

Theories of Female Sexuality
Women's Studies 611
Fall 2001

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Office Hours: Room 318
Tuesday 2-3:30 pm or by appointment

Tuesday 4:10 pm- 6:50pm
HUM 281

What do we mean by "female sexuality?" Does it change over time and space? How does identity affect sexuality? In this course, we will address these questions and others through readings on sexuality from a broad range of theoretical and historical perspectives. In it we will pay particular attention to the ways the category "female sexuality" is differently understood and theorized in relation to concepts of race, gender, nation, class, and politics.

The course is divided into three sections. We first cover some critical readings from feminist, queer, and scientific perspectives in relation to female sexuality. Then, armed with these tools, we proceed historically, examining how theories of female sexuality have changed over time. The course concludes with three contemporary case studies on reproductive politics, sex work and the Christian Right.

Texts:

The required course reader will be available at Copy Edge, 1508 Ocean Avenue.

Requirements:

Attendance and participation:

This class is designed as a lecture/ discussion. Regular attendance and active participation in discussions will be crucial to your success in the class. This means that each student should come to class having carefully read the assigned readings and be ready to discuss them. Additionally, each week groups of 3-4 students will make a 20-minute presentation that summarizes the readings and presents questions for discussion. **25% of final grade**
Do two presentations??

Written assignments for the course include:

1. Three 2-3 page response papers based on the weekly readings. The response papers should briefly touch on all the readings for that week and address a central question or issue that interests you. **25% of final grade**
2. One 5-6-page take-home midterm exam based on a series of short answers to questions on the readings. **25% of final grade**
3. A final paper of 8-10 pages on a topic of your choice. I will distribute guidelines and suggested topics. Students must make an appointment with me to discuss their final paper topic. **25% of final grade**

All written work is due at the beginning of class on the day indicated. Papers are marked down one-third of a letter grade for every late day. I will only grant extensions way in advance of the due date.

A "C" represents pretty good work, an accurate but average comprehension of the material as demonstrated on particular assignments (73-76). A "B" represents really strong work, well above average (83-86). An "A" is truly exceptional, virtually flawless, clear, and complex expression and understanding of the material with excellent evidence (93-100). A "D" is given to below average work, or work that has gaps or misunderstandings (63-66). An "F" is failing work--with very serious weaknesses (anything below 60; an F can range from 0 for work not done to 59).

Some suggestions and strategies:

Read each article carefully making sure you can summarize the main points. If there are any concepts in the readings that are unclear, please write them down since others probably had the same questions. At the start of each class we will list them on the board and collectively discuss them. Read each article critically: What do the authors assume or take for granted? Who is the imagined audience? Who is left out? Finally, if you have any special needs or concerns with this class, please feel free to come and talk with me.

PLAGIARISM STUFF?

Week 1: 9/4 Introduction and Logistics

FEMINIST, QUEER AND SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES

Week 2: 9/11

How do we study sexuality?

Carole S. Vance, "Pleasure and Danger: Towards a Politics of Sexuality"

Evelyn Hammonds, "Toward a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality"

Dana Y. Takagi, "Maiden Voyage: Excursion into Sexuality and Identity Politics in Asian America"

David Halperin "Is there a History of Sexuality?"

2-3 page response paper due

Week 3: 9/18

Sexuality as a Regulatory Discourse

Michel Foucault, Excerpts from *The History of Sexuality Volume I*

Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality"

Week 4: 9/25

Theorizing Sexual Difference

Audre Lorde, "The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power"

Cherrie Moraga, "A Long Line of Vendidas"

Monique Wittig, "One is Not Born a Woman"

Emma Perez, "Sexuality and Discourse: Notes from a Chicana Survivor"

Week 5: 10/2

Science and the Construction of Sexual/Racial Deviance

Anne-Fausto Sterling, "Gender, Race and Nation: The Comparative Anatomy of

Hottentot Women in Europe, 1815-1817"

Carol Groneman- "Nymphomania: The Historical Construction of Female Sexuality"

Film: The life and times of sara bartmann

2-3 page response paper due

THE HISTORY OF THEORIES OF FEMALE SEXUALITY

Week 6: 10/9

Sexual Conquest and the Sexual Politics of Chinese Immigration 18th and 19th Century

