

Global Sexualities
ANT 4930 / ANG 6930
University of Florida
Department of Anthropology
Fall 2014

Venue: Keene-Flint Hall 0115

M: 6-8 (12:50-3:50)

Instructor: Dr. Marit Ostebo

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Office Hours: T 2:00 – 3:30 and R 2:00 – 3:30

Course description

This course explores theoretical and empirical perspectives on sexuality. You will be introduced to shifting paradigms of sexuality research in the social sciences in general and in anthropology in particular. The readings reflect the interdisciplinary nature of sexuality studies and include (among others) theoretical perspectives from anthropology, feminist theory, migration studies, queer theory, and post-colonial theory. We will examine cases from different parts of the world that shed light on the differences and similarities in sexual practices, and on how sexual practices and norms are changing in an increasingly transnational world. There will be an emphasis on exploring how the increased global flow of ideas, people and commodities are linked to sexuality, identity and intimate relations, and on the relationship between sex and issues such as politics, power, class, ethnicity and race.

Specific topics covered will include the impacts of globalization, migration and colonialism on gender and sexuality; sex work and questions of autonomy, agency and structure; transgender politics in different cultural contexts; global queering and activism, female genital modifications; sexual desire and pleasure and transnational surrogacy.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course you will have

- acquired knowledge about different theoretical approaches to the study of sexuality in the social sciences in general and in anthropology in particular
- acquired an understanding of how concepts such as gender and sexuality change across languages, geographical regions, nations and cultures
- developed the ability to critically analyze and discuss key concepts such as

- gender, sexuality, globalization, transnationalism etc.
- the capacity to form your own opinion within debates about global sexualities, drawing on perspectives from inside and outside class
- developed an understanding of how the increased global flow of ideas, people, and commodities are linked to sexuality and intimate relations
- developed an understanding of how sexuality is linked to politics, class, race, inequality and power relations

Readings

Required readings are set for each week of the course. PDF copies of will be made available on Canvas under Resources. The following book are required for this course:

Adichie, C.N. (2013) Americanah

I also recommend the following book:

Aggleton et.al (2012) Understanding Global Sexualities. New Frontiers

Note

This class deals with sexuality in an explicit manner. We will be reading and watching material featuring explicit sex scenes. If you do not want to do so, you may want to rethink taking the class. The topic addressed will sometimes be controversial. I encourage lively debate and expect students to behave with respect of other's opinions. We come from a range of different backgrounds and social and political perspectives. It is therefore important to think carefully before we speak in class and not make assumptions about to whom, or for whom we are speaking.

Class requirements and assignments

Attendance and Participation in class (20 % of grade)

This is a seminar, not a lecture class. The success of the discussion depends on the participation of each student in class and on Canvas. Since the course only meets once a week, full attendance in all classes is essential. More than one absence may lower your grade.

If you have an excusable absence (see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) let me know in advance and I will consider whether you have to make up for the absence in one or another way.

Online discussion (20 % of grade)

You are expected to come to class having done all the assigned readings and to be ready to participate in discussions. I will strive to create an open, informal and inclusive

environment. Each week you will submit a response to the readings in the online discussion forum. The entry should be submitted by midnight before the day of class and should express a summary and critical commentary on the assigned readings. It should not exceed 300 words. Students who use the discussion board actively (reply and comment on other students' postings) will have the opportunity to earn extra credit.

There will also be an online discussion of the only book assigned for the course, the novel *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. You are required to post three reflections on topics that emerge in the book, and that are of relevance for the course on the discussion board in Canvas.

Facilitating (20 % of grade)

Each student must act as a facilitator for the weekly class meetings – a role that entails presenting and leading the class discussion on the assigned readings. The week you act as a facilitator you are expected to do the following:

1) Write a written summary and presentation of ONE of the readings. This should be a minimum two pages document that you upload as an attachment. It should include the following:

- a summary of the main points of the argument in the article
- the aim of the scholarly interventions or research inquiry (where relevant)
- an analysis of the author's theoretical frames and methodology
- a critique of the arguments and evidence to support your critique
- keyword definitions, highlighting unfamiliar terminology and concepts
- links you make to other readings or topics

You will be given 15 minutes to present your summary, reflections and critique in the beginning of class the day we will discuss the readings.

2) Prepare minimum ten questions generated from all of the readings assigned for that particular class. Be prepared to facilitate the discussion.

Sign up for facilitation will take place first day of class.

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Short papers (40 % of grade)

You will write two short papers during the course. Instructions for each paper will be available on Canvas.

