

**SEXUALITY, SOCIETY & CULTURE:
AN INTRODUCTION TO LESBIAN & GAY STUDIES**

Course Syllabus

Cross-Listings:
Anthropology 322
Interdisciplinary Studies 315
Women's Studies 322

Maximum Enrollment: 35 Students

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Time: MWF [TBA]
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad introduction to theory and research on the cultural meanings and social organization of same-gender attraction, sexual practice, and identity. Drawing from the varied critical frameworks falling under the rubric “Lesbian & Gay Studies,” this course will examine case studies from a variety of world areas and historical periods. While these studies employ a range of social science perspectives (and with occasional forays into biology), anthropological research will receive special attention in this edition of the course. (In other years, the course is offered by the Institute for Liberal Arts and the Department of Women’s Studies with corresponding tailoring of thematic foci.)

Readings and lectures have been designed, on the one hand, to introduce students to the classic studies of same-gender sexuality within the social sciences (particularly anthropology). Equally important, however, this course considers how “sexuality” becomes construed as an object of study for empirical research in the first place. Our examination of a range of themes, times and places, then, will be informed throughout the course by Lesbian & Gay Studies’ attention to how sexuality (especially same-gender sexuality) becomes “knowable” and therefore classifiable. Particular attention goes to cultural lines dividing forms of sexual expression understood as acceptable/moral/natural versus those perceived as unacceptable/immoral/unnatural. Ethnographic studies will attend to how ordinary people in the contemporary world interact with these dominant ways of understanding and categorizing sexuality.

The following are some of the questions that we will address through readings, lectures, and experience-based projects:

- Is erotic attraction to the same sex biologically conditioned?
- Or is “homosexuality” to be understood mainly as a social role created first in modern Western societies?
- Beyond “female” and “male,” what other genders are possible?
- Can we properly say that the Greek philosopher Socrates was “gay”?
- In what ways do modern North American constructions of sexuality intersect with gender and race?

- How are lesbian lives different from gay male ones?
- Are North American notions of lesbian and gay identity currently being adopted across the world as a part of so-called globalization?

At the completion of this course, students will:

- Be familiar with classic studies of same-gender sexuality within the social sciences (particularly anthropology);
- Be able to examine issues of sexuality in the contemporary world through the critical lenses offered by Lesbian & Gay Studies, particularly with respect to how “sexuality” and becomes constructed as an object of study;
- Possess in-depth familiarity with anthropology’s conceptually and methodologically diverse engagements with (homo-)sexuality during the 20th century
- Be acquainted with the major topical areas on which contemporary ethnographic studies of (homo-)sexuality have focused, drawing from several world areas, and the theoretical frameworks informing these studies

Periodically, guest instructors will lecture on specialized topics. (Unless so noted, all lectures will be given by Mr. Junge.)

COURSE TEXTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

In this course, 3 books will be read in their entirety. While students are strongly encouraged to purchase these books (all are available at the Emory Bookstore), copies of each will be on research in the Woodruff Library.

Required Texts

- 1) Newton, Esther. Mother Camp: Female Impersonators in America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1972.
- 2) Plato, The Symposium. Frome, Prometheus Trust Student’s Edition.
- 3) Jagose, Annamarie. Queer Theory: An Introduction. New York: New York University Press, 1996.

Supplementary readings for this course are available as PDF files, downloadable from Woodruff Library’s E-Reserves (<https://ereserves.library.emory.edu/reserves/>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, EVALUTION AND GRADING

Final grades will be based on critical reflection papers, experience-based ethnographic exercises, and classroom discussion and LearnLink participation. Details on assignments and grading are as follows:

Critical Reflection Papers (60%)

During the semester, students are required to turn in four papers, each a critical response to a specific section of the course. As reflected in the syllabus, the course is divided thematically into 12 sections or “parts.” Each reflection paper should draw from readings and lectures to engage the key questions, debates and ethnographic evidence presented for the given section. Reflection papers are generally due one week subsequent to the completion of the given course section. These papers can be up to five double-spaced pages and should follow the written assignment

guidelines below. Students may elect to turn in more than four reflection papers; the top four grades only will enter into the final grade (each worth 15% of the final grade). Papers will be assessed and marked with a standard letter grade.

