Course Description
How are non-normative genders and sexualities constructed, performed, negotiated and resisted in the United States and other world regions? What kinds of queer identities and communities have emerged as a result of local and global transformations, past and present? This course explores non-normative sexualities and genders in diverse and shifting cultural contexts across the world, such as the US, India, China, Indonesia and the Caribbean. We will examine queer ethnographies in relation to queer theory, and consider how anthropological approaches to the study of sexuality and gender contribute to, diverge from, and are informed by queer studies. By focusing on ethnographic and queer approaches, we will examine how contemporary sexualities and genders are situated between historical, local and global processes. A key component of the course is the way in which sexuality and gender intersect with other cultural forms, including race, ethnicity, class, religion, nationalism, and globalization. The final course project will give students the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of gender and sexual diversity along with hands-on experience in ethnographic research methods.

Required Texts
The following books are available on reserve and for sale at the bookstore:


Additional required readings include articles and book chapters that are posted to LATTE.
Course Requirements

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Each student is required to attend class, complete reading assignments on time, and participate in every class discussion. Absences are permitted only in cases of real emergencies, for which you must provide written notification. You will lose two points from your final grade for each unexcused absence or if you miss more than two class sessions. Persistent lateness will add up to one absence over the course of the semester, but arriving more than 10 minutes late to any class will count as an absence. All assigned readings should be completed prior to the class on the day they are listed on the course schedule below. Daily readings will be discussed in class for which you must come prepared to talk. Please read the following piece for tips on reading critically: http://www.smirkingchimp.com/thread/8863. You are encouraged to raise questions about points that are unclear to you. What you have to say may be useful both to you and to your fellow classmates.

2. **Reading Responses:** You are required to post short reading responses (no more than 100 words) before each class session on the course’s online discussion board in LATTE. Post either a comment or a question related to the day’s assigned readings. For instance, you may provide a critique of key points from the readings, compare articles, relate them to current affairs, or raise new questions inspired by them. The responses must be posted to LATTE by 6:30 am on Tuesdays and Fridays prior to each class. Late responses will not be accepted. Your responses must be thoughtful and respectful of your classmates. The reading responses are meant to give you the chance to engage not only with the course readings but also with the ideas of your classmates.

3. **Group Presentation:** You will be paired into groups of two and be required to present an assigned reading once during the semester. This will involve giving a 20-minute long presentation to be followed by a presenter-led discussion. You may divide the labor as you see fit but each team member will receive the same grade. You must do the following in your presentation:
   - Provide a brief summary of the text and cover key points
   - Provide a critical analysis of the piece
   - Provide three discussion questions

Do not simply outline the content of the reading. In addition to time management, you will be evaluated on the clarity of your presentation for which you are required to use audio visual aids (e.g., Powerpoint/Prezi, images, audio/video clips, etc.). When using a presentation tool, please provide very brief bullet points instead of filling up your slides with too much text! You are not required to post a reading response on the day you present.

4. **Short Essay:** You will write a 4½ - 5 page paper with a clearly articulated thesis, supporting evidence, and analysis. The essay question will be provided 2-3 weeks prior to the submission deadline. The paper is due by email at 11:59 pm on Friday, February 12.

**Final Project:** For your final project, you are required to interview a queer person from a culture (broadly construed) other than your own. You will select a topic related to gender and sexuality (e.g., history, body, race, religion, class) and consider its impact on the life of your interviewee. Instructions on how to conduct interviews will be provided over the course of
the semester. The interview must be supplemented with library research.

As part of your research project, you will submit a 1-2 page research project proposal plus a preliminary bibliography. The proposal is due by email on Friday, March 11 at 11:59 pm, and should include the following:

- **Research question.** Describe your research topic and state your research question(s). What do you plan to study? What is the larger question you hope to answer from this study? What do you expect to find (i.e. your hypothesis)?
- **Significance.** Why is this project significant to you? Why would this project be significant for others? Who is your audience for this paper?
- **Methodology.** What research methods will you use? What kind of data will you collect or consider? Who will you interview? What kind of library-based material will you consult? Choose a topic that is methodologically feasible.
- **Preliminary Bibliography.** Provide a list of at least five scholarly articles or books related to your research topic that will inform your analysis.

