-15 minutes presenting the readings. Each presentation should include a brief explanation of the text and why you believe it is significant for our course. The presentation should end with questions for class discussion. The presenters will write a "debriefing" paragraph and post it to the course website after the class.

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.

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: All information borrowed from print sources or the internet must be identified. Plagiarists fail the course and have their offense recorded in their School and in the School of Humanities. Violations of academic honesty can affect a student's graduation, financial aid, and eligibility for honors. [Note: submitting the same work for more than one class without notifying the instructor is considered plagiarism at UCI.]

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Volume 1 (An Introduction)* (Vintage Books Edition, 1990)
Course Reader (Available on course website.)

COURSE CALENDAR:

Week One: Questions & Debates

Tues. April 1
Introduction

Thurs. April 3

Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan, "Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality" in *GLQ* (2001) pp. 663-679.

David Halperin, "The Normalization of Queer Theory" in *Journal of Homosexuality* (2003) pp. 339-343.

Tim Edwards, "Queer Fears: Against the Cultural Turn" in *Sexualities* Vol. 1:4 (1998) pp. 471-484.

Week Two: The Birth of the Homosexual

April 8/10

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Volume 1 (An Introduction)*

Week Three: Genealogies of Sexuality

Tues. April 15

Siobhan Somerville "Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual Body." *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 5.2 (1994): pp. 243-66.

Jonathan Ned Katz, *The Invention of Heterosexuality* (2007) pp. 83-112.

Thurs. April 17

Estelle Freedman "The Historical Construction of Homosexuality in the U.S." *Socialist Review*, 25(1): (1995) pp. 31-46.

Jennifer Terry (1990) "Lesbians Under the Medical Gaze," *Journal of Sex Research*, 27(3): pp. 317-339.

Week Four: Studying "Queer" Cultures

Tues. April 22

Judith Butler, "Against Proper Objects. Introduction" in *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*. 6.2/3 (1994) pp. 1-26.

Evelyn Blackwood "Reading Sexualities Across Cultures: Anthropology and Theories of Sexuality" in *Out in Theory* (2002) pp. 69-93

Thurs. April 24

Gayle Rubin, "Studying Sexual Subcultures: Excavating the Ethnography of Gay Communities in Urban North America" in Ellen Lewin and William L. Leap, eds. *Out in Theory: The Emergence of Lesbian and Gay Anthropology* (2002) pp. 17-68.

Esther Newton, "My Best Informant's Dress: The Erotic Equation in Fieldwork" in *Cultural Anthropology* Vol. 8, No. 1 (1993) pp. 3-23.

Week Five: Sex Work

Tues. May 27

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

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.

Thurs. May 29

Screening: Noelle Stout, *Luchando* (2007) 55 min.

Week Six: Female Masculinities

Tues. May 6

Halberstam, "Judith Transgender butch: butch/FTM border wars and the masculine continuum." *GLQ* 4(2) (1998) 287-310.

Hale, Jacob 1998 "Consuming the living, dis(re)membering the dead in the butch/FTM borderlands." *GLQ* 4(2) (1998) 311-348.

Thurs. May 8

Judith Halberstam, "Macdaddy, Superfly, Rapper: Gender, Race, and Masculinity in the Drag King Scene" in *Social Text* No. 52/53. Queer Transexions of Race, Nation, and Gender (1997) pp. 104-131.

Evelyn Blackwood, "Tombois in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire" in *Cultural Anthropology* 13(4): (1998) pp. 491-521.

Week Seven: Drag

Tues May 13

Screening: Jennie Livingston *Paris Is Burning* (1990) 71 min.

MIDTERM DUE TUESDAY, MAY 13.

Thurs. May 15

bell hooks, "Is Paris Burning?" in *Black Looks: Race and Representation* (1996) pp. 145-157.

Judith Butler, "Gender Is Burning" in *Bodies That Matter* pp. 121-140.

Week Eight: Popular Culture

Tues. May 20

Antonio C. La Patina, "The sexual other in Brazilian television: Public and institutional reception of sexual difference" in *International Journal of Cultural Studies* Vol. 5(1) (2002) pp. 83-99.

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

Thurs. May 22

Larry Gross, "Hollywood's Gay Nineties," in *Up From Invisibility: Lesbians, Gay Men, and the Media in America* (2001), pp. 12-20, 156-183.

Ruby Rich, "Queer and Present Danger" in *Sight and Sound* 10:3 (2000) 22-25.
<http://www.bfi.org.uk/sightandsound/feature/80/>

Screening: *Celluloid Closet* (Selections)

Week Nine: Queer Globalization?

Tues. April 29

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 1

Lionel Cantú, "De Ambiente: Queer Tourism and the Shifting Boundaries of Mexican Male Sexualities," *GLQ*, 8(1): (2002) pp. 139-166

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

Week Ten: Queer Citizenship

Tues. June 3

M. Jacqui Alexander "Not just (any) body can be a citizen: the politics of law, sexuality and postcoloniality in Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas" *Feminist Review*, No. 48, The New Politics of Sex and the State. (Autumn, 1994), pp. 5-23.

Siobhan B. Somerville, "Notes toward a Queer History of Naturalization" in *American Quarterly*, Vol. 57, No. 3. (Sep., 2005), pp. 659-675.

Thurs. June 5

Class Canceled – Work on Final Papers

FINAL PROJECTS DUE: JUNE 11, 2008