

UNST 266A CRN 13796
PSU Fall '09

Dr. Jamie P. Ross
Haley Weiner, mentor

Sexualities - UNST 266A

Main Class

Tues. /Thurs. 11:-12:15 Cramer 224

Mentor Sessions:

Tues. 9-9:50, 10-10:50/ Thurs. 10-10:50 Cramer 196

Professor Ross' Office: Cramer 117M
Office Hours: Wed. 1:30-2:30/Th 10-11
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Mentor: Haley Weiner, haley.e.weiner@gmail.com

TEXTS:

Packet: at Smart Copy

Books: –*Sex Matters*. (2nd Ed.) Strombler, Baunach, et. al. Pearson, 2006. Bookstore
–*M Butterfly*. Hwang, David Henry. Penguin, 1992. Bookstore

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Using a number of different disciplinary perspectives, this course will look at the multiple meanings attached to sex and sexuality (such as body, desire, identity, reproduction, pleasure, normalcy, and violence). We will consider the sexed body and erotic practices as historical, social constructions and explore the debates about the role of biology and culture in shaping gender, desire, erotic practices, and sexual identities. We will also examine sex within a matrix of power involving race, class, gender, and national origin.

UNST Goals: (What the University Studies program wants to accomplish)

All University Studies courses share four common priorities summarized as follows:

1. Communications:
 - Numeracy
 - Visual Comm.
 - Graphics
 - Writing
 - Oral Comm.
 - Group Process
 - Computer Literacy
2. Critical Thinking
 - Analysis
 - Synthesis
 - Connections
 - Understanding Arguments
3. Ethics/Social Responsibility
 - Issues of power
 - Making choices
4. Diversity/Human Experience
 - Acceptance of diversity
 - Listening and tolerating various opinions
 - Understanding communities

COURSE GOALS and LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Learn to define and apply the concept of social constructivism to various aspects of sexuality

- Increase critical awareness of the social and political factors which shape sexuality
- Explore the distinctions between the sexed body, gender presentation, gender identity, and sexual orientation
- Expand knowledge about the diversity of sexual orientations and gender expressions
- Explore the relationship between sexuality and structures of power.
- Explore the relationship between sexuality and biology/medicine/science
- Explore the relationship between sexuality and race identity
- Improve critical reading skills
- Use writing as a way of learning
- Engage in discussions of ideas with other students

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading is due on the day indicated below.
2. Preparation for class, attendance at class, and participation in class discussions are all required and play a role in the grade evaluation for the class. Missed classes lower your final grade. **More than three (3) missed classes (INCLUDING MENTOR SESSIONS)** will lower your final grade by a whole letter. Any thereafter will reduce grade further.
3. **Paper One:** This is a 3-4-page essay with a proper **Works Cited** page as well as a **Reflective Paragraph** (1/2page) discussing your progress and the UNST goal(s). This is meant for you to practice for paper #2 and to get an idea of the kinds of questions I ask as well as for me to get an idea of how well you express yourself. A handout will be offered as a guideline for these papers. I will give you the essay question. You may re-write an on-time paper after a recommended meeting with the graduate mentor or me. Late papers may not be rewritten for improved grade. **Re-writes** are due one week after the papers are initially returned. Be sure to **include the original**. (20%)
4. **Paper Two:** This also is a take home essay, emphasizing theory and is based on readings assigned through the due date. The paper will consist of one 5-6 page essay with a proper **Works Cited** page as well as a **Reflective Paragraph** (1/2page) discussing your own progress and the UNST goal(s). You may re-write an on-time paper after a recommended meeting with me. Late papers may not be rewritten for improved grade. Re-writes are due one week after the papers are initially returned. Be sure to include the original. (30%)
5. **Paper Three:** This paper also emphasizes theory and is based on readings through the due date. Same conditions as paper #2 with a proper **Works Cited** page, except there are no time for a rewrite. (35%)
6. **Discussion Prompts:** A question will be posed at the beginning of each class that you are to use to respond to in class as a free write. These are graded with a check, plus or minus and will be counted as part of your mentor grade.
7. **Mentor Sessions:** You will be responsible for participating fully and satisfactorily in all mentor session activities. Discussion prompts are a part of your mentor grade (15%)
8. **Late papers will be marked down each day they are late and may not be rewritten.**
9. **Disability Notice:** If you have a disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please notify me immediately to make arrangements. For information on available disability services, see: <http://www.pdx.edu/iasc/drc.html>. PSU students requesting accommodations must provide documentation of the disability and work with the Disability Services for Students Office (725-4150).
10. University policy calls for severe **sanctions for plagiarism** or any other form of academic dishonesty. While I encourage you to discuss your assignments with other people, the final product must be your own, containing full citations to any work upon which you draw, including course material.

11. Please **do not “come and go” during class**. Take care of personal items before you come to class, i.e., *Pee before you come to class*.
12. Please turn **off your cell phone** before coming to class, or I will answer it and/or take it away.