Antonia Castaneda, "Sexual Violence in the Politics and Policies of Conquest: Amerindian Women and the Spanish Conquest of Alta California"

Lucie Cheng Hirata, "Free, Indentured, Enslaved: Chinese Prostitutes in 19th Century America"

Peggy Pascoe, "Gender Systems in Conflict: The Marriages of Mission-Educated Chinese Women, 1847-1939"

USED UNSUBMISSIVE WOMEN BY TONG

Week 7: 10/16

Race, Rape and Lynching- 19th Century

Paula Giddings- "The Last Taboo"

Darlene Clark Hine, "Rape and the Inner Lives of Black Women in the Middle West:

Preliminary Thoughts on the Culture of Dissemblance,"

Martha Hodes, "The Sexualization of Reconstruction Politics: White Women and Black

Men in the South after the Civil War”

Film: Frontline special on Anita Hill, Clarence Thomas

Week 8: 10/23

Sexology, Psychoanalysis and the Emergence of an Identity 1890s

Sigmund Freud, excerpts from *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* –include part on inversion

Havelock Ellis, "Sexual Inversion in Women"

Lisa Duggan, "The Trials of Alice Mitchell: Sensationalism, Sexology, and the Lesbian Subject in Turn of the Century America,"

USED SCIENCE IN THE BEDROOM (BULLOUGH), DISORDERS OF DESIRE(IRVINE)

Midterm Assignment Distributed

Week 9: 10/30

Sexuality in Postwar America-1930s-50s

Alfred Kinsey, excerpts from *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*

Donna Penn, "The Sexualized Woman: The Lesbian, the Prostitute and the Containment of Female Sexuality in Postwar America"

*David Serlin, "Christine Jorgensen and the Cold War Closet"

Film: Before Stonewall

Midterm Due

Week 10: 11/6

Strange Alliances- The Sex Wars -1980s

Andrea Dworkin, excerpts from *Pornography*

Samois, excerpts from *Coming to Power*

Karen Sims and Rose Mason, "Racism and Sadomasochism"

Dorothy Allison, "Public Silence, Private Terror"

Lisa Duggan, "Censorship in the Name of Feminism"

Week 11: 11/13

Sexuality, Identities and Nationalities

Rhonda Williams, "Living at the Crossroads: Explorations in Nationality, Sexuality and Gender"

Nayan Shah, "Sexuality, Identity, and the Uses of History"

Gayatri Gopinath, "Funny Boys and Girls: Notes on a Queer South Asian Planet"

Cristy Chung, Aly Kim, Zoon Nguyen, Trinity Ordone, "In Our Own Way: A Roundtable Discussion"

Lynn Lu, "Critical Visions: The Representation and Resistance of Asian Women"

Film: Fire?

Week 12: 11/20

Beyond Sexual Binaries

Anne Fausto Sterling, "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough"

Judith Halberstam, "An Introduction to Female Masculinity: Masculinity without Men"

Cheryl Chase, "Hermaphrodites with Attitude: Mapping the Emergence of Intersex Political Activism"

Serena Nanda, "Hijiras as Neither Man nor Woman"

Film: Two Spirits or Paris is Burning

2-3 page response paper due

CURRENT DEBATES AROUND SEXUALITY

Week 13: 11/27

Sexuality and Reproductive Politics

Angela Davis, "Racism, Birth Control and Reproductive Rights"

Hartouni, Valerie "Containing Women: Reproductive Discourses in the 1980s"

Ellen Lewin, "On the Outside Looking In: The Politics of Lesbian Motherhood"
Film: The Silent Scream

Week 14: 12/4

Sex Work and Globalization

Priscilla Alexander, "Feminism, Sex Workers, and Human Rights"

Kemala Kempadoo, "Globalizing Sex Workers Rights"

Assorted news clippings

*"The Global Trade in Filipina Workers"

Week 15: 12/11

Final Class: Converting Sexuality and the Christian Right

Exodus International Testimonies

Screening: The Transformation or One Nation Under God or watch testimonies

Celebration/ evaluations/presentations

12/18- Final paper due in my box by 5pm