QUEER ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 166B
Fall 2014
M, W 5 pm - 6:20 pm

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Lecturer in Anthropology
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Office hours: M, W 11 am - 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 7 days late, the work will no longer be accepted. In exceptional circumstances, extensions can be granted but only if requested well before the due dates. For each essay, the penalty for going over the maximum word limit will also be -3 (minus three) points (words beyond 20% over the ideal will not be read). Students are responsible for any use of technology and no extensions can be granted due to IT problems. 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 books 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 (brodgers@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

September 1:
No class: Labor Day Holiday.

September 3:
Welcome and course overview.

Week 2

September 8:

September 10:
Week 3

September 15:


September 17:

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 4

September 22:


September 24:

**Week 5 [ESSAY # 1 DUE OCTOBER 3]**

**September 29:**


**October 1:**


**Week 6**

**October 6:**


**October 8:**


Moises Lino e Silva, Queer Sex Vignettes from a Brazilian Favela: An Ethnographic Striptease, *Ethnography*, 2014. (1-17). [LATTE]
Week 7

October 13:

No class: Brandeis Thursday.

October 15:


Week 8

October 20:


October 22:

Week 9 [ESSAY # 2 DUE OCTOBER 31]

October 27:


October 29:


Week 10

November 3:


November 5:

Week 11

November 10:


November 12:


Week 12 [ESSAY # 3 DUE NOVEMBER 21]

November 17:


November 19:


Week 13

November 24:


November 26:

No class: Thanksgiving holiday.
Week 14

December 1:

December 3:

Week 15 [ESSAY # 4 DUE DECEMBER 10]

December 8:

Revision and Conclusion.