REQUIRED READING (subject to change)

WEEK ONE

- 9/29/09 - Introduction and Syllabus review
- 10/1/09 - #1 – “Are We Having Sex Now or What?” Greta Christina
 - Patterson, Randall. “Students of Virginity.” *NYTimes Magazine*. 3/30/08. **(PACKET)**
 - Brody, Jane. “Abstinence-only: Does it Work?” *NYTimes*, 6/1/04. **(PACKET)**
 - Erlanger, Steven. “U.N. Guide for Sex Ed Generates Opposition.” *NYTimes*, 9/3/09. **(PACKET)**.
 - Sohn, Amy. “Elements of Sexual Style.” *N.Y. Times Book Review*. **(PACKET)**
 - Anscombe, G.E.M. “You Can have Sex without Children.” Chap. in *Ethics, Religion and Politics*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press, 1981. **(OPTIONAL, PACKET)**

WEEK TWO

SEX AND POWER

- 10/6/09 - Kimmel, Michael. “Fuel for Fantasy: The Ideological Construction of Male Lust.” *Male Lust: Pleasure, Power and Transformation*. Ed. Kerwin Kay. Al Haworth Press, 2000. **(PACKET)**
 - Tolman, Deborah and Tracy Higgins. “How Being a Good Girl Can Be Bad for Girls.” In *Bad Girls, Good Girls: Women, Sex, and Power in the Nineties*. Ed. Nan Maglin and Donna Perry. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1996. **(PACKET)**
 - Listen to: “Aha Moment” <http://www.ahamoment.com/pg/moments/view/5008>
 - Oregon Health – The Dating Bill of Rights & Sexual Pressure **(PACKET)**
 - View: Oregon Crime Victims’ Rights List – http://www.doj.state.or.us/crimev/cvr/pdf/pract_list_case_law.pdf
- 10/8/09 - Katz, Jonathan Ned. ““Homosexual” and “Heterosexual”: Questioning the Terms.” In *a Queer World*. Ed. Martin Duberman. N.Y.: NYU Press, 1997. **(PACKET)**
 - Roscoe, Will. “The Berdache Tradition.” In *The Zuni Man-Woman*. U. of New Mexico Press, 1991. **(PACKET)**
 - Lacey, Marc. “A Lifestyle Distinct: The Muxe of Mexico.” *NYTimes*. 12/7/08. **(PACKET)**
 - Pokharel, Tilak. “In Conservative Nepal, a Tribute for the ‘Third Gender’ Speaks Out.” *NYTimes*, 10/20/08, A6. **(PACKET)**
 - mentor session – Prior Learning Assessment by end of week 2

WEEK THREE

- 10/13/09 - #4 – “Straight Dudes Seeks Same: Mapping the Relationship Between Sexual Identities, Practices and Cultures” Jane Ward
 - Herold, Benjamin. “Straightjacket of my Homophobia.” 2001. **(PACKET)**
 - MacFarquhar, Neil. “Gay Muslims Find Freedom . . .” *NYTimes*. 11/7/07. **(PACKET)**
 - “On Campus, Rethinking Biology 101” *N.Y. Times*. 3/7/04. **(PACKET)**
 - Handout Paper #1 topics

- 10/15/09 - Almaguer, Tomas. "Chicano Men: Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior." *Social Perspectives in Lesbian and Gay Studies*. Nardi & Schneider, Eds. Routledge: N.Y., 1998. **(PACKET)**

WEEK FOUR

- 10/20/09 - Frye, Marilyn. "Sexism." *The Politics of Reality*. The Crossing Press, N.Y. 1983. **(PACKET)**
- PAPER #1 Due with short reflection

BIOLOGY/MEDICINE/SCIENCE AND SEX

- 10/22/09 - Dreger, Alice. "Hermaphrodites in Love: The Truth of the Gonads." *Science and Homosexualities*. Ed. Vernon Rosario. New York: Routledge, 1997. **(PACKET)**
- Dreger, Alice. Sex Verification: More Complicated than X's and Y's." *NYTimes*, 8/22/09. **(PACKET)**
- Liptak, Adam. "Bans on Interracial Unions Offer Perspective on Gay Ones." *N.Y.Times*. 3/17/04. **(PACKET)**

WEEK FIVE

- 10/27/09 - Bushong, Carl. "What is Gender and Who is Transgendered." **(PACKET)**
http://www.transgencare.com/guidance/what_is_gender.htm
- Fausto-Sterling, Anne. "How to Build a Man." *The Gender Sexuality Reader*. Eds. Lancaster & di Leonardo. Routledge, N.Y. 1997. **(PACKET)**
- View: http://current.com/items/76312142/transsexuality_in_iran.htm
- Bornstein, Kate. "Gender Terror, Gender Rage." *The Transgender Studies Reader*. Stryker & Whittle, Eds., N.Y.: Routledge, 2006 **(OPTIONAL, PACKET)**
- 10/29/09 - #26 - "Fixing the Broken Male Machine" Meika Loe
- St. John, Warren. "In an Oversexed Age, More Guys Take a Pill." *N.Y.Times*. 12/14/03. **(PACKET)**
- Brown, Steven. "Movie Stars and Sensuous Scars." In *Male Lust: Pleasure, Power and Transformation*. Ed. Kerwin Kay, et al. New York: Haworth Press. 2000. 37-42. **(PACKET)**
- Fitzpatrick, Laura. "Plastic Surgery Below the Belt." *Time*. 11/19/08. **(PACKET)**

