IDIS 482  
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SEXUALITY:  
SCHOLARSHIP ON LESBIAN AND GAY ISSUES

Spring 2007  
Purdue University

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Office hours: Tuesday 3-4:00, Stone Room 310  
Wednesday 1:30-3:30 Beering Room 6160

This course introduces students to current work in the study of sexuality, with particular attention to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. Along with an introduction to histories and theories of sexuality, the course explores how people come to identify with or resist various constructions of gender and sexuality in the “West” and how sexual subjectivities are produced in various historical, social and global contexts. We will discuss theoretical issues, read historical and ethnographic works, and view films in our quest to develop an understanding of human sexuality beyond that imagined in scientific and Western discourses.

REQUIRED TEXTS
All books are available at Von’s Bookstore.
4. Annamarie Jagose, Queer Theory: An Introduction

A course packet of required readings is available at Copymat, Chauncey Mall. Additional readings and newspaper clippings will be available on-line.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. SHORT ESSAYS: There will be THREE papers of 3-4 pages each on topics handed out by the instructor. Each essay will be worth 15% of your grade.
2. CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: You are allowed only 4 absences during the semester. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class, so timeliness is essential. An important part of the class will be discussion. Be sure to do your readings before class and be prepared to participate in discussions in class. Worth 5% of your grade.
3. DISCUSSION LEADER: you will each be required to lead discussion in class for one class period. Worth 5% of your grade.
4. EVENING VIDEO SHOWINGS: attendance is required at 2 (out of 3) evening videos. You must turn in a one-page response paper for each video within a week of viewing the video. No late papers will be accepted. 10% of grade. Accommodations will be made if evening attendance is impossible.
5. GROUP PROJECT: A group project of 15-20 pages is due at the end of the semester. The topic should be relevant to issues discussed in the course and must be approved by the instructor. You may be assigned to a group or you may form a group of people interested in working on the same topic. Papers may be based on library research or on ethnographic observation and analysis of a queer site. Further information on the project will be given out during the semester. Topic and a short description of the project are due on March 8. Group project is 35% of your grade, which includes a class presentation during the last two weeks of the semester.
COURSE SCHEDULE
Jan. 9 Introduction

Theories of sexuality
Jan. 11 Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Ch. 2, Theorizing same-sex desires
Jan. 16 Halperin, One hundred years of homosexuality
Jan. 18 Vance, Social construction theory
Jan. 23 Vicinus, They wonder to which sex I belong

*Jan. 24: VIDEO: Celluloid Closet, 6:30pm (location TBA)*

Lesbian and Gay Histories
Jan. 25 Vicinus, “They venture to share the same bed”
Hansen, “No kisses is like youres”


*FIRST PAPER DUE FEB. 1*

Feb. 6 Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Ch. 3-5

Feb. 8 VIDEO: Before Stonewall


Feb. 20 Hammonds, Towards a genealogy of black female sexuality
Lorde, *Tar beach*
VIDEO: Litany for survival: Audre Lorde

Issues in Studies of Sexuality
Feb. 22 Rubin, Thinking sex

Feb. 27 Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Ch. 6-7

Mar. 1 Blackwood & Wieringa, Ch. 1 Introduction (B&W)

*SECOND PAPER DUE MAR. 1*

Constructing Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Identities
Mar. 6 Plante, LGBTQQPA(H), BDSM: The alphabet soup of sexualities (pp. 195-215)
Hall, Bitches in solitude: Identity politics and lesbian community
Hull, Braving the streets (on-line)

*Mar. 7: VIDEO: Last Call at Maud’s, 6:30pm (location TBA)*

Mar. 8 Almaguer, Chicano men: Cartography of homosexual identity and behavior
Denizet-Lewis, Double lives on the down low (on-line)
Andre, Beyond the down low, *American Sexuality* 3(2) [http://www.nsrc.sfsu.edu/] (on-line)

Project proposal due MAR. 8
SPRING BREAK: No classes

Mar. 20  Plante, cont. (pp. 215-239)
Rust, Two many and not enough: The meanings of bisexual identities.
Carey, Straight, gay or lying? (on-line)

Mar. 22  Wekker, What’s Identity Got to Do with It? (B&W)
Kendall, Women in Lesotho and the (Western) construction of homophobia
(B&W)

Transgendered Identities
Mar. 27  Lorber, Night to his day: The social construction of gender
VIDEO: Adventures in the Gender Trade
THIRD PAPER DUE

Mar. 29  Bornstein, Which outlaws? Or, who was that masked man? (Ch. 7)
and Gender terror, gender rage (Ch. 8)

Apr. 3-5  Kay, Trumpet: A Novel
Green, Transitioning female to male, American Sexuality 3(1)
http://www.nsrc.sfsu.edu/

Apr. 4: VIDEO: Southern Comfort, 6:30 pm (location TBA)

Apr. 10  Guest speakers from INTRAA

Apr. 12  Blackwood, Tombois in West Sumatra (B&W): slide presentation
Elliston, Female mahu (B&W)

Apr. 17-19  Project presentations
Apr. 24  Project presentations
Apr. 26  No class scheduled

FINAL PROJECTS ARE DUE ON MONDAY, APRIL 30TH BY 5:00PM (turn in to Stone Hall Rm.
310 or Rm. 301 (to the dept. secretary).