During the last two weeks of the course, you will give a 10-minute oral presentation about your project. In your presentation, you are expected to describe your study, state your research question, explain your method of exploring that question and any methodological challenges you faced, and reveal your preliminary findings. You are encouraged to use audio/visual aids, and are expected to manage your time well.

The project paper should be 10-12 pages long.

Students are encouraged to meet with me during office hours to brainstorm ideas or if you want me to review an outline of the essay. The project paper is due by email at 11:59 pm on Thursday, April 21.

**Grading**
- Attendance and Participation – 20%
- Reading Responses – 15%
- Group Presentations – 10%
- Short Essay – 15%
- Final Project – 40%
  - Project Proposal – 5%
  - Oral Presentation – 5%
  - Paper –30%

**Course Load**
Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, preparation for exams, etc.).
Assignment Policies
Late assignment and paper submissions will not be accepted except in special circumstances. You are expected to notify me at least 24 hours in advance if you are unable to submit your work on time in order to receive consideration. You will lose points from your final grade for each day that your work is past the due date. All written assignments must be carefully proofread, double-spaced, typed in Times New Roman size 12 font with a 1-inch margin all around, and emailed to me at khanf@brandeis.edu.

Academic Dishonesty
The University holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the University’s policy on academic dishonesty, and be familiar with general academic expectations with regard to plagiarism and the proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. If I find that you have violated the integrity policy, you will receive an F on that assignment and possibly for the course. This will be accompanied by a formal complaint to the Director of Academic Integrity.

Students with Disabilities
Students in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with Disabilities Services and Support. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should speak with me during the first week of class.

Class Conduct
The use of cell phones, email and web browsing are not permitted in class. Cells phones must be turned off before entering class, and the use of laptops and other electronic devices is not permitted except with special permission of the instructor. Please do not converse with classmates during class, and be attentive during lectures and class discussions. Please be respectful of your classmates and allow them to fully express their points.

Course Schedule

Friday, January 15—Introduction
• No reading. Course introduction.

Tuesday, January 19—Queer Theory
**Friday, January 22—Queer Studies and Anthropology**


**Tuesday, January 26—Queering Ethnographic Methods**


**Friday, January 29—Queer Histories and Cultures**


**Tuesday, February 2—Performativity**


**Friday, February 5—Globalization and Nationalism**

- Film: *Tales of Waria* (2013)

**Tuesday, February 9—Globalization and Nationalism**

**Friday, February 12**  
*Queering the Gendered Body*  
- Short essay due!

**Tuesday, February 16**  
- No class. Midterm Recess.

**Friday, February 19**  
- No class. Midterm Recess.

**Tuesday, February 23**  
*Lesbian/Trans Borders*  

**Friday, February 26**  
*An Ethnography of a Category*  

**Tuesday, March 1**  
*An Ethnography of a Category*  

**Friday, March 4**  
*Sexuality and the State*  

**Tuesday, March 8**  
*Sexuality and the State*  

**Friday, March 11**  
*Citizenship and the State*  
• Project proposal due!

**Tuesday, March 15- Queer of Color Critique**

**Friday, March 18- Queer Diasporas and Border Crossings**

**Tuesday, March 22- Queer Diasporas**
• Gloria Wekker. 2007. *The Politics of Passion: Women’s Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora*. (Chapters 1-3)

**Friday, March 25-**
• No class. March Recess.

**Tuesday, March 29 - Queer Diasporas**
• Gloria Wekker. 2007. *The Politics of Passion: Women’s Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora*. (Chapters 4-6)

**Friday, April 1- Queer Politics**

**Tuesday, April 5- Queer Activism**
• Naisargi Dave. *Queer Activism in India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics*. (Introduction and Chapters 1-2)
**Friday, April 8**  
**Queer Activism**
- Naisargi Dave. *Queer Activism in India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics.* (Chapters 3-5)

**Tuesday, April 12**  
**Radical Politics**
- Student presentations

**Friday, April 15**  
**Queer Futures**
- Student presentations

**Tuesday, April 19**  
**Queer Futures**
- Student presentations

**Thursday, April 21**
- Student presentations