

Women's Studies 610
Seminar in Sexuality

Fall 2016
Wednesday, 4:00- 6:40 pm
AL 379

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Office Hours: Wed 9:00-11:00 a.m.

This seminar focuses on sexuality and gender identity in diverse individual, social, political, and cultural contexts.

Fall 2016 Theme: Transgressive Sexualities

Course Readings

Required texts available at Aztec Bookstore:

Blackwood, Evelyn & Saskia Wieringa

Female Desires: Same-Sex Relations and Transgender Practices across Cultures
NY: Columbia University Press, 1999

Nikki Sullivan

A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory. NY: New York University Press, 2003.

All additional readings are available electronically on Blackboard.sdsu.edu under Course Documents.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the way that societies across national boundaries have constructed sexuality
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the ways that social institutions shape sexuality.
3. Evaluate multiple perspectives about sexuality from the perspectives of history, psychology, politics, and cultural studies.
4. Speak articulately about sexuality studies, and demonstrate critical thinking skills
5. Produce papers with a clear focus and argument on various current issues and controversies in sexuality studies.
6. Become careful and critical consumers of sexuality research presented in the media and in academic texts.

Students with Special Needs

Students who need accommodation of their disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (Calpulli Center, 3rd Floor, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me.

Academic Misconduct

Section 41301 of Title V of the California Code of Regulations defines academic misconduct as “Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus.” According to the SDSU Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, “Examples of cheating would include using unauthorized notes or study guides during an exam, unauthorized collaboration on coursework, stealing course examinations or materials, falsifying records or data, and intentionally assisting another individual in any of the above.” Some examples of plagiarism include submitting work that was written by someone else or using someone else’s ideas without referencing that source in a footnote or bibliography. When using exact quotes, be sure put these quotes within quotation marks.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Class Participation (10%)

Students are expected to attend class and participate actively in discussion each week. Come prepared and demonstrate that you have read and thought about the readings.

Students are expected to raise discussion questions in class as well as answer discussion questions raised by others. Good discussion questions:

1. are open-ended (that is, do not ask a question that can be answered yes or no)
2. refer to major themes of the reading (not minor or trivial points)
3. bring up critiques of the readings
4. relate the readings to other sources
5. result in class discussion and debate.

Class Lecture (15%)

Each class will begin with a short, 30-45 minute overview of that week's topic by the instructor or by a student. Students will rank their top three choices and will be assigned one overview lecture. To prepare for their class lecture, students should (1) read the articles for that week and (2) prepare a PowerPoint talk with **background information** for that topic. PowerPoint slides are due to the instructor on or before Monday at noon before that Wednesday's lecture.

Weekly Short Papers (12 x 5% = 60%)

The readings are a major part of the course and so it is extremely important that students have read them carefully and can integrate them. The purpose of the weekly short papers is to discuss a main issue, argument or controversy that appeared in the readings for that week. The paper must refer to at least two of the readings.

After you have completed the weekly readings, ask yourself what the main points are of the authors. What is the controversy? Is it a case of the religious right versus the gay rights movement? Or queer activists versus academics? Or the gay corporate sector versus the transgender community? Is it a matter of two opposite sides interpreting the same data?

The paper should summarize the main points of each reading in one paragraph. Avoid excessive use of quotes—I want to make sure that you have understood the reading and can describe the main points in your own words. Then integrate these readings—what are the themes that go across the readings. It is usually best if you focus on 2-3 readings, not more. You can relate the class readings to other sources, as long as you describe these in enough detail for the reader to understand the main points.

The paper cannot exceed three pages. It can be single or double-spaced. Remember to use language that is respectful of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability/disability. Quality of writing is very important in a graduate course.

Short papers are due at the beginning of class each week, *except for the week in which the student is giving the class lecture*. Thus, they are due 12 times during the semester, and are worth 5% each time. Late papers will not be accepted.

Colloquium Journals (3 x 5% = 15%)

The SDSU LGBTQ Research Consortium will have some events on the theme “Queer Country” this fall:

September 1 to November 30 at Love Library and the Dean’s Conference Room, 6th floor of Arts and Letters: Blake Little’s Gay Rodeo Exhibit

Thursday, September 29, 12:30-1:45 pm in Love Library 430: Film *Country People* and filmmaker Dr. David Bobrow

Thursday, October 20, time and location to be arranged: Dr. Nicole Seymour, California State University Fullerton on “Base Camp’: Irony, Gaiety, and Queer Environmental Performance”

In addition, the following Women’s Studies Department colloquia will focus on the theme of “Transgressive Sexualities” this fall:

Tuesday, October 4, 6-8 p.m. in the Montezuma Theater, Aztec Student Center: Film Screening of “No Más Bebés/No More Babies.”

