

SEXUALITY AND RACE

This course delves into sexuality studies from several angles, with a primary focus on the entanglements of sexuality and race. We will approach the study of sexuality through sexology, ethnography, social history, film and literature, cultural criticism and queer theory. Setting aside questions of biology, we focus on sexual normativities, on social constructions of the sexual and sexual bodies, and on the social organization of sexuality and identity. We ask how sex is racialized and how race is sexualized through social interactions and discourses over history and across the globe. How does an insistence on the inevitable imbrication of race with sex shift our understandings of critical sexuality and critical race studies – two fields that have been chronically separate in their theorizing? How does racialized sexuality play out in terms of gender and transgender in and between disparate national locations? Topics include colonialism and war, state and nationalism, transnational sex work, HIV/AIDS across borders, body practices, popular cultures, racialized representation of sexual others, symbolic and corporeal violence, racialized fantasy, queer theory and queer of color theorizing, borders/security and sexual policing, and narratives of raced sexual subjectivity. The material is not so much cross-cultural as *transcultural*, focusing on flows, dialogues and exploitations between sexual cultures and on the geopolitical contexts by which so many sexual engagements are shaped. Course materials actively juxtapose genres to precipitate reflection on types of project, research design, writing genre and mode of exposition. By reading theoretical, sociological, literary and critical works against each other, we push beyond our comfort zones and explore questions of our own intellectual production.

Course Objectives

- to acquaint students with key literatures in sexuality studies
- to develop tools for analyzing the relations between sexuality and race
- to reflect on comparative modes of investigation and exposition, of research and writing
- to develop and pursue in sustained writing an individualized topic that evidences creative thinking on sexuality and/or race

Required books (available from the Douglass Coop and on Douglass reserve):

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*. New York: Vintage Books

Nagel, Joane. 2003. *Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality: Intimate Intersections, Forbidden Frontiers*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Wekker, Gloria. 2006. *The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Kulick, Don. 1998. *Travesti: Sex, Gender and Culture among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Shimizu, Celine Parrenas. 2007. *The Hypersexuality of Race: Performing Asian/American Women on Screen and Scene*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Hwang, David Henry. 1988. *M. Butterfly*. New York: Plume.

Treat, John Whittier. 1999. *Great Mirrors Shattered: Homosexuality, Orientalism, Japan*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Diaz, Junot. 2000. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. New York: Riverhead Books.

Alloula, Malek. 1986. *The Colonial Harem*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Recommended: Puar, Jasbir K. 2007. *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

All other articles will be available on **ereserve**.

Requirements: In addition to attending class having prepared the reading in advance, students will facilitate class discussion in turns. Students will write a term paper preceded by an abstract. **Final paper due: Dec 14, 2009.**

Week One – 9/3: Introduction and Overview

Week Two – 9/10: Contingent Sexuality

- Foucault, Michel. 1978. *The History of Sexuality, Vol. I*. New York: Vintage Press.
- Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. 1993. Axiomatic [abridged]. In *The Cultural Studies Reader*. Simon During, ed. Pp. 243-268. Routledge.
- Freud, Sigmund. 1966 (1920). "Introduction" and "The Sexual Life of Human Beings." In *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*. Pp. 21-24, 303-319. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Nagel, Joane. 2003. *Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality: Intimate Intersections, Forbidden Frontiers*. New York: Oxford University Press, "Introduction" pp. 1-13, Chapter 2 "Constructing Ethnicity and Sexuality," pp. 37-62.

Week Three – 9/17: Sex and Social Structures: Colonialism, Capitalism and the State "

- Wekker, Gloria. 2006. *The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora*. New York: Columbia University Press pp. xi-116.
- Rubin, Gayle. 1993/1984. Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality. In *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. Henry Abelove, Michele Aina Barale and David M. Halperin, eds. Pp. 3-44. New York: Routledge.
- D'Emilio, John. Capitalism and Gay Identity. . In *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. Henry Abelove, Michele Aina Barale and David M. Halperin, eds. Pp. 169-178.. New York: Routledge.

Week Four – 9/24: Delinking Sex and Gender

- Wekker, Gloria. 2006. *The Politics of Passion*. Pp. 117-257.
- Herdt, Gilbert. 1990. Sambia Sexual Culture. In *Intimate Communications: Erotics and the Study of Culture*. Gilbert Herdt and Robert J. Stoller. Pp. 53-84, 106-121. New York: Columbia University Press
- Whitehead, Harriet. 1981. The Bow and the Burden Strap: A New Look at Institutionalized Homosexuality in Native North America. In *Sexual Meanings: The Cultural Construction of Gender and Sexuality*. Sherry B. Ortner and Harriet Whitehead, eds. Pp. 80-115. Cambridge

Week Five – 10/1: Non-Normative Bodies

- Kulick, Don. 1998. *Travesti: Sex, Gender and Culture among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. ix-95.
- Bornstein, Kate. 1994. "Interlude: Nuts and Bolts." In *Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us*. Pp. 15-20. New York: Vintage.
- Gilman, Sander. 1985. "The Hottentot and the Prostitute: Toward an Iconography of Female Sexuality." In *Difference and Pathology: Stereotypes of Sexuality, Race and Madness*. Pp. 76-108. Ithaca: Cornell.
- Samuels, Ellen. 2003. "My Body, My Closet: Invisible Disability and the Limits of Coming Out Discourse." *GLQ* 9 (1-2): 233-55.

