

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

**David Valentine**  
**Class Times: 12:45-2:00 pm**  
**Office: 364 HHH Center**  
**Office Hours: Wednesday 12-2pm & by appointment**

**Class Location: Blegen 120**  
**Class Dates: 9/5/06-12/12/06**  
**Phone: 612.626.8692**  
**email: [valen076@umn.edu](mailto:valen076@umn.edu)**

***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](http://writing.umn.edu/tww/plagiarism/definitions_sara.htm)

### ***Course Readings***

Three books have been assigned for this class:

Boellstorff, Tom (2005) *The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Foucault, Michel (1990) *The history of sexuality. Volume 1: an introduction*. New York: Vintage.

Newton, Esther (1979 [1972]) *Mother camp: female impersonators in America*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press.

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.

1987 The cross-cultural study of human sexuality. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 16:69-98.

di Leonardo, Micaela (ed)

1991 *Gender at the crossroads of knowledge: feminist anthropology in the postmodern era*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Dynes, Wayne R. and Stephen Donaldson (eds)

1992 *Studies in homosexuality. Volume 2: Ethnographic studies of homosexuality*. New York: Garland.

Ford, Clellan S. and Frank A. Beach

1951 *Patterns of sexual behavior*. New York: Harper & Row.

Ginsburg, Faye D. and Rayna Rapp

1995 *Conceiving the new world order: the global politics of reproduction*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

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

1990 *Uncertain Terms: negotiating gender in American culture*. Boston: Beacon Press.

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

1997 *Situated lives: gender and culture in everyday life*. New York : Routledge.

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

1971 *Human sexual behavior: variations in the ethnographic spectrum*. New York: Basic Books.

Meyerowitz, Joanne

2002 *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Opler, Marvin K.

1965 Anthropological and cross-cultural aspects of homosexuality. *In Sexual inversion: the multiple roots of homosexuality*. Judd Marmor (ed.) pp. 108-123. New York: Basic Books.

Ortner, Sherry B.

1996 Making Gender: toward a feminist, postcolonial, subaltern etc. theory of practice In Making gender: the politics and erotics of culture. Boston: Beacon.

Reiter, Rayna Rapp (ed)

1975 Toward an anthropology of women. New York and London: Monthly Review Press.

Rosaldo, Michelle Zimbalist and Louise Lamphere (eds.)

1974 Women, culture and society. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

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

1983 Powers of desire: the politics of sexuality. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Vance, Carole

1992 [1984] Pleasure and danger: exploring female sexuality. Second edition. Harper Collins.

## 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

1969 [1935] Sex and temperament in three primitive societies. New York: Dell. (Selections)

Malinowski, Bronislaw

1987 [1929] The sexual life of savages in north-western Melanesia: an ethnographic account of courtship, marriage and family life among the natives of the Trobriand Islands, British New Guinea. Boston: Beacon Press. (MAKE SELECTIONS \*\*)

#### 3. Sex, Sexuality, and Gender in Anthropology (9/12/06)

**Readings:**

Löfström, Jan

1992 Sexuality at stake: the essentialist and constructionist approaches to sexuality in anthropology. Suomen Antropologi 17(3):13-27.

Vance, Carole

1991 Anthropology rediscovers sexuality: a theoretical comment. Social Science and Medicine 33(8):875- 84.

#### 4. Contested Domains I (9/14/06)

**Readings:**

Rubin, Gayle

1992 [1984] Thinking sex: notes for a radical theory of the politics of sexuality. in Pleasure and danger. Carole Vance (ed). Harper Collins.

Scott, Joan W.

1986 Gender: a useful category of historical analysis. American Historical Review (91:5): 1053-1075.

Butler, Judith

1994 Against proper objects. Introduction. Differences 6(2/3):1-26.

### Part II: Asserting Domains: Histories of Gender

#### 5. The Anthropology of Women (9/19/06)

**Readings:**

Rubin, Gayle

1975 The traffic in women: notes on the "political economy" of sex. in Toward an anthropology of women. Rayna Rapp Reiter (ed). New York: Monthly Review Press.

Ortner, Sherry

1974 Is female to male as nature is to culture? In Women, culture and society. Michelle Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere (eds.) pp. 67-87. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

## **6. Feminism and Anthropology (9/21/06)**

### **Readings:**

di Leonardo, Micaela

1991 Introduction: Gender, culture, and political economy: feminist anthropology in historical perspective. *In* Gender at the crossroads of knowledge: feminist anthropology in the postmodern era. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Moore, Henrietta

1988 Feminism and anthropology. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (Chp. 1)

### **Recommended:**

Strathern, Marilyn

1987 An awkward relationship: the case of feminism and anthropology. *Signs* 12(2):276-292.

Visweswaran, Kamala

1997 Histories of feminist ethnography. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26:591-621.

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

### **Readings:**

Vance, Carole

1992 More danger, more pleasure: a decade after the Barnard sexuality conference. *In* Pleasure and danger: exploring female sexuality. Harper Collins.

Freedman, Estelle and Barrie Thorne

1984 Introduction to the feminist sexuality debates. *Signs* 10(11):102-06.

Alarcón, Norma

1990 The theoretical subject(s) of This Bridge Called My Back and Anglo-American feminism. *In* Making face, making soul/haciendo caras: creative and critical perspectives by feminists of color. Gloria Anzaldúa (ed.) pp. 356-369. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books.

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

### **Readings:**

Collier, Jane, Michelle Z. Rosaldo, and Sylvia Yanagisako

1997[1981] Is there a family? New anthropological views. *In* The gender sexuality reader. Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo (eds.) Pp 71-81. New York: Routledge.