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Papers (40 % of grade)

Graduate students will write one short paper, (10% of grade), a book review (10% of grade) and a final research paper (approximately 15 pp in length, 20 % of grade). The

book review should be of an ethnography of relevance to the course topic. You are expected to search for the book yourself, but I should approve it. Proposals for the final papers, including abstract, a short outline and a preliminary bibliography should be submitted to me before mid term. These papers may focus on a suitable research question, or may be a literature review of a specific topic of relevance to the course. I encourage you to meet with me 2-3 times during the semester to discuss your papers.

Plagiarism

All the papers must be uploaded to Canvas. Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated and the papers may be subject to control through Turnitin.

Please note that acts of plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper or assignment that was written by someone else.
- Copying verbatim a sentence or paragraph of text from the work of another author without proper citation and quotation marks
- Paraphrasing or restating in your own words, text or ideas written by someone else without proper citation.

Student should use a proper citation style, e.g. the American Anthropological Association citation style: http://www.aaanet.org/publications/style_guide.pdf

UF Policies

Academic Honesty: When students enroll at UF they commit themselves to honesty and integrity. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: *“I understand the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”*

On work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied: *“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

Campus Helping Resources: Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The UF Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

1. *Counseling and Wellness Center*, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
2. *Student Health Care Center*: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

For an overview of various resources see <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help>

Disabilities: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Technical assistance: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Class schedule

I reserve the right to modify the course schedule. I value your input and I am willing to make changes to the class according to your preferences. Please share with me any comments, suggestions, and ideas you may have, and help me make this a great class.

Week 1 (August 25) INTRODUCTION/ COURSE OVERVIEW

Read the syllabus! Name game! Class expectations! Sign up for facilitation!

Week 2 (September 1) NO CLASS – LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

Week 3 (September 8) SHIFTING PARADIGMS IN SEXUALITY RESEARCH

READINGS FOR ALL:

Vance, C. (1991) Anthropology rediscovers sexuality: A theoretical comment
Parker, R. (2009) Sexuality, culture and society: shifting paradigms in sexuality research
Spronk, R. (2014) Sexuality and subjectivity: erotic practices and the question of bodily sensations
Weston, K. (1998) The Bubble, the Burn, and the Simmer: Locating Sexuality in Social Science

Week 4 (September 15) THEORIZING GLOBAL SEXUALITIES

READINGS FOR ALL:

Moore, H. (2013) Sexuality encore
Grewal, I. & Kaplan, C. (2001) Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality
Altman, D. (2004) Sexuality and Globalization

Week 5 (September 22) SEX, GENDER AND IDENTITY

WATCH:

iO Tillett Wright: Fifty Shades of Gay <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAJ-5J21Rd0>

READINGS FOR ALL:

Hirsch, J.S., Wardlow, H. & Phinney, H. (2013) 'No one saw us': reputation as an axis of sexual identity
Dworkin, S.L., Swarr, A.L., Cooky, C. (2013) The (Mis)Treatment of South African Track Star Caster Semenya (20 p)
Pollock, L. & Eyre, S.L. (2011) Growth into manhood: identity development among female-to-male transgender youth
Ocha, W. (2012) Transsexual emergence: gender variant identities in Thailand

Week 6 (September 29) GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND SEXUAL SUBJECTIVITIES

Parrini, R. & Amuchastegui, A. (2012) Normalised transgressions: consumption, the market and sexuality in Mexico
Mahdavi, P. (2012) 'The personal is political and the political is personal': sexuality, politics and social movements in modern Iran
Hird, D. (2012) The paradox of pluralisation. Masculinities, androgyny and male anxiety in contemporary China

Week 7 (October 6) "AFRICAN" SEXUALITIES

READINGS FOR ALL:

Tamale, S. (2011) Researching and theorizing sexualities in Africa
Caldwell, J., Caldwell, P. & Quiggin, P. (1989) The social context of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa
Stillwaggon, E. (2003) Racial Metaphors: Interpreting Sex and AIDS in Africa
Arnfred, S. (2004) 'African Sexuality'/ Sexuality in Africa: Tales and Silences

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Ahlberg, B.M. (1994) Is there a distinct African Sexuality? A critical response to Caldwell
Heald, S. (1995) The power of sex: Some reflections on the Caldwell's African Sexuality thesis

Week 8 (October 13) GLOBAL QUEERING

READINGS FOR ALL:

Oswin, N. (2014) Queer time in global city Singapore: Neoliberal futures and the 'freedom to love'

Puar, J.K. (2001) Global Circuits: Transnational Sexualities and Trinidad

Manalansan, M.F. (2005) Queer Intersections: Sexuality and Gender in Migration Studies

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Ashford, C. (2009) Queer theory, cyber-ethnographies and researching online sex environments

Week 9 (October 20) GLOBAL QUEER ACTIVISM – CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

READINGS FOR ALL:

Haritaworn, J. Tauqir, T. & Erdem, E. (2008) Gay Imperialism: Gender and Sexuality Discourse in the "War on Terror" in *Out of Place: Interrogating silences in queerness/racality*

Ahmed, S. (2011) Problematic Proximities: Or Why Critiques of Gay Imperialism Matter

EXPLORE (AND READ) THE FOLLOWING WEB-SITES:

On the Censorship of Gay Imperialism and Out of Place, available as <http://www.xtalkproject.net/?p=415>

African LGBTI Human Rights Defenders Warn Public against Participation in Campaigns Concerning LGBTI Issues in Africa Led by Peter Tatchell and Outrage!