Experience-Based Ethnographic Exercises (30%)

Students must turn in two experience-based ethnographic exercises. Students will be provided with several opportunities during the semester (corresponding to a key course theme, and with a deadline clearly indicated on the schedule), and must choose at least two to carry out and write-up. In most cases, these exercises will require observation of a social setting on-campus or elsewhere in Atlanta. Themes to be included: (1) Drag; (2) Lesbian & Gay Religious Practice; (3) Lesbian & Gay Space in Atlanta; (4) Lesbian & Gay Identity/Coming Out; (5) HIV/AIDS; and (6) Mass Media Representations of Homosexuality.

The idea behind these projects is to deepen your appreciation of particular issues covered in this course through first-hand experience. Seeing something or actually talking to people often adds a dimension to comprehension that it is difficult to attain only through reading or hearing lectures. Write-ups should be up to two single-spaced pages, following the written assignment guidelines below. Students may elect to turn in more than two ethnographic exercises; the top two grades only will enter into the final grade (each worth 15% of the final grade). Write-ups will receive one of four possible assessments, corresponding to a 10-point scale: “excellent” (10 pts), “good” (8 pts), “needs improvement but acceptable” (6 pts) and “not acceptable” (0 pts).

Classroom Attendance and Discussion/LearnLink Participation (10%)

Students are expected to come to each class meeting prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. Participation in classroom discussions and on the course’s LearnLink forum are worth up to 10% of the final grade.

COURSE POLICIES

Written Assignment Guidelines

All written work should have one-inch margins and be in Times New Roman font (size 12). Hardcopy, stapled versions should be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. E-mailed or unstapled versions will not be accepted.

Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to attend each class meeting, and attendance will be taken. More than four unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the final course grade by one half unit (i.e., from a “B” to a “B-”). Please arrive punctually. If you are late or miss class contact a “study buddy” as soon as possible to get class notes, assignments, etc. Given the sensitive nature of this class, it is imperative that all students are respectful of the opinions and privacy of others, and do not share non-academic information outside the classroom.

Deadlines and Extra Credit

As several opportunities to raise one’s grade through extra work have been incorporated into the grading system, no extra credit assignments will be allowed. For the same reasons, no extensions (short of a documented health emergency) will be given.

Honor Code

All academic work must meet the standards of Emory University's Honor Code (<https://www.emory.edu/COLLEGE/students/honor.html>). Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards.

Student Support

Please let me know (either via e-mail or during office hours) if you experience substantial difficulty or distress for any reason. In addition to the resources of the department, there are several services available through the College and University to support your academic and personal success.

PART I – INTRODUCTIONS

Week 1 (Mon) - Course Overview: Themes & Logistics

Week 1 (Wed) - Setting the Stage: Problematizing “Sexuality” and “Lesbian & Gay Studies”

- Jagose, 1-22
- Gayle Rubin. “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality” *In The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, Abelove, Barale and Halperin, eds. New York: Routledge
- Maria Maggenti, "Falling for a Guy," *The Village Voice*, June 27, 1995

PART II – 20TH-CENTURY SEXOLOGICAL FRAMEWORKS

Week 1 (Fri) - *Scientia Sexualis* at the Turn of the 20th Century: Hirschfeld, Ellis, Freud

- Havelock Ellis [1897] and Magnus Hirschfeld [1910] *In* Lucy Bland and Laura Doan, Eds. *Sexology Uncensored: The Documents of Sexual Science* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998, pp. 52-57 and 97-104.
- Sigmund Freud [1935] “Letter to an American Mother.” *In* Jonathan Ned Katz, Ed. *Gay/Lesbian Almanac*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1994, pp. 506-7.

SPECIAL EVENT: Screening of the film “Kinsey” (Time and location TBA)

Week 2 (Mon) - Sex Surveys & the Legacies of Alfred Kinsey

- Edward O. Laumann et al., eds. *The Social Organization of Sexuality: Sexual Practices in the United States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994, Introduction.
- Peter Nardi, “‘The Breastplate of Righteousness’: Twenty-Five Years After Laud Humphreys’ *Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places*.” *Journal of Homosexuality* 30(2) 1995.

