

# **Cultures and Sexualities**

Anthropology 245

Fall 2018

## **Dr. Nell Haynes**

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Car Barn 308

Class: M/W 2:00-3:15pm, Healy 105

Office Hours: M/W 3:30-5:00pm, or by appt.

## **Course Description**

This course examines gender, sex, and sexuality as powerful forces in people's lives that are loaded with cultural significance. In this class, we will explore the construction of gender and sexuality both in the United States and international contexts by asking some of the following questions: How has contemporary anthropological theory shaped the ways we think about gender and sexuality? Why is the regulation of sexuality such an important component for maintaining certain forms of social hierarchy both in the US and abroad? How do international differences and inequalities manifest in understandings of gender and sexuality around the world? and How does sexuality intersect with race, gender and class in various cultural contexts?

We will address these questions by looking at both obvious and less visible dimensions of power, culture, gender, and sexuality. Students should leave the course with an increased understanding of the historical development of gender and sexuality, as well as understand these concepts beyond "normative" definitions. Specifically, students should engage with the ways sexuality intersects with gender, race, class, religion, location and other forms of social distinction or exclusion.

## **Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

1. identify and explain key terms that are central to an anthropological understanding of sexuality
2. relate sexuality to topics of cultural and social diversity
3. understand relationships between sexuality, gender, class, race, and other forms of difference
4. relate issues in sexuality studies with power relations, ideology, and social institutions
5. apply key themes, theories, and approaches of anthropology to their own analysis

## Course Requirements

### Assignments

Short Assignments (4)	40%	Submitted through Canvas
Final Paper	30%	Submitted through Canvas
Leading Discussion	15%	In Class
Class Participation	15%	In Class

Students are encouraged to use the resources available through The Writing Center (see [writingcenter.georgetown.edu](http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu) for details).

All students are required to complete written assignments by the due date. **I cannot accept assignments for credit after they are due without a medical reason.** When presenting valid excuse, it is best to do so as much in advance as possible.

**Short Assignments:** These assignments will be announced in class before they are due. They are sometimes an essay of a page or two, or at times will involve a creative or media component. They are meant to help you reflect on what we have discussed and apply concepts to your own experiences or observations.

**Final Paper:** Your final paper can take a number of forms, focused on a topic of your choice. You may engage in research on a particular topic we have covered in class, or a particular group in an ethnographic setting. You might also conduct an interview with someone about a topic related to sexuality and write an account of this person's experience or knowledge. It may also focus on analysis of a current event related to sexuality. All students will meet with me during office hours to discuss their paper.

**Leading Discussion:** Each student will be responsible for leading the class discussion once in the semester. Students *must* prepare 3 discussion questions, and *may* include media (like related YouTube videos) or activities in their discussion. Media or activities should take no more than 15 minutes of class time. Discussion questions will serve as a jumping off point for further discussion during the rest of the class period.

**Participation:** One cannot fully participate without being present. However, **not all presence and participation are equal.** Anthropology is a discipline that is constantly in motion, building off of old ideas and incorporating new ones. Thus, class time will not consist of monolithic lectures about concepts that must be memorized. Instead, they will be discussions in which we practice applying ideas of the authors we read to new situations and contexts. The **class will be expected to offer opinions and examples, and pose challenges to some of what we discuss.** The class is also expected to listen carefully and respectfully (for example, students may not wear ear buds during class). Disagreement is fine, but debate should happen in a respectful and constructive manner. This class is an important time to explore ideas and learn new ways of understanding the world. Therefore participation is not only part of the final grade, but will also be necessary to building the kind of understanding required to successfully complete other assignments.

## **Content Warning**

This should serve as a general warning that some of the class material deals with sensitive subject matter. Students are encouraged to be prepared to discuss difficult subjects and push their boundaries. If you foresee any problems, please make an appointment to see the professor.

## **Grading Standards**

- A Superior: Student shows excellent critical analysis and *originality* in oral contributions and writing; all assignments turned in on time. A 93-100, A- 90-92
- B Very Good: Solid work evidenced by careful synthesis of reading, timely contributions to class discussion, and clear, logical writing; all assignments turned in on time. B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82
- C Satisfactory: Work demonstrates some understanding of materials and an average performance in written assignments and class discussion; all assignments turned in on time. C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72
- D Inconsistent: Meager performance in all assignments and class discussion; late in turning in written work. 60-70
- F Failing: Student makes minimal effort, shows little understanding of assignments, and turns in incomplete or unacceptable work. Below 60

No grade change requests will be accommodated unless the result of clerical error.