<http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2007/increase310107.html>

The web-page of the human rights organization Outrage! <http://outrage.org.uk/>

Judith Butler's refusal of the civil courage award at Berlin Pride in 2010 <http://www.egs.edu/faculty/judith-butler/articles/i-must-distance-myself/>

Week 10 (October 27) BODY POLITICS I

WATCH:

Dr. Oscar Aguirre discussing Pelvic Surgery and Intimate Aesthetics with Ramdy Alvarez

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-flc_PAilq8

READINGS FOR ALL:

Rodrigues, S. (2012) From vaginal exception to exceptional vagina: The biopolitics of female genital cosmetic surgery

McDugall, L.J. (2013) Towards a clean slit: how medicine and notions of normality are shaping female genital aesthetics

Moran, C. & Lee, C. (2013) Selling genital cosmetic surgery to healthy women: a multimodal discourse analysis of Australian surgical websites

Week 11 (November 3) BODY POLITICS II

READINGS FOR ALL:

WHO Female Genital Mutilation <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/>

Bagnol, B. & Mariano, E. (2008) Politics of naming sexual practices

Ahmadu, F. (2000) Rites and Wrongs: An Insider/Outsider Reflects on Power and Excision

Johnsdotter, S. & Essen, B. (2010) Genitals and ethnicity: The politics of genital modifications

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Hernlund, Y. & Shell-Duncan, B. (2007) Transcultural Positions. Negotiating Rights and Culture

Week 12 (November 10) DESIRE AND PLEASURE

READINGS FOR ALL:

Lyons, H.D. (2014) 'I'll have what she's having!' Problems in interpreting the sexual experience of others

Kulick, D. (2014) Merely sociological

Arnfred, S. (2014) Rethinking sexualities: a focus on pleasure

Dopico, M. (2007) Infibulation and the Orgasm Puzzle: Sexual Experiences of Infibulated Eritrean Women in Rural Eritrea and Melbourne, Australia

Tamale, S. (2009) Eroticism, Sensuality and 'Women's Secrets' Among the Baganda

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Ahmadu, F. (2007) "Ain't I a Woman Too? Challenging Myths of Sexual Dysfunction in circumcised women

Week 13 (November 17) TRANSACTIONAL SEX AND INTIMACY

READINGS FOR ALL:

Agustin, L. (2005) Migrants in the Mistress's House: Other Voices in the 'Trafficking' Debate

Bungay, V. Halpin, M. Atchinson, C. & Johnston, C. (2011) Structure and agency: reflections from an exploratory study of Vancouver indoor sex workers

Brennan, D. (2004) Women work, Men Sponge, and Everyone Gossips: Macho Men and Stigmatized/ing Women in a Sex Tourist Town

Groes-Green, C. (2013) "To put men in a bottle": Eroticism, kinship, female power and transactional sex in Maputo, Mozambique

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Brennan, D. (2008) Competing Claims of Victimhood? Foreign and Domestic Victims of Trafficking in the United States

Week 14 (November 24) TRANSNATIONAL SURROGACY

WATCH:

The Baby Makers <http://www.abc.net.au/foreign/content/2014/s3986236.htm>

READINGS FOR ALL:

Banerjee, A. (2014) Race and a Transnational Reproductive Caste System: Indian Transnational Surrogacy

Deomampo, D. (2014) Defining Parents, Making Citizens: Nationality and Citizenship in Transnational Surrogacy

Kroløkke, C.H. & Pant, S. (2012) "I only need her uterus": Neo-liberal Discourses on Transnational Surrogacy

Week 15 (December 1) RACE AND SEXUALITY

Erel, U., Haritaworn, J., Rodrigue, E.G. & Klesse, C. (2010) On the Depoliticisation of Intersectionality Talk. Conceptualising Multiple Oppressions in Critical Sexuality Studies

Hammonds, E. M. (1999) Toward a genealogy of black female sexuality: The problematic of silence

Phillips, L. (2005) Deconstructing "Down Low" Discourse: The Politics of Sexuality, Gender, Race, AIDS, and Anxiety

hooks, b. (1992) Selling hot pussy. Representations of Black Female Sexuality in the Cultural market place.

Week 16 (December 8) CONCLUSION

Discussion of the novel AMERICANAH