This screening will be followed with a panel-discussion led by Dr. Virginia Espino, the film's producer, Laura Jiménez, the executive director of California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, Dr. Bonnie Bade, a Medical Anthropologist at CSUSM, and Mrs. Hurtado, one of the plaintiffs in the anti-sterilization abuse case addressed in the documentary.

Wednesday, October 12, noon-2 pm, room to be arranged: Dr. Charlotte Chuck Tate, San Francisco State University on “Trans- and Cisgender-Inclusive Models of Gender Identity.”

Wednesday, November 2, 4-6:40 pm, 4th floor of the Calpulli Center, Rooms 1-3: Dr. Yetta Howard, English and Comparative Literature Department, SDSU on “The Erotics of Artificiality.”

Wednesday, November 16, 5 pm, Love Library 430: Chicana punk feminist Alice Bag -- iconic feminist punk singer for legendary female-fronted 70s Los Angeles band The Bags. This is an English and Comparative Literature Colloquium co-sponsored by Women’s Studies

Students are required to attend any three of these talks/exhibition and submit a 2-page journal entry about each one by December 19—that is the final exam date for our course, even though we don’t have exams and won’t be meeting that week. Each journal entry should summarize the main points of the talk. Women’s Studies MA students note: these colloquia papers are separate from the paper you will be asked to write about the colloquia in the Writing Workshop.

Schedule

August 31 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

September 7 TRANSGRESSIVE GENDERS

1. Blackwood and Wieringa book: *Lesbians, Men-Women, and Two Spirits: Homosexuality and Gender in Native American Cultures*, by Sabine Lang.
2. Cheryl Chase (2006). *Hermaphrodites with Attitude: Mapping the Emergence of Intersex Political Activism*. In Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle (Eds.) *The Transgender Studies Reader* (pp. 300-314). NY: Routledge.
3. Rothblum, E.D. (2010). The Complexity of Butch and Femme among Sexual Minority Women in the 21st Century. *Psychology of Sexualities Review*, 1, 29-42.
4. Kate Bornstein (1997). *Queer Theory and Shopping: Dichotomy or Symbionts?* In Carol Queen and Lawrence Schimel (Eds.) *PoMoSexuals: Challenging Assumptions About Gender and Sexuality* (pp. 13-17). Cleis Press.

September 14 TRANSGRESSIVE SEXUALITIES

1. Blackwood and Wieringa book: "What's Identity Got to Do With It?" *Rethinking Identity in Light of the Mati Work in Suriname*, by Gloria Wekker
2. Leslie Feinberg (1998). *We Are All Works in Progress. Transliberation: Beyond Pink or Blue* (pp. 81-89). Boston: Beacon Press.
3. Abby Wilkerson (2002). *Disability, Sex Radicalism, and Political Agency*. *NWSA Journal*, 14(3), 33-57.
4. Carol Queen (1999). *Strangers at Home: Bisexuals in the Queer Movement*. In Larry Gross and James Woods (Eds.) *The Columbia Reader on Lesbian and Gay Men in Media, Society and Politics* (pp. 105-108). NY: Columbia University Press.

September 21 QUEER THEORY

1. Chapters 1-5, 7 and 9 in Nikki Sullivan (2003). *A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*. NY: New York University Press.

September 28

NATION AND CITIZENSHIP

1. Blackwood and Wieringa book: How Homosexuality Became “Un-African,” by Margrete Aarmo
2. Blackwood and Wieringa book Women’s Sexuality and the Discourse on Asian Values: Cross-Dressing in Malaysia, by Tan ben hui
3. Blackwood and Wieringa book: Negotiating Transnational Sexual Economies: Female Mahū and Same-Sex Sexuality in “Tahiti and Her Islands,” by Deborah Elliston
4. From the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996). In Michelle Gibson, Jonathan Alexander & Deborah Meem (2014). *Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies*. Los Angeles: Sage, pp.146-147.
5. Hillary Clinton’s International Human Rights Day Speech (December 6, 2011). In Michelle Gibson, Jonathan Alexander & Deborah Meem (2014). *Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies*. Los Angeles: Sage, pp. 147-152.