## **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. All work you turn in must be your own. This means no borrowing of ideas or wording from friends' work, other author's work, or the Internet. Any time another person's work is used, it absolutely **MUST** be cited properly. Student work may also be checked using electronic databases. Suspected violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Dean's office. For more information on Georgetown's honor council policies see <https://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/whatisplagiarism>.

## **Academic Accommodations**

Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with Georgetown Disability Support Services (202-687-8354, [arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu)) and provide professors with an accommodation notification, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential.

## **Readings**

*All readings available on Canvas*

## Course Schedule

### PART 1 UNDERSTANDING SEXUALITY

#### August 29 **Introduction**

#### September 3 **Sex & Sexuality**

- Anne Fausto-Sterling. 2000. The Five Sexes, Revisited. *Sciences*, 40(4):18-24.
- Evelyn Blackwood 2002. Reading Sexualities Across Cultures: Anthropology and Theories of Sexuality. Ellen Lewin and William Leap, eds. *Out in Theory: The Emergence of Lesbian and Gay Anthropology*. Pp. 69-92. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

#### September 5 **Sex/Gender/Sexuality**

- Richardson, Diane. 2007. Patterned Fluidities: (Re)Imagining the Relationship between Gender and Sexuality. *Sociology* 41(3): 457-474.
- Kira Hall. 2001. Performativity. in *Key Terms in Language and Culture*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Interview with Judith Butler: Your Behavior Creates Your Gender: <http://bigthink.com/videos/your-behavior-creates-your-gender>

#### *In Class*

Ted Samuel. No Date. *Performing Gender: Judith Butler's Performative Acts and Gender Constitution in One Act*.

#### September 10 **Ideology and Normativity**

- Elizabeth Povinelli. 2006. *Introduction in Empire of Love*. Durham: Duke University Press.

#### September 12 **Norms and Beyond**

- Gayle Rubin. 1992. Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality. Ed. Carole S. Vance. *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*. Pp. 267-293. London: Pandora.
- April Scarlette Callis. 2014. Bisexual, pansexual, queer: Non-binary identities and the sexual borderlands. *Sexualities* 17(1-2): 475-489.

#### September 17 **Sexual Citizenship**

- Lister, Ruth. Sexual Citizenship. *Handbook of Citizenship Studies*. F. Isin Engin and Bryan S. Turner, eds. London: Sage, 2002. 191-207.
- Weeks, Jeffrey. The Sexual Citizen. *Theory, Culture and Society* 15.3-4 (1998): 35-52.

#### September 19 **Histories of Sexuality**

- Jonathan N. Katz. 2007. The Invention of Heterosexuality: The Debut of the Heterosexual. Karen E. Lovaas and Mercilee M Jenkins, eds. *Sexualities & Communication in Everyday Life: A Reader* (pp. 21-40). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications
- Siobhan Somerville. 1994. Scientific Racism and the Emergence of the Homosexual. *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, Vol. 5, No. 2: 243-266

*In Class*

Lecture on Michel Foucault and the History of Sexuality

September 24 **Sexuality and Economy**

- John D'Emilio. 1983. Capitalism and Gay Identity. from Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality. New Feminist Library Series. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- Debra Curtis. 2004. Commodities and Sexual Subjectivities: A Look at Capitalism and Its Desires. Cultural Anthropology 19(1): 95-121.

September 26 **Sex & Science**

- Emily Martin. 1991. The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles. Signs 16(3):485-501.
- Claire Ainsworth. Sex Redefined. <https://www.nature.com/news/sex-redefined-1.16943>

*Due*

- Assignment 1: Short Paper on Theorizing Gender and Sexuality

October 1 **Medical Construction of Gender**

- Kessler, Suzanne J. 1990. "The Medical Construction of Gender: Case Management of Intersexed Infants." Signs 16(1):3-26.

*In Class*

- Documentary: "Intersexion"

October 3 **Intersectionality**

- Kimberlé Crenshaw. 2016. TED Talk: The Urgency of Intersectionality. [www.ted.com/talks/kimberle\\_crenshaw\\_the\\_urgency\\_of\\_intersectionality](http://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality)

*In Class*

- Groups prepare for Intersectionality Presentations

PART 2 SEXUALITY IN CONTEXT

October 8 **Sexuality and Colonization**

- Smith, Andrea. 2010. Queer Theory and Native Studies: The Heteronormativity of Settler Colonialism. GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies 16(1-2): 41-68.