PART III – FOUCAULT AND THE SEXUAL SCIENCES

Week 2 (Wed) - Foucault’s Argument about the History of Sexuality

- Michel Foucault, “Part Three: *Scientia Sexualis*,” *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*. New York: Vintage Book, 1980 [translation of 1976 French edition], pp. 51-75.

- David Halperin. "How to do the history of male homosexuality" *In* How To Do The History of Sexuality. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002, pp. 104-136.

Week 2 (Fri) - Engagements with Foucault I

- Carol Vance, "Social Construction Theory: Problems in the History of Sexuality" *In* Anja van Kooten Niekerk and Theo van der Meer, Eds. Homosexuality, Which Homosexuality? London: GMP Publishers, 1989, pp. 13-34.
- Jeffrey Weeks, "Discourse, Desire and Sexual Deviance: Some Problems in a History of Homosexuality" *In* Parker and Aggleton, Eds. Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader. London: UCL Press, pp. 119-142

Week 3 (Mon) - Engagements with Foucault II: A Historical Testing of Foucault - Two North American Examples

- George Chauncey, Jr. "Christian Brotherhood or Sexual Perversion? Homosexual Identities and the Construction of Sexual Boundaries in the World War I Era," *In* Duberman, Vicinus and Chauncey, Eds. Hidden from History, pp. 294-317.
- Linda Duggan, "The Trials of Alice Mitchell: Sensationalism, Sexology, and the Lesbian Subject in Turn-of-the-Century America," Signs 18(1993): 791-814.

PART IV – PRE-MODERN SEXUALITIES

Week 3 (Wed) - Ancient Greece

- Plato, The Symposium (entire)

Week 3 (Fri) - Discussion of issues raised by The Symposium and by Sappho's poetry

- Jack Winkler, "Gardens of Nymphs: Public and Private in Sappho's Lyrics," *In* Ellen Greene, Ed. Reading Sappho: Contemporary Approaches. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996, pp. 89-109.

Week 4 (Mon) - Same-Gender Behavior and Meaning in Ancient Roman Art & Architecture (guest lecture by Prof. Eric Varner, Dept. of Art History)

- David Halperin, "Sex Before Sexuality" *In* Martin Duberman, et al, Eds, Hidden From History, pp. 17-53.
- Bernadette J. Brooten, "Of Sappho, Woman-Woman Marriage, and the Ways of the Egyptians," Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996, pp. 29-60.

PART V – RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES

Week 4 (Wed) - Homosexuality and Judeo-Christian Scripture (guest lecture by Prof. William Gilders, Graduate Division of Religion): Scriptural Texts

- Genesis 18-19; Leviticus 17-20; Judges 19-20; Matthew 19; Romans 1-3:20; 1 Corinthians 5-7

Week 4 (Fri) - Medieval Reinterpretations (Gilders)

- Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, second part of the second part. 2-2 questions 153-154.

Week 5 (Mon) - Current Issues in North American Churches & Synagogues (guest lecture by Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, University Chaplain)

PART VI – INDIGENOUS SEXUALITIES

Week 5 (Wed) - Early 20th-century Case Study from Anthropology: Malinowski and the Trobriand Islanders

- Bronislaw Malinowski, The Sexual Life of Savages. London: Routledge, 1932, Introduction and Chapter 1.

Week 5 (Fri) - Late 20th-century Case Studies from Anthropology: Gregor and the Mehinaku and Herdt's Study of the Sambia (An Age-Graded Form of Same-Gender Behavior & Meaning)

- Thomas Gregor, Anxious Pleasures: The Sexual Lives of An Amazonian People. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-9.
- Gilbert Herdt, "Sambia Boys' Ritual Initiation" *In* Same Sex, Different Cultures: Exploring Gay & Lesbian Lives. Oxford: Westview Press, 1997, pp. 112-123.

