Course Description: This course introduces the anthropological study of gender; we consider how categories and experiences of “female” and “male” are constructed and experienced in a range of social and cultural contexts, past and present. We begin by considering how gender relations and gender structures are embedded in systems of kinship and descent, with particular attention to the organization of the family, the household and higher-level corporate groups. We next concentrate on the symbolic and cultural dimensions of gender, with particular attention to varied conceptions and experiences of the female body and reproductive processes. We explore sex/gender/sexuality systems, with attention to theories of performance and queer theory, in several non-western and western contexts. We also consider the organization of gender relations in global, transnational contexts. Throughout the course, we will discuss the complex, evolving relationship between anthropology, feminism and social activism.

BOOKS: (Please note: all required books have been placed on Reserve in the library.)


—Esther Newton. *Mother Camp: Female Impersonators in America* (Chicago 1979) [About 50 pages required; the rest of this short book is recommended]

—Don Kulick, *Travesti: Sex, Gender, and Culture among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes* (Chicago 1998) [Three long chapters book required]

—David Valentine, *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category* (Duke 2007) [Three chapters required]

RECOMMENDED ONLY:

—Lila Abu-Lughod, Writing Women’s Worlds: Bedouin Stories (California 1993) [several chapters will be scanned and uploaded to LATTE—but you may want to own the book]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

➢ Reading Responses (total of 4, including Final Research Paper Abstract, 1-2 pages, plus annotated Bibliography) = 30%
➢ Final Research Paper Abstract and Annotated Bibliography (DUE: Friday, 3/6 by 10:00pm on LATTE)
➢ Final paper (15 pp.) @ 30% (DUE Monday, 4/27 BY 10:00pm on LATTE)
➢ One seminar presentation @ 20%
➢ Class participation @ 20%

• Reading Responses: There will be a total of 3 reading responses—of approximately 1.5 - 2 pages, due at any point before the end of the semester. The reading (or readings) selected can be entirely of your own choosing, as well as the topic to be explored. You may of course use this an opportunity to begin to think about various issues relevant to your final project. It is acceptable, to bring ideas and approaches begun in such postings into your final paper, but the expectation is that the paper will demonstrate a further, and substantial, expansion of such work (eg. please do not duplicate sections of postings in the final paper).

• Final Research Paper Abstract and Annotated Bibliography: DUE Friday, 3/6—on LATTE. This is an opportunity for you to explore a topic of your own choosing (in consultation with the instructor) of relevance to the issues being discussed in class. The abstract is a 1.5 - 2 page research statement, outlining the major topic (and questions/issues/conundrums) along with an annotated bibliography of possible outside sources (the number of outside sources will vary depending on the topic—please also include approximately 3 relevant class readings). Detailed instructions will be posted on LATTE.

• Final Research Paper (15 pages, plus bibliography): DUE 4/27/15 by 10:00PM on LATTE. This is the culmination of the work on your topic. You will receive detailed comments on the Abstract well in advance of the due date at the end of the semester. Please use internal citations, and append a bibliography.

• Class Presentation: Each student will take approximately half of a class session (40 minutes total) to present your final research project. You will be asked to assign 1-2 relevant readings, so that we can all prepare in advance of your presentation. In that sense, this will be part presentation, and part dialog with the members of the class. These sessions will be scheduled at the end of the semester, on 4/16, 4/21 and 4/23 (last class).

• Academic Integrity and Plagiarism. You may only submit your own original work in this course; this includes quizzes, exams, response essays, written papers, and other media. Please be careful to cite precisely and properly the sources of all authors and persons you have drawn upon in your written work. Plagiarism (from published or internet sources) is a serious violation of academic integrity and of the relationship of trust between student and instructor. Please take special care to indicate the precise source of all materials found on the web, indicating the correct URL address of any material you have quoted or in any way drawn upon. Remember, you must
indicate through quotations, indentation and citation when quoting from any outside source (internet or print). Please consult the relevant sections in the Student Handbook for reference.

PART I: Kinship, Gender and Sexuality

Tuesday, 1/20: Classic Articulations—Kinship and Gender—The Family


Thursday, 1/22: Classic Articulations—Kinship and Gender—“Simple” and “Hierarchical” Societies

**NOTE: Prof. Schattschneider will be at UCLA—will Skype in to class from 3:30-4:30pm EST)


RECOMMENDED:

Tuesday, 1/27: CLASS CANCELLED—BRANDEIS CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER

Thursday, 1/29: The Gendered Work of Culture?