October 10 **Native North America**

- Towle, Evan B. and Morgan, Lynn Marie. 2002. Romancing the Transgender Native: Rethinking the Use of the "Third Gender" Concept. GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies, 8(4):469-497.
- Davis, Jenny. 2014. More than just 'gay Indians': Intersecting articulations of Two-Spirit gender, sexuality, and indigenoussness. Queer Excursions: Retheorizing Binaries in Language, Gender, and Sexuality, pp. 62-80. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

October 15 **Presentations**

*In Class*

- Group Presentations on Intersectionality (Assignment 2)

October 17    **Rethinking Identity**

- Liz Morrish and William Leap. 2007. Sex Talk: Language, Desire, Identity and Beyond. Helen Sauntson and Sakis Kyratzis, eds. Language Sexualities and Desires. Pp. 17-40. London: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Bucholtz, Mary, and Kira Hall. 2004. Theorizing identity in language and sexuality research. *Language in Society* 33.4: 469–515.

October 22    **Identity in New Zealand**

- Murray, David A. B. 2004. *Takatāpuri*, Gay, or just Ho-Mo-Sexual, Darling? Māori Language, Sexual Terminology, and Identity Aotearoa/New Zealand. William Leap and Tom Boellstorff, eds. *Speaking in Queer Tongues: Globalization and Gay Language*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

October 24    **Confounded Identity & Labor in Brazil**

- Gregory Mitchell. 2011. Organizational Challenges Facing Male Sex Workers in Brazil's Tourist Zones. *Policing Pleasure: Sex Work, Policy, and the State in Global Perspective* edited by Susan Dewey, Patty Kelly. New York: NYU Press.
- Grant, Melissa Gira. 2014. Let's Call Sex Work What It Is: Work. *The Nation*. <https://www.thenation.com/article/lets-call-sex-work-what-it-work/>

October 29    **Homophobic Africa?**

- Patrick Awondo, Peter Geschiere, and Graeme Reid. 2012. Homophobic Africa? Toward A More Nuanced View. *African Studies Review* 55(3): 145-168.
- Boellstorff, Tom. 2011. But I Do Not Identify As Gay: A Proleptic Genealogy of the MSM Category. *Cultural Anthropology* 26(2): 287–312.

October 31    **Social Categories and Risk**

- Matthew Thomann. 2016. HIV vulnerability and the erasure of sexual and gender diversity in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. *Global Public Health*.

*In Class*

- Documentary: Woubi Cheri

November 5    **Religion and Reproduction in the Arab World**

- Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, Marcia C. Inhorn, Hajiieh Bibi Razeghi-Nasrabad, and Ghasem Toloo. 2008. The Iranian ART Revolution: Infertility, Assisted Reproductive Technology, and Third-Party Donation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 4(2).

November 7    **Changing Contexts in the Arab World**

*In Class*

- Film: *Persepolis*
- Assignment 3: Media analysis

November 12 **Immigration**

- Eithne Luibhéid. 2008. Sexuality, Migration, and the Shifting Line between Legal and Illegal Status. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 14(2-3):289-315.

November 14 **Immigrant Subjectivities**

- Carlos Decena. 2008. Tacit Subjects. *GLQ* 14(2-3): 339-359.

November 19 **Globaliz-ed/-ing Sexual Identities**

- Carl F. Stychin. 2001. The Globalization of Sexual Identities: Universality, Tradition, and the (Post)Colonial Encounter. *Between Law and Culture: Relocating Legal Studies*. Pp 275-287. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

November 21 **Global? Identities in Indonesia**

- Evelyn Blackwood. 1998. Tombois in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire. *Cultural Anthropology* 13(4): 491–521.
- Tom Boellstorff. 2003. Dubbing Culture: Indonesian “Gay” and “Lesbi” Subjectivities and Ethnography in an Already Globalized World. *American Ethnologist* 30(2):225-242.

November 26 **Globalizing Queer**

- Martin Manalansan. 2013. Queer Worldings: The Messy Art of Being Global in Manila and New York. *Antipode* 47(3):627-641.

November 28 **Activism: Representations & Resources**

- Niko Besnier. 2002. Transgenderism, Locality, and the Miss Galaxy Beauty Pageant in Tonga. *American Ethnologist* 29(3):534-566.
- Julie Hollar (2018) The political mediation of Argentina's gender identity law: LGBT activism and rights innovation, *Journal of Human Rights*.

*Due*

- Assignment 4: Short paper on globalization and sexual identity in context of your choice

December 3 **Disability**

- Tobin Siebers. 2012. A Sexual Culture for Disabled People. *Sex and Disability*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Thi Tu An Nguyen, Dell Horey, and Pranee Liamputtong. forthcoming. Sexual Experiences of People with Physical Disabilities in Vietnam. *Sexuality and Disability*.

December 5 **Bodies**

- J. Jack Halberstam. 2005. Introduction in *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives*. New York: NYU Press.

December 10 **Discussion and Summation**

December 19 **FINAL PAPER DUE BY EMAIL**