Anthropology of Sexuality and Gender  
(ANTH 5980-001)  
Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota  
Fall 2006

David Valentine  
Class Location: Blegen 120  
Class Times: 12:45-2:00 pm  
Office: 364 HHH Center  
Office Hours: Wednesday 12-2pm & by appointment  
Class Dates: 9/5/06-12/12/06  
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Course Description

How do contemporary anthropological approaches to sex, sexuality, and gender help us understand the lives of Indian *hijras*, Brazilian *travestis*, early twentieth-century American "fairies," Native American "Berdache," 1960s drag queens, contemporary sex workers in the U.S. and the Philippines, or the place of kinship in the contemporary United States?

Engaging these and other topics, this course will explore anthropological approaches to sex, gender, and sexuality, and the complex relations between sexual and gendered practices, identities, and roles. With a particular focus on ethnographic methodologies and research issues, we will consider how studies of gender and sexuality have intersected with traditional anthropological concerns about personhood, kinship, gender roles, and community, and the ways that contemporary anthropological theories of sexuality and gender are both useful and problematic in describing Western and non-Western societies. We will look at the growing body of LGBT/queer anthropology, examine its roots in feminist anthropology, and place the new anthropological literature on transgender issues in the context of this history. Further, we will consider how shifts in feminist and queer scholarship and politics have also required anthropologists of sexuality and gender to incorporate an understanding of race, ethnicity, class, and globalization in their analyses. In particular, the course aims to highlight the impact of poststructuralist arguments about the performative nature of gender and sexual identity and Foucauldian approaches to power and identity formation on anthropological theories. In turn, we will consider what ethnography can contribute to theoretical models developed by scholars working outside the traditions of anthropology.

A focus on ethnographic studies will be complemented by readings in other bodies of literature that have informed anthropological studies of sexuality and gender in the past thirty years, including history, queer theory, and sociology.

Course Requirements

The primary requirements for this class will be three papers, two short papers (4-5 pages for undergraduates, 6-7 pages for graduate students) and a final paper (5-7 pages for undergraduates, 8-10 pages for graduate students). Paper topics will be assigned well in advance, and are due on the dates listed in the syllabus below. Graduate students may opt to conduct a longer research paper in lieu of the class papers. To take this option, students should consult with me early in the semester, and regular updates on your work toward completion are expected through the semester, with written progress reports on the days other student papers are due. You are encouraged to send me drafts of your papers via email at least 4 days before the due date. Final versions of papers will not be accepted via email, however.
Naturally, your papers should be carefully written and edited, and papers which do not meet an acceptable standard will be returned to you for revision.

Your grade will be assessed according to a formula which takes into account not only your written work, but also your participation in classroom discussion and your preparedness. As such, it is expected that you will have completed the reading assignments listed prior to attending class so that you can fully participate in discussions. Students are strongly encouraged read the "recommended" readings but they are not required. In addition, bi-weekly postings to the class WebCT board are required and each student will make one formal in class presentation. I encourage all of you to take advantage of my office hours to come and discuss the class readings or your papers. If you cannot make the listed office hours, contact me to make an appointment.

The specific grade formula is as follows:
- Paper 1 and 2: 50%
- Paper 3: 30%
- Presentation: 10%
- Participation: 10%

Finally, attendance at all classes is essential. If you have a medical or other emergency that prevents you from attending class, you should inform me prior to the class, or as soon after as is possible. Please note the attendance policy: every two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your grade by one grade point (e.g. from A- to B+).

**What it Means to Read**

In setting the readings on this syllabus, I am laying out both a historical and thematic approach to the concepts of "sex," "gender," and "sexuality" in anthropology and the social sciences more generally. In reading your class assignments, I expect that you read the articles and books critically, that is, with an eye to the assumptions, claims, and conclusions of the authors. In other words, I expect you to derive from your reading not simply a knowledge of the content of the materials, but also the ways in which these authors understand and work with these broader concepts ("sex," "gender," and "sexuality."). As the semester progresses, you will be encouraged to draw earlier readings into your written work and class discussions. As such, my strong suggestion is that you take notes on the materials you read to aid you in this task.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, will result in a failing grade, and will be reported to the Student Conduct Committee. The university policy on plagiarism is available at:
http://writing.umn.edu/tww/plagiarism/definitions_sara.htm
Course Readings

Three books have been assigned for this class:


Assigned books will be on reserve. The other course readings listed below will be available via E-reserve at the link above. I will provide you with the password.

Resource List

In addition to the class readings, the following texts are important for the broader field of inquiry, and are included here as a resource for you, but are not required reading for the class:

Davis, D.L. and Whitten, R.G.

di Leonardo, Micaela (ed)

Dynes, Wayne R. and Stephen Donaldson (eds)

Ford, Clellan S. and Frank A. Beach

Ginsburg, Faye D. and Rayna Rapp

Ginsburg, Faye D. and Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing (eds.)