Week Six – 10/8: Sexual-Economic Exchange

- Kulick, Don. 1998. *Travesti*. Pp. 96-238.
- Zalduondo, Barbara de and Jean Maxine Bernard. 1995. Meanings and Consequences of Sexual-Economic Exchange: Gender, Poverty and Sexual Risk Behavior in Urban Haiti. In *Conceiving Sexuality*. Parker, Richard G. and John H. Gagnon, eds. Pp. 157-180. New York: Routledge
- Tolentino, Roland. 1996. Bodies, Letters, Catalogues: Filipinas in Transnational Space. *Social Text* 14(3): 49-76.

Week Seven – 10/15: Race, Sex, Representation

View M. Butterfly

- Shimizu, Celine Parrenas. 2007. *The Hypersexuality of Race: Performing Asian/American Women on Screen and Scene*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Pp. ix-139.
- Said, Edward. 1978. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books. "Introduction" Pp. 1-28.
- Fung, Richard. 1991. Looking for my Penis: The Eroticized Asian in Gay Video Porn. In *How Do I Look?: Queer Film and*

Video. *Bad Object Choices*, ed. Pp. 145-168. Seattle: Bay Press.

Week Eight – 10/22: Identities, Nations and Others

- Shimizu, Celine Parrenas. 2007. *The Hypersexuality of Race*. Pp. 140-274,
- Hwang, David Henry. 1988. *M. Butterfly*. New York: Plume. Pp. Cover-41, 94-100.
- Chow, Rey, TBA
- Nagel, Chapter 3, “Sex and Conquest” pp. 63-90

Week Nine – 10/29: Other Orientalisms

- Treat, John Whittier. 1999. *Great Mirrors Shattered: Homosexuality, Orientalism, Japan*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. ix-110.
- Hwang, David Henry. 1988. *M. Butterfly*. New York: Plume. Pp. 42-93.
- Eng, David L. 1993. “In the Shadows of a Diva: Committing Homosexuality in David Henry Hwang’s *M. Butterfly*.” *Amerasia Journal*. 20(1): 93-116.
- Nagel, Chapter 7, “Sex and Tourism: Travel and Romance in Ethnosexual Destinations.” Pp. 200-223.

Week Ten – 11/5: Imaginaries of Transracial Desire

- Treat, John Whittier. 1999. *Great Mirrors Shattered*. Pp.111-230.
- Julien, Isaac. 1994. Confessions of a Snow Queen: Notes on the Making of *The Attendant*. *Critical Quarterly* 36(1):120-126.
- Kelsky, Karen. 1994. “Intimate Ideologies: Transnational Theory and Japan’s Yellow Cabs.” *Public Culture* 6:465-478.
- Nagel, Chapter 8, “Sex and Globalization” pp. 224-54.

Week Eleven – 11/12: Regimes of Hypersexualization

- Diaz, Junot. 2000. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. New York: Riverhead Books. pp. 1-201
- Miller-Young, Mireille. 2008. “Hip Hop Honey and Da Hustlaz: Black Sexualities in the New Hip-Hop Pornography.” *Meridians* 8(1):261-292.
- Nash, Jennifer. 2008. “Strange Bedfellows: Black Feminism and Anti-Pornography Feminism.” *Social Text* 97 26(4):51-76.

Week Twelve – 11/19: America and Beyond

- Diaz, pp, 204-335
 - Nagel, Chapter 4 “Sex and Race: The Color of Sex in America” pp. 91-139
 - Decena, Carlos. 2008. “Tacit Subjects.” *GLQ* 14(2-3): 339-59
 - Brennan, Denise. 2001. “Tourism in Transnational Places: Dominican Sex Workers and German Sex Tourists Imagine One Another.” *Identities* 7(4):621-63.
- <http://web.ebscohost.com.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/ehost/pdf?vid=3&hid=116&sid=8a7a1171-612d-4a99-bacb-5d1b21333fcd%40sessionmgr109>

Week Thirteen – 12/3: TO BE RESCHEDULED FOR MOVIE NIGHT

Formations of Symbolic and Corporeal Violence

View *Redacted* 2008, 10-1453, 90 minutes

- Alloula, Malek. 1986. *The Colonial Harem*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Puar, Jasbir. 2006. “Mapping US Homonormativities.” *Gender, Place and Culture*. 13(1):67-88.
- Puar, Jasbir. 2005. “On Torture: Abu Ghraib.” *Radical History Review* 93 (1): 13-38
- Nagel, Chapter 5, “Sex and Nationalism” pp. 140-176
- Nagel, Chapter 6, “Sex and War: Fighting Men, Comfort Women, and the Military-Sexual Complex” pp. 177-199
- Hartman, Saidiya. 1996. “Seduction and the Ruses of Power.” *Callaloo* 19(2): 537-560.

Week Fourteen – 12/10: TBA