Week 6 (Mon) - Film, "Guardians of the Flutes" (50 min.)

Part VII – ALTERNATIVE GENDER CATEGORIES

Week 6 (Wed) - Wrap-up on the Sambia; Introduction and Case Study: The Hijras of India

- Serena Nanda, "The *Hijras* of India: Cultural and Individual Dimensions of an Institutionalized Third Gender Role" *In* Parker and Aggleton, Eds. Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader. London: UCL Press, pp. 226-238.

Week 6 (Fri) - Native American Cultures

- Evelyn Blackwood, "Sexuality and Gender in Certain Native American Tribes: The Case of Cross-Gender Females," Signs 10 (1984): 27-42.
- Charles Callender and Lee M. Kochems, "Men and Not-Men: Male Gender-mixing Statuses and Homosexuality." *In* Evelyn Blackwood, Ed. The Many Faces of Homosexuality: Anthropological Approach to Homosexual Behavior New York: Harrington Park Press, 1986,. Pp. 165-178.

PART VIII – QUESTIONS OF BIOLOGY

Week 7 (Mon) - Bonobo Chimapanzees and the Evolution of Human Sexual Pleasure (guest lecture by Prof. Pat Whitten, Dept. of Anthropology)

- Frans B.M. de Waal, "Bonobo Sex and Society," Scientific American 272 (March 1995): 82-88.

Week 7 (Wed) - Genetics and the Sexing of the Body; What is biological "sex"?

- Anne Fausto-Sterling, "Of Genes and Gender," In Myths of Gender: Biological Theories about Women and Men 2nd ed. New York: Basic Books, 1992, pp. 61-89.
- Anne Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough," The Sciences March-April 1993, pp. 20-24.

Week 7 (Fri) - The Gay Brain; Is homosexuality inherited? Who cares?

- Simon LeVay and Dean H. Hamer, "Evidence for a Biological Influence in Male Homosexuality," Scientific American 270 (1994): 44-49.
- Roger Lancaster, The Trouble with Nature: Sex in Science and Popular Culture. Berkeley and California: University of California Press, 2003, Introduction, pp. 1-35, 204-257.

PART IX – CONTEMPORARY NORTH AMERICAN LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITIES

Week 8 (Mon) - The Emergence of Lesbian & Gay Communities

- John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity" In Parker and Aggleton, Eds. Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader. London: UCL Press, pp. 239-247.
- Barry D. Adam, The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1995), pp. 60-108.
- Jagose, 30-71

Week 8 (Wed) - Urban Space

- John Howard, "The Library, the Park, and the Pervert: Public Space and Homosexual Encounter in Post-World War II Atlanta," In John Howard, Ed. Carryin' On in the Lesbian and Gay South New York: New York University Press, 1997, pp. 107-131.
- Saralyn Chesnut and Amanda C. Gable, "'Women Ran It': Charis Books and More and Atlanta's Lesbian-Feminist Community, 1971-1981" In John Howard, Ed. Carryin' On in the Lesbian and Gay South New York: New York University Press, 1997, pp. 241-284.

PART X – DRAG

Week 8 (Fri) - Drag Before Stonewall

- Esther Newton, Mother Camp, first half

Week 9 (Mon) - Visit to class by a drag queen

Week 9 (Wed) - Drag, final discussions

PART XI – KEY CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Week 9 (Fri) - Homophobia: Film on men who have killed queers, "Licensed to Kill," Arthur Dong

- Henry E. Adams, Lester W. Wright, Jr., and Bethany A. Lohr, "Is Homophobia Associated with Homosexual Arousal?" Journal of Abnormal Psychology 105 (1996): 440-445.

Week 10 (Mon) - HIV/AIDS

- Walt Odets, In the Shadow of the Epidemic: Being HIV-Negative in the Age of AIDS. Durham: Duke University Press, 1995, pp. 11-39.
- Jagosse, 93-95.
- Paula Treichler, "AIDS, Homophobia, and Biomedical Discourse: An Epidemic of Signification" *In* Parker and Aggleton, Eds. Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader. London: UCL Press, pp. 357-386.
- Cindy Patton, Inventing AIDS New York: Routledge, 1990, pp. 1-23.