Lamphere, Louise, Helena Ragoné, and Patricia Zavella (eds)

Marshall, Donald S. and Robert C. Suggs (eds.)

Meyerowitz, Joanne

Opler, Marvin K.
Ortner, Sherry B.

Reiter, Rayna Rapp (ed)

Rosaldo, Michelle Zimbalist and Louise Lamphere (eds.)

Snitow, Ann, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson (edss)

Vance, Carole
Course Outline

Part I: Definitions and Boundaries

1. Introduction to the course (9/05/06)

2. "Sex" for the Ancestors (9/07/06)
   Readings:
   Mead, Margaret
   Malinowski, Bronislaw

3. Sex, Sexuality, and Gender in Anthropology (9/12/06)
   Readings:
   Löfström, Jan
   Vance, Carole

4. Contested Domains I (9/14/06)
   Readings:
   Rubin, Gayle
   Scott, Joan W.
   Butler, Judith

Part II: Asserting Domains: Histories of Gender

5. The Anthropology of Women (9/19/06)
   Readings:
   Rubin, Gayle
   Ortner, Sherry
6. Feminism and Anthropology (9/21/06)

Readings:
- di Leonardo, Micaela
- Moore, Henrietta
  1988 Feminism and anthropology. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (Chp. 1)

Recommended:
- Strathern, Marilyn
- Visweswaran, Kamala

7. Feminism, the "Sex wars" and Differences (9/26/06)

Readings:
- Vance, Carole
- Freedman, Estelle and Barrie Thorne
- Alarcón, Norma

8. Kinship and Reproduction (9/28/06)

Readings:
- Collier, Jane, Michelle Z. Rosaldo, and Sylvia Yanagisako
- Blackwood, Evelyn
- D’Emilio, John

Part III: Asserting Domains: Histories of Sexuality

9. Histories of Sexuality I (10/03/06)

Readings:
- Foucault, Michel
10. Histories of Sexuality II (10/05/06)
   Readings:
   Foucault, Michel

11. Histories of Sexuality III (10/10/06)
   Readings:
   Weeks, Jeffrey
   1981 Sex, politics, and society: the regulation of sexuality since 1800. London: Longman (Chapters 1, 2)
   - Kulick, Don

Part IV: Queering Anthropology

12. Queering Anthropology I (10/12/06)
   Readings:
   Weston, Kath
   Newton, Esther

   Recommended:
   Morris, Rosalind

13. Queering Anthropology II (10/17/06)
   **Paper 1 Due**
   Readings:
   Rubin, Gayle
   Newton, Esther

14. Queering Anthropology III (10/19/06)
   Readings:
   Blackwood, Evelyn and Saskia Wieringa
   1999 Introduction In Female desires: same-sex relations and transgender practices across cultures. New York: Columbia University Press.
   Newton, Esther
Part V: Debates and Investments

15. "Ritualized Homosexuality" vs. "Semen Practices" (10/24/06)

Readings:
Herdt, Gilbert (ed)
Elliston, Deborah A.

16. The Berdache Wars I (10/26/06)

Readings:
Jacobs, Sue-Ellen, Wesley Thomas and Sabine Lang.
Whitehead, Harriet
Epple, Carolyn

17. The Berdache Wars II (10/31/06)

Readings:
Roscoe, Will
Califia, Pat

18. Third Gender Natives? (11/02/06)

Readings:
Wikan, Unni
Towle, Evan B. and Lynn M. Morgan
2002 Romancing the transgender native: rethinking the use of the "third gender" concept. GLQ 8(4):469-497.

19. Globalization, Neoliberalism, and Identity (11/07/06)

Readings:
Besnier, Niko
Donham, Don

(continued on next page)
Wright, Timothy

20. Self and Other (11/09/06)
Readings:
Blackwood, Evelyn

Part VI: Across Domains

21. Gender/Sexuality in a Globalized World I (11/14/06) **Paper 2 Due**
Readings:
Boellstorff, Tom 2005

22. Gender/Sexuality in a Globalized World II (11/16/06) Film: Ladyboys
Readings: None

23. (11/21/06)
Readings:
Boellstorff, Tom 2005

**Thanksgiving Break (11/23/06)**

24. Gender/Sexuality in a Globalized World III (11/28/06)
Readings:
Boellstorff, Tom 2005

25. Sex Work (11/30/06)
Readings:
Enloe, Cynthia
1989 Bananas, beaches, and bases: making feminist sense of international politics. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Chapter on sex work)
Liechty, Mark
Frank, Katherine
26. Incised Bodies (12/05/06)

Readings:
Chase, Cheryl
1998 Hermaphrodites with attitude: mapping the emergence of intersex political activism. GLQ 4(2):189-211.
Walley, Christine

27. Contested Domains II (12/07/06)

Readings:
Jolly, Margaret and Lenore Manderson
Ortner, Sherry B.
Valentine, David

28. Course Review (12/12/06) **Paper 3 Due**