October 5

TRANSGRESSIVE RELIGION

1. Nzinga Shaka Zulu (1996). Sex, Race, and the Stained-Glass Window. *Women & Therapy, 19*, 27-35.
2. Starhawk (1989). The Goddess. In *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess* (pp. 102-118). San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row.
3. Rebecca Alpert (1999). In God’s Image: Coming to Terms with Leviticus. In Larry Gross and James Woods (Eds.) *The Columbia Reader on Lesbian and Gay Men in Media, Society and Politics* (pp. 147-152). NY: Columbia University Press.
4. Tony Kushner (1994). A Prayer. In *Thinking about the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness: Essays, a Play, Two Poems, and a Prayer* (pp. 217-224). Theatre Communications Group.
5. Wayne Besen (2003). Candi’s Bathroom Break. In *Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth* (pp. 3-23). NY: Routledge.

October 12

TRANSGRESSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

1. Esther Rothblum (1999). Poly-friendships. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 3(1/2), 71-83.
2. Pat Califia (1999). Gay Men, Lesbians, and Sex: Doing It Together. In Larry Gross and James Woods (Eds.) *The Columbia Reader on Lesbian and Gay Men in Media, Society and Politics* (pp. 92-96). NY: Columbia University Press.
3. Margaret Talbot (November 3, 2008). Red Sex, Blue Sex: Why Do So Many Evangelical Teenagers Become Pregnant? *The New Yorker*, 1-5.
4. Kathy Labriola (1999). Models of Open Relationships. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 3(1/2), 217-225.
5. Anna Kurowicka (2013). What's Sex Got To Do With It? Asexuals in Love. <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/kurowickagpaper.pdf>

October 19

MARRIAGE AS TRANSGRESSIVE?

1. Marlon Bailey, Priya Kandaswamy & Mattie Udora Richardson (2004). Is Gay Marriage Racist? In Mattilda (aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore) *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation* (pp. 87-93). Brooklyn, NY: Soft Skull Press.
2. Gust Yep, Karen Lovaas, & John Elia (2003). A Critical Appraisal of Assimilationist and Radical Ideologies Underlying Same-Sex Marriage in LGBT Communities in the United States. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 45(1), 45-64.
3. Paula Ettelbrick (1999). Since When Is Marriage a Path to Liberation? In Larry Gross and James Woods (Eds.) *The Columbia Reader on Lesbian and Gay Men in Media, Society and Politics* (pp. 637-640). NY: Columbia University Press.
4. Joseph Carrier and Stephen Murray (1998). Woman-Woman Marriage in Africa. In Stephen Murray and Will Roscoe (Eds.) *Boy-Wives and Female Husbands: Studies in African Homosexualities* (pp. 255-266). NY: Palgrave.

October 26

TRANSGRESSIVE BODIES AND APPEARANCE

1. Ariel Levy (November 30, 2009). Either/Or: Sports, Sex, and the Case of Castor Semenya. *The New Yorker*, 47-59.
2. Kate Bornstein (1995). Interlude: Nuts and Bolts. In *Gender Outlaw* (pp. 15-19). Vintage Books.
3. Saadia Abid (2015). Identity in Alterity: Burqa and Madrassah Education in Pakistan. In Gul Ozyegin (Ed.) *Gender and Sexuality in Muslim Cultures* (pp. 217-234). Surrey, UK: Ashgate.
4. Sherine Hafez (2015). The Virgin Trials: Piety, Femininity, and Authenticity in Muslim Brotherhood Discourse. In Gul Ozyegin (Ed.) *Gender and Sexuality in Muslim Cultures* (pp. 317-328). Surrey, UK: Ashgate.
5. S. Bear Bergman (2009). Part-Time Fatso. In Esther Rothblum and Sondra Solovay (Eds.) *The Fat Studies Reader*. NY: New York University Press.