Tuesday, 2/3: The Sambia

- Gilbert Herdt. The Sambia: Ritual, Sexuality and Change in Papua New Guinea. (Begin)
Tuesday, 2/10 and 2/12: “The Guardians of the Flute”
• Concluding discussion of The Sambia.

• We will screen and discuss the film, “The Guardians of the Flutes” in class.


Tuesday, 2/17: UNIVERSITY BREAK
Thursday, 2/19: UNIVERSITY BREAK

Tuesday, 2/24: Locating Sexuality in Anthropology —Sexualities and Refashioned Bodies


• Newton, Esther. “Of Yams, Grinders and Gays: The Anthropology of Homosexuality” in Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas 229-237 (LATTE)


PART II: Performance Studies and Performativity: How is Gender Produced through Social Practice?

Thursday, 2/26: Case Study: “Vogueing”

• Screen film in class: “Paris is Burning”

• bell hooks. “Is Paris Burning?” From Black Looks: Race and Representation (LATTE)

Tuesday, 3/3 and Thursday, 3/5: Historical Transformations

• Michel Foucault. The History of Sexuality. Publisher: Vintage 1990
• Herculine Barbin: Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a Nineteenth-Century French Hermaphrodite. Introduction by Michel Foucault.
*MONDAY, 3/9: Final Research Paper Abstract and Annotated Bibliography due by 10:00pm (on LATTE)*

**Tuesday, 3/10: Trans Personhoods**

- **NOTE: CLASS WILL MEET AT FROM 9:30-11:00AM IN BROWN 115**


**TUESDAY, 3/10 @ 3:30PM: CLASS WILL ATTEND WGS LUBIN LECTURE** (in the USDAN INTERNATIONAL LOUNGE).

**Thursday, 3/12: Performativity**

- Don Kulick. “No,” *Language & Communication* 23 (2003): 139-151: **read pp. 139-141** (the introduction); the rest is recommended. (LATTE)


**Tuesday, 3/17: Gendering Performance**


**Thursday, 3/19: Space, Place, Sexuality and Gender**


**PART III: Gender, Sexuality and the State**

**Tuesday, 3/24: Nationality, Gender and Personhood**


- Lauren Berlant and Elizabeth Freeman. “Queer Nationality.” (LATTE)

**Thursday, 3/26: Gender and Sexuality in Comparative Perspectives: East Asia**

- Patricia Boling. “Private Interest and the Public Good in Japan.”


- Tomiko Yoda, “The Rise and Fall of Maternal Society: Gender, Labor and Capital in Contemporary Japan.” (pages 239-274) in *Japan After Japan*, edited by Tomiko Yoda and Harry Harootunian


- Film: *Dream Girls* (Longinotto, 1994)
PART IV: Theorizing Queerness and Transgender Personhoods

Tuesday, 3/31: Rendering Queerness Comparative

- Being: Tom Boellstorff. *A Coincidence of Desires: Anthropology, Queer Studies, Indonesia*

Thursday, 4/2: Transgender Across Cultures

- Conclude: Tom Boellstorff. *A Coincidence of Desires: Anthropology, Queer Studies, Indonesia*
- David Valentine. *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category* (Duke 2007)
- Screen selections from film: *Two Spirits* (Lydia Nibley, 2009)

Tuesday, 4/7: UNIVERSITY BREAK (PASOVER)

Thursday, 4/9: UNIVERSITY BREAK (PASOVER)

PART V: Psychoanalytic Contributions/Critiques

Tuesday, 4/14: Gender in Mind: Internalizing Master and Slave—Psychoanalytic Contributions


Thursday, 4/16: Gender in Mind: Internalizing Master and Slave—Psychoanalytic Contributions

- Selected Readings by: Freud; Juliet Mitchell; Karen Horney; Nancy Chodorow (LATTE)
PART VI: Gender, Sexuality and Visuality—Comparative Perspectives

Tuesday, 4/21: Chinese Cinematic Transformations: Lou Ye’s Spring Fever (2009)

• Discuss: Spring Fever (available on Netflix)


Thursday, 4/23: Mediating Masculinities


• Judith Halberstam, “An Introduction to Female Masculinity: Masculinity without Men,” from The Masculinity Studies Reader, ed. Rachel Adams and David Savran (Blackwell 2002) (LATTE)

• Tim O’Brien, “The Things They Carried,” from The Things They Carried (Broadway Books 1990) 1-26. (LATTE)

TBA: ADDITIONAL SESSION FOR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Monday, 4/27: Final Paper Due by 10:00pm on LATTE