Blackwood, Evelyn

2005 Wedding bell blues: marriage, missing men, and matrifocal follies. *American Ethnologist* 32(1):3-19.

D'Emilio, John

1983 Capitalism and gay identity. *In* Powers of desire: the politics of sexuality. Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson (eds.) Pp. 100-113.

## **Part III: Asserting Domains: Histories of Sexuality**

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

### **Readings:**

Foucault, Michel

1990 The history of sexuality. Volume 1: an introduction. New York: Vintage.

**10. Histories of Sexuality II (10/05/06)**

**Readings:**

Foucault, Michel

1990 The history of sexuality. Volume 1: an introduction. New York: Vintage.

**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

2005 Four hundred thousand Swedish perverts. GLQ 11(2):205-235.

**Part IV: Queering Anthropology**

**12. Queering Anthropology I (10/12/06)**

**Readings:**

Weston, Kath

1993 Lesbian/Gay studies in the house of anthropology. Annual Review of Anthropology 22:339-369.

Newton, Esther

1979 [1972] Mother camp: female impersonators in America. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press.

**Recommended:**

Morris, Rosalind

1995 All made up: performance theory and the new anthropology of sex and gender. Annual Review of Anthropology 24:567-592.

**13. Queering Anthropology II (10/17/06)**

**\*\*Paper 1 Due\*\***

**Readings:**

Rubin, Gayle

2002 Studying sexual subcultures: excavating ethnography of gay communities in urban North American. In In Out in theory: the emergence of lesbian and gay anthropology. Bill Leap and Ellen Lewin (eds). pp 17-68. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Newton, Esther

1979 [1972] Mother camp: female impersonators in America. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press.

**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

1979 [1972] Mother camp: female impersonators in America. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press.

## Part V: Debates and Investments

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

**Readings:**

Herdt, Gilbert (ed)

1984 Introduction in *Ritualized Homosexuality in Melanesia*. Berkeley: University of California Press.  
Elliston, Deborah A.

1995 *Erotic Anthropology: 'Ritualized Homosexuality' in Melanesia and Beyond*. *American Ethnologist* 22(4):848-867.

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

**Readings:**

Jacobs, Sue-Ellen, Wesley Thomas and Sabine Lang.

1997 Introduction in *Two-spirit people: Native American gender identity, sexuality, and spirituality*. Urbana: University of Illinois 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.80-113. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.

Epple, Carolyn

1997 A Navajo worldview and nádleehi: implications for Western categories. *In Two-spirit people: Native American gender identity, sexuality, and spirituality*. Sue-Ellen Jacobs, Wesley Thomas and Sabine Language (eds.) pp. 174-191. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

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

**Readings:**

Roscoe, Will

1994 How to become a berdache: toward a unified analysis of gender diversity. *In Third sex, third gender: beyond sexual dimorphism in culture and history*. Gilbert Herdt (ed.) pp. 329-372.

Califia, Pat

1997 *Sex changes: The politics of transgenderism*. San Francisco: Cleis Press (chapter 3).

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

**Readings:**

Wikan, Unni

1991 The Xanith: a third gender role? in *Behind the veil in Arabia: women in Oman*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

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

2002 Transgenderism, locality, and the Miss Galaxy beauty pageant in Tonga. *American Ethnologist* 29(3):534-566.

Donham, Don

1998 Freeing South Africa: the "modernization" of male-male sexuality in Soweto. *Cultural Anthropology* 13(1):3-21.

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Wright, Timothy

2005 Gay organizations, NGOs, and the globalization of sexual identity: the case of Bolivia. *In* Same-sex cultures and sexualities: an anthropological reader. Jennifer Robertson (ed.) pp. 279-294. Oxford: Blackwell.

## **20. Self and Other (11/09/06)**

### **Readings:**

Blackwood, Evelyn

1995 Falling in love with an-Other lesbian: reflections on identity in fieldwork. *In* Taboo: sex, identity, and erotic subjectivity in anthropological fieldwork. Don Kulick and Margaret Wilson (eds). pp. 51-75. New York: Routledge.

## **Part VI: Across Domains**

## **21. Gender/Sexuality in a Globalized World I (11/14/06)**

**\*\*Paper 2 Due\*\***

### **Readings:**

Boellstorff, Tom 2005

The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## **22. Gender/Sexuality in a Globalized World II (11/16/06)**

*Film: Ladyboys*

**Readings:** None

## **23. (11/21/06)**

### **Readings:**

Boellstorff, Tom 2005

The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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

## **24. Gender/Sexuality in a Globalized World III (11/28/06)**

### **Readings:**

Boellstorff, Tom 2005

The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## **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

2005 Carnal economies: the commodification of food and sex in Kathmandu. *Cultural Anthropology* 20(1):1-38.

Frank, Katherine

1998 The production of identity and the negotiation of intimacy in a "gentleman's club." *Sexualities* 1(2):175-201.

**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

1997 Searching for "voices": feminism, anthropology, and the global debate over female genital operations. *Cultural Anthropology* 12(3):405-438.

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

**Readings:**

Jolly, Margaret and Lenore Manderson

1997 Introduction: sites of desire/economies of pleasure in Asia and the Pacific. In *Sites of desire, economies of pleasure: sexualities in Asia and the Pacific*. Lenore Manderson and Margaret Jolly (eds). Pp. 1-26. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Ortner, Sherry B.

1996 Borderland politics and erotics: gender and sexuality in Himalayan mountaineering. In *Making gender: the politics and erotics of culture*. Pp. 181-212. Boston: Beacon.

Valentine, David

2002 "We're not about gender": the uses of "transgender." In *Out in theory: the emergence of lesbian and gay anthropology*. Ellen Lewin and William L. Leap (eds). pp.222-245. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

**28. Course Review (12/12/06)**

**\*\*Paper 3 Due\*\***