WEEK SIX

- 11/3/09 - Martin, Emily. "The Egg and the Sperm." in *Feminist Approaches to Theory and Methodology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. **(PACKET)**
- Angier, Natalie. "Study of Mice Reproduction Discovers Egg Regeneration." *N.Y.Times* 3/11/04. **(PACKET)**
- Listen to: "This American Life – Testosterone" #220 aired 8/30/02
http://www.thislife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?episode=220 **(ON-LINE)**
- rewrites paper #1 due (include original)
- Handout Paper #2 Topics
- 11/5/09 - Kessler, Suzanne. "The Medical Construction of Gender: Case Management of Intersexed Infants." *Women, Science and Technology*. Wyer, Barbercheck, Giesman, Ozturk, & Wayne. Eds. Routledge, 2001. **(PACKET)**
- Short Film – "XXXY"

WEEK SEVEN

- 11/10/09 - #25 – “Little Girls in Women’s Bodies: Social Interaction and the Strategizing on Early Breast Development” Erika Summers-Effler
- **Paper #2 Due with short reflection**
- 11/12/09 - Tuana, Nancy. “Coming to Understand: Orgasm and the Epistemology of Ignorance.” *Hypatia* Vol. 19, no. 1 winter 2004 (**PACKET**)

WEEK EIGHT SEX AND RACE POLITICS

- 11/17/09 - Hwang, David Henry. *M Butterfly*. Penguin, 1989. (**BOOK**)
- Wadler, Joyce. “For the First Time. . .” *People Weekly*. Aug. 8, 1988. vol. 30, no.6. (**PACKET**)
- #35 – Influences of Culture on Asian Americans’ Sexuality Sumie Okazaki
- McNually, Whitney. “Gay or Asian.” *Details*. April 2004.
- 11/19/09 - Fung, Richard. “Looking for my Penis: The Eroticized Asian in Gay Video Porn.” *Men’s Lives*. Kimmel & Messner, Eds. Viacom Company: Ma. 1989. (**PACKET**)
- Abes, Elisa & Kasch, David. “Using Queer Theory to Explore Lesbian College Students’ Multiple Dimensions of Identity.” *Journal of College Student Development*. Nov. /Dec. 2007, Vol. 48, No. 6. (**OPTIONAL, PACKET**)
- Friday, 11/20/09 **Extra Credit:** Sexual Assault Education Theatre – Capstone performance
9:30-11:30 am, SMU Multicultural Center

WEEK NINE

- 11/24/09 -González-López, Gloria. “Gendered Tapestries.” Chap. in *Erotic Journeys: Mexican Immigrants and Their Sex Lives*. Berkeley: U of Calif., 2005. (**PACKET**)
-Anscombe, G.E.M. “You Can have Sex without Children: Christianity and the New Offer.” Chap. in *Ethics, Religion and Politics*. Vol.3 Minn: U. of Minn. 1981. (**OPTIONAL, PACKET or BLACKBOARD**)
- rewrites paper #2 due with original
- Handout - final paper topic
- Tuesday, 12/1/09 **Extra Credit:** Sexual Assault Education Theatre – Capstone performance
11-1pm, SMU Multicultural Center

11/26/09 -No Class - Thanksgiving Holiday

WEEK TEN

- 12/1/09 - #49 – “The Sexual Politics of Black Womanhood” Patricia Hill Collins
- #37 – “A Low Down” Joshunda Sanders
- #13 – “Where My Girls At? Negotiating Black Womanhood in Music Videos” Rana A. Emerson
- #16 – “Little White Lies” Allison Kavanagh Alavi
- Janofsky, Michael. “Thurmond Kin Acknowledges Black Daughter.” *N.Y.Times*. 2004. (**PACKET**)

12/3/09

- #60 – “Sex and Tourism” Joane Nagel
- #61 – “Human Rights, Sex Trafficking, and Prostitution: Alice Leuchtag
- Fackler, Martin. “No Apology for Sex Slavery, Japan’s Prime Minister Says.”
NYTimes. 3/6/07. (**PACKET**)
- Buckley, Cara & Jacobs, Andrew. “Double Lives, Fake Names and High-Priced Sex.”
NYTimes, 3/16/08, 26. (**PACKET**)

WEEK ELEVEN

-Due Paper #3 - Tuesday, 12/8/09 @ 10:15 in my mailbox, Cr 117

-Due: One Page Reflection