QUEER ANTHROPOLOGY
(ANTH-166B)

Spring 2014

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Holly Walters (TA)

Office hours: Fridays 11am -12 pm

Course Description

This course explores historical and contemporary scholarship that employs ethnographic approaches to address issues of queer sexuality. It also examines how the discipline of anthropology has been constitutively shaped by engagements with sexual themes. From a queer perspective, readings and course discussions will debate how (and under what conditions) sexuality intersects with a wide range of themes, such as: race, ethnicity, gender, labor, religion, colonialism, and globalization.

Course Structure and Requirements

The class will be a combined lecture/seminar format. The instructor will introduce the day’s topic with a brief lecture, then lead discussion of the material for the remainder of the class.

Students are required to do the assigned readings before each class. This is essential for the engagement in class discussions. Students will be required to write four papers (1,000 words each) based on different sections of the course. Papers must reflect careful consideration and understanding of the issues, topics, and authors discussed during the classes. Failure to attend classes and engage in discussion will influence the final grade by lowering the 20% of the grade assigned for participation.
The grade breakdown is as follows:

80%  Four 1,000 word papers (20% each);

20%  Class participation: This grade will depend on the assessment of your preparedness and contribution to class discussion. Please consult the instructor personally if for some reason you do not feel comfortable participating in class discussions.

The penalty for late work will be - 3 (minus three) points per day, or fraction of a day. After 10 days late, the work will no longer be accepted. In exceptional circumstances, extensions can be granted but only if requested before the due dates. All possible measures will be taken to detect plagiarism, which is considered a very serious academic offense and will be dealt with following established university procedures.

Basic Reading

The following book will be on reserve and available at the Brandeis Bookstore:


Disability

If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, you should contact the instructor, and present your letter of accommodation, as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, you should contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Undergraduate Academic Affairs at 736-3470 (broddgers@brandeis.edu). Letters of accommodation should be presented at the start of the semester to ensure provision of accommodations. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.
Course Contents

Week 1

January 14:
Introduction

January 17:

Week 2

January 21:

January 24:

Sabine Lang, Various Kinds of Two-Spirit People: Gender Variance and Homosexuality in Native American Communities. *In Two-Spirit People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality and Spirituality.* Sue-Ellen Jacobs, Wesley Thomas and Sabine Lang, eds. (Chapter 4). [LATTE]
Week 3

January 28:


January 31:


Week 4

February 4:


February 7:

Week 5

February 11:


February 14:


[ESSAY # 1 DUE FEB 17]

Week 6

February 25:


February 28:


Week 7

March 4:

No class. Instead, attendance expected at this special event: "Global Protests, Local Realities: Understanding the Massive Brazilian Street Protests of 2013" Tuesday, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the International Lounge of Usdan Student Center, Brandeis.

March 7:


Week 8

March 11:


March 14:


Week 9

[ESSAY # 2 DUE MARCH 17]

March 18:


March 21:


Week 10

March 25:


March 28:

Week 11

April 1:


April 4:

“A Conversation with Gayle Rubin” – 12:30 to 1:50 pm (please, go to SHIFFMAN 219)

Week 12

[ESSAY # 3 DUE APRIL 7]

April 8:


April 11:

Week 13

April 25


April 29


Revision and Conclusion

[ESSAY # 4 DUE MAY 2]