Week 10 (Wed) - Sexuality, Race & Ethnicity: How notions of race among gays and lesbians intersect with sexuality through gender

- Kobena Mercer, "Looking for Trouble," *In* Henry Abelove et al, Eds. The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader New York: Routledge, 1993, pp. 350-359.
- Richard Fung, "Looking for My Penis: The Eroticized Asian in Gay Video Porn," *Bad Object-Choices*, Eds. How Do I Look? Queer Film and Video Seattle: Bay Press, 1991, 145-160.
- Jackie Goldsby, "Queen for 307 Days: Looking B(l)ack at Vanessa Williams and the Sex Wars," *In* Arlene Stein, ed. Sisters, Sexperts,Queers: Beyond the Lesbian Nation New York: Plume, 1993, 110-128.
- José Esteban Muñoz, Performing Disidentity: Disidentification as a Practice of Freedom in Disidentification: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999, pp. 161-180.

Week 10 (Fri) - Sadoomasochism

- Robert J. Stoller, Sexual Excitement: Dynamics of Erotic Life. London: Maresfield Library, 19xx, pp. 3-35.
- Gayle Rubin, "The Catacombs: A Temple of the Butthole," *In* Mark Thompson, Ed. Leatherfolk: Radical Sex, People, Politics, and Practice Boston: Alyson, 1991, pp. 119-141.

Week 11 (Mon) - Transsexualism

- Pat Califia, "The Future of Gender and Transgenderism," Sex Changes: the Politics of Transgenderism San Francisco: Cleis Press, 1997, pp. 245-280.
- Dwight B. Billings and Thomas Urban, "The Socio-Medical Construction of Transsexualism: An Interpretation and Critique," Social Problems 29 (1982: 266-282.
- Kate Bornstein, Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us. New York: Vintage, 1995, pp. 3-52.

Week 11 (Wed) - Heterosexuality. Discussion of the unmarked category. What can we say about heterosexuality after studying homosexuality? Or about another distinctive category of identity and experience, "bisexuality"?

- Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Experience," *In* Parker and Aggleton, Eds. Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader. London: UCL Press, pp. 199-225.
- Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahamanu, "Overview," Bi Any Other Name Boston: Alyson, 1991, pp. 2-11.

- Gilbert H. Herdt, “Extract from *A Comment on Cultural Attributes and Fluidity of Bisexuality*” In Merl Storr Ed., *Bisexuality: A Critical Reader*. London: Routledge, pp. 162-166.

Week 11 (Fri) - Families and “Marriage”

- Kath Weston, *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship* New York: Columbia U. Press, 1991, pp. 77-136.

PART XII – GLOBALIZATION AND SEXUAL CULTURES

Week 12 (Mon) - Introduction and Case Study: Thailand

- Elizabeth Povinelli & George Chauncey, “Thinking Sexuality Transnationally,” *GLQ* Volume 5, Number 4, 1999, pp. 439-450.
- Peter A. Jackson, “The Historical Emergence of Gay Male Identity in Thailand” In Lenore Manderson and Margaret Jolly, Eds. *Sites of Desire Economies of Pleasure: Sexualities in Asia and the Pacific*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997, pp. 166-190.
- Dennis Altman, “The Globalization of Sexual Identities” In *Global Sex*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 86-105.

Week 12 (Wed) - Globalization, continued. Case Studies: Brazil and South Africa

- Richard Parker, *Beneath the Equator: Cultures of Desire, Male Homosexuality, and Emerging Gay Communities in Brazil* New York: Routledge, 1999, pp. 196-221.
- Donald L. Donham, “Freeing South Africa: the ‘Modernization’ of Male-Male Sexuality in Soweto,” *Cultural Anthropology* 13 (1998): 3-21.

Week 12 (Fri) - Review of key course issues. Final discussions.

- Carole S. Vance, “Anthropology Rediscovered Sexuality: A Theoretical Comment,” In Parker and Aggleton, Eds. *Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader*. London: UCL Press, pp. 39-54.