

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

Spring 2009  
Purdue University

Professor Evelyn Blackwood  
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This course introduces students to current work in the study of sexuality, with particular attention to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues and identities. 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 sexual and gender identities beyond that imagined in scientific and Western discourses.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

All books are available at Von’s Bookstore.

1. George Chauncey, *Gay New York*. Basic Books.
2. Annamarie Jagose, *Queer Theory: An Introduction*. NYU Press.
3. Jackie Kay, *Trumpet*. Knopf Pub.
4. S. Bear Bergman, *Butch is a Noun*. Suspect Thoughts Press.
5. A course packet of required readings is available at Copymat, Chauncey Mall.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **SHORT ESSAYS:** There will be TWO papers of 4-5 pages each on topics handed out by the instructor. Each essay will be worth 20% 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 10% of your grade.
  4. **VIDEO REFLECTION PAPER:** We will be showing several videos in the evening during the course of the semester. You are required to attend one (or view it on your own time) and write a 2-3 page reflection on the video. Reflections are due one week after the video is shown. Worth 10% of your grade. One additional reflection paper can be turned in for extra credit (5%).
  5. **FINAL PAPER:** A mini-research project of 8-10 pages on a topic discussed in class is due at the end of the semester. You must consult with the instructor about your topic. Papers may be based on library research or on ethnographic observation and analysis of a queer site. Topic and a short description of the project are due on **March 12**. Final project is 35% of your grade.
- Honors Students:** research project of 15-20 pages.

**UNPLANNED EMERGENCIES:** In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. In the event of changes in this course or class cancellations due to weather, I will post information to the class list via e-mail; you may also contact me via my email address: [blackwood@purdue.edu](mailto:blackwood@purdue.edu) or my office phone: 496-1728.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Jan. 13 Introduction

### **Theories of Sexuality**

Jan. 15 Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Ch. 1-2

Jan. 20 Vance, Social construction theory

Jan. 22 Rubin, Thinking sex

Jan. 27 Vicinus, They wonder to which sex I belong

### **Lesbian and Gay Histories**

Jan. 29 Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Ch. 3-5

Feb. 3 Vicinus, "They venture to share the same bed"  
Hansen, "No kisses is like youres"

Feb. 5 **VIDEO:** Before Stonewall

Feb. 10 Chauncey, *Gay New York*, Part One

Feb. 12 Chauncey, *Gay New York*, Part Two

Feb. 17 Lorde, Tar beach  
**VIDEO:** Litany for survival: Audre Lorde

Feb. 19 Jagose, *Queer Theory*, Ch. 6  
**FIRST PAPER DUE FEB. 19**

### **Constructing Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Identities**

Feb. 24 Plante, LGBTQQPA(H), BDSM: The alphabet soup of sexualities (pp. 195-215)  
Hall, Bitches in solitude: Identity politics and lesbian community

Feb. 26 **VIDEO:** The Aggressives

Mar. 3 Moore, Lipstick or Timberlands? Meanings of gender presentation in black lesbian communities.  
Hull, Braving the streets

Mar. 5 Rust, Two many and not enough: The meanings of bisexual identities  
Carey, Straight, gay or lying?

Mar. 10 Plante, cont. (pp. 215-239)  
Denizet-Lewis, Double lives on the down low

Mar. 12 Quiroga, Latino cultures, imperial sexualities  
**Project proposal due**

### **SPRING BREAK: No classes**

Mar. 24 Jagose, Ch. 7-8

### **Queering Identity**

Mar. 26 Nestle, The femme question  
Hollibaugh, My dangerous desires

Mar. 31 Queer femmes (reading TBD)  
**SECOND PAPER DUE MAR. 31**

Apr. 2 Bornstein, Gender terror, gender rage (Ch. 8); The first question (Ch. 11)  
**VIDEO: Adventures in the Gender Trade**

Apr. 7 Halberstam, Butch/FTM border wars

Apr. 9 Califia, Speaking sex to power (pp. 107-130)

Apr. 14 Bergman, *Butch is a Noun* (selected chapters)

Apr. 16 **Guest speakers** from INTRAA

### **Global Sexualities**

Apr. 21 Lai, Lesbian masculinities, Hong Kong

Apr. 23 Manalansan, In the shadows of Stonewall

Apr. 28 Blackwood, Transnational discourses and circuits of queer knowledge in Indonesia (**slide presentation**)

Apr. 30 Student presentations

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE ON Tues., May 5<sup>th</sup>, BY 5:00PM (turn in to my office or Stone Hall Rm. 219).