November 2 Dr. Yetta Howard, English and Comparative Literature Department, SDSU on "The Erotics of Artificiality." **Note: This colloquium is on the 4th floor of the Calpulli Center, Rooms 1-3.**

There are no readings this week

November 9

DEBATES ABOUT BIOLOGY

1. What is Sexual Orientation and Do Women Have One? By J. Michael Bailey. In Debra Hope (2009) *Contemporary Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities* (pp. 43-63) NY: Springer Science and Business Media
2. Esther Morris Leidolf (2006). The Missing Vagina Monologue...and Beyond. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy*, 10(2), 77-92.
3. Rothblum, E.D. (2000). Comments on "lesbians' sexual activities and efforts to reduce risks for sexually transmitted diseases." *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association*, 4, 39-40.
4. Leonore Tiefer (2001). A New View of Women's Sexual Problems: Why New? Why Now? *The Journal of Sex Research*, 38(2), 89-96.

November 16

DEBATES ABOUT POPULAR CULTURE

1. Alok Vaid-Menon. a poem to all the queer kids in the red states where there are no rainbows on display today. Access the poem at:
<http://www.returnthegayze.com/post/54214188447/a-poem-to-all-the-queer-kids-in-the-red-states>
2. Carla Stokes (2007). Representin' in Cyberspace: Sexual Scripts, Self-Definition, and Hip Hop Culture in Black American Adolescent Girls' Home Pages. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 9(2), 169-184.

We will meet in class for just one hour, in order to attend the colloquium at 5 pm in Love Library 430: Chicana punk feminist Alice Bag -- iconic feminist punk singer for legendary female-fronted 70s Los Angeles band The Bags. This is an English and Comparative Literature Colloquium co-sponsored by Women's Studies

November 23

NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING

November 30

DEBATES ABOUT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Visiting doctoral student Corinna Sabrina Guerzoni will give the background class lecture for this topic

1. lore dickey, Kelly Ducheny and Randall Ehrbar (2016). Family creation options for transgender and gender nonconforming people. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 3, 173-179.
2. Rachel Epstein (2002). Butches with babies: Reconfiguring gender and motherhood. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 6(2), 41-57.
3. Julius Kaggwa (2011). Intersex: The Forgotten Constituency. In Sylvia Tamale (Ed.) *African Sexualities: A Reader* (pp. 231-234). Cape Town, South Africa: Pambazuka Press.
4. Lisa Diamond (2002). "Having a Girlfriend Without Knowing It": Intimate Friendships among Adolescent Sexual-Minority Women. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 6(1), 5-16.
5. Lisa Belkin (June 15, 2008). When Mom and Dad Share it All. *New York Times Magazine*.

December 7

DEBATES ABOUT ECONOMICS AND SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS

1. M. Jacqui Alexander (1998). Imperial Desire/Sexual Utopias: White Gay Capital and Transnational Tourism. In Ella Shohat (Ed.) *Talking Visions: Multicultural Feminism in a Transnational Age* (pp. 281-305). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
2. Blackwood and Wieringa book: Let Them Take Ecstasy: Class and Jakarta Lesbians, by Alison Murray.
3. Victoria Brownworth (1997). Life in the Passing Lane: Exposing the Class Closet. In Susan Raffo (Ed.) *Queerly Classed* (pp. 67-78). Boston, MA: South End Press.
4. Cenk Özbay (2015). "Men are Less Manly, Women are More Feminine": The Shopping Mall as a Site for Gender Crisis in Istanbul. In Gul Ozyegin (Ed.) *Gender and Sexuality in Muslim Cultures* (pp. 73-94). Surrey, UK: Ashgate.
5. William Mann (1999). The Gay and Lesbian Publishing Boom. In Larry Gross and James Woods (Eds.) *The Columbia Reader on Lesbian and Gay Men in Media, Society and Politics* (pp. 273-278). NY: Columbia University Press.

December 14

DEBATES ABOUT RESEARCH

(this week has space for another mini-topic)

1. Blackwood and Wieringa book: Sapphic Shadows: Challenging the Silence in the Study of Sexuality, by Saskia Wieringa.
2. lore dickey, Michael Hendricks and Walter Bockting (2016). Innovations in research with transgender and gender nonconforming people and their communities. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 3, 187-194.
3. Anne Fausto-Sterling (2000). The Rodent's Tale. Chapter 8 in *Sexing the Body* (pp. 195-232).
4. Celia Kitzinger, Manjit Bola, Amparo Bonilla Campos, Jean Carabine, Kathy Doherty, Hannah Frith, Ann McNulty, Jackie Reilly & Jan Winn (1996). Speaking of Representing the Other. *Feminism & Psychology*, 6(2), 217-235.