

**Interdisciplinary Studies 70100**  
**Women's Studies 81000**  
**Professor P. Currah and Professor A. Mukherjea**

**Tuesdays, 4:15-6:15 p.m.**  
**Room 7314**  
**Spring 2006**

### **Introduction to LGBTQ Studies**

#### **Course Description :**

An introduction to the field of lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender and queer studies from a variety of theoretical and disciplinary perspectives. The course will focus on interdisciplinary and international scholarship on the communities, histories, literatures, and cultures of sexual minorities as well as on work that examines the broader role of sexuality and desire in deploying and securing cultural and social power. We will explore a range of issues currently animating this inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary field, including the debates over canon formation, methodological and theoretical approaches, the role of feminism in LGBTQ studies, and the integration of transgender studies into the field.

#### **Office hours:**

Professor Mukherjea: Tuesdays, 3:00 – 4:00  
Professor Currah: Tuesdays, 6:15 – 7:00

Or by appointment

#### **Contact Information:**

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Ananya Mukherjea, Assistant Professor, Sociology and Women's Studies, College of Staten Island. Email: [ananya\\_mukherjea@yahoo.com](mailto:ananya_mukherjea@yahoo.com). Office: CLAGS, Room 7.115. Phone: (usually only for voice-mail; I'm only there twice a week) 718.982.3759.

#### **READINGS AND COURSE MATERIALS:**

*Be sure to bring the texts under discussion with you to class.*

##### **Texts:**

Foucault, Michel. *History of Sexuality, Vol. I*. New York: Vintage, 1990. (This can be at any good bookstore in the city or on-line at [powells.com](http://powells.com), [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com), or similar. Please obtain this book early in the semester.

Lai, Larissa. *When Fox is a Thousand*. (Arsenal Pulp Press [September 15, 2004])

All other readings will be put on the Library's electronic reserve system.

#### **Course requirements:**

Four five-eight page papers. We will provide potential topics/points of inquiry for the first paper to those who would like some guidance.

General suggestions:

For one of the four papers, create an annotated bibliography of the readings for one of our course sections or for another topic of your choosing – perhaps a dissertation chapter.

Students are strongly encouraged to use their papers to inquire deeply into issues or questions not thoroughly covered in the syllabus, to further research they have already begun, or to conduct their own survey of LGTBQ studies. For example, you may choose one overarching research question/issue and have each paper constitute a different section of it. You may construct your own debate on an issue, or the papers might be largely unrelated. We urge you to think this through at the start of the semester.

Paper due dates:

February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>

### **LGBTQ Studies at the Graduate Center -- Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies: (CLAGS)**

**Programming:** The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies ([www.clags.org](http://www.clags.org)) has a full spring schedule of events showcasing cutting edge work in LGBTQ/sexualities studies. To be added to the CLAGS email announcements list, email [clags@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:clags@gc.cuny.edu).

**Committees:** If you are interested in serving on a CLAGS committee (see the list at [www.clags.org](http://www.clags.org).) please let us know.

**IDS Concentration in Lesbian & Gay / Queer Studies:** Lisa Jean Moore, the Coordinator of the IDS Concentration in Lesbian & Gay / Queer Studies, is convening a committee of individuals (students and faculty) interested in working on turning the concentration into a certificate program. If you're interested in working on that committee, let us know. If you are interested in enrolling in the IDS Concentration in Lesbian & Gay / Queer Studies, please stop by the office to fill out a form.

**Volunteers Needed for the International Resource Network:** CLAGS is building an international multi-lingual website to foster connections between people doing sexualities studies. We are creating a "thesaurus" of queer/lgbtq/sexuality –related terms to provide keywords to make the documents in the database (articles, archives, syllabi, etc.) easily searchable. This thesaurus will establish relationships between comparable or related terms in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese. If your are interested in helping with this work, please email [clagsglobal@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:clagsglobal@gc.cuny.edu).

### **WEEKLY READINGS**

**January 31<sup>st</sup>:** Introduction and in-class writing on objectives and expectations for the semester.

**WEEK 1 -- February 7<sup>th</sup>:** Introduction to the study of sexuality

- [Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality" \(1984\) and "Afterward" \(1992\).](#)
- [Henry Abelove, Michèle Ann Barale and David Halperin, "Introduction" to \*The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader\*. 1993.](#)

- Eve Sedgwick, "Introduction," *Epistemology of the Closet*, 1990.
- Judith Butler, "Against Proper Objects" (1994)
- Susan Stryker, "Introduction," *GLQ Transgender Issue* (1998)
- Sigmund Freud, excerpt from *Three Essays on Sexuality*. "Deviations in Respect of the Sexual Object."
- Beth Povinelli and George Chauncey, "Introduction" to *Thinking Sexuality Transnationally*, eds. Elizabeth Povinelli and George Chauncey, special issue of *GLQ*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (1999).

OPTIONAL:

- Jamison Green, "Introduction to Transgender Issues" from *Transgender Equality*. This reading is optional, for those who need a "transgender 101" review. And just print out and read the first 17 pages, the introduction by Jamison Green
- Hiram Perez, "You Can Have My Brown Body and Eat It, Too!"
- Alisa Solomon and Paisley Currah, "Introduction" to *Queer Ideas* (2003)

**WEEK 2 -- February 14th: Approaches to the study of the history of sexuality**

- David Halperin, "Is There a History of Sexuality?"
- Marlon B. Ross, "Introduction" to *Manning the Race*:
- Rinaldo Walcott, "*Outside in Black Studies*"
- Martin Duberman, "'Writing Bedfellows' in Antebellum South Carolina: Historical Interpretation and the Politics of Evidence" in *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past*
- John Boswell, selection from *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality*
- Leslie Feinberg, selection from *Transgender Warriors*

February 21<sup>st</sup>: (No class on February 21<sup>st</sup>, classes that day follow a Monday schedule)

**WEEK 3 -- February 28<sup>th</sup>: Approaches to the study of the history of sexuality, cont'd**

- Barbara Smith, "Blacks and Gays: Healing the Great Divide"
- Henry Louis Gates, Jr., "Blacklash?"
- Liz Kennedy and Madeline Davis, "Introduction" and "The Formation of Lesbian Identities and the Reproduction of Butch-Fem Roles," selections from *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold*
- George Chauncey, "Introduction" and "The Forging of Queer Identities and the Emergence of Heterosexuality in Middle-Class Culture," selections from *Gay New York*
- Lillian Faderman, "Introduction" from *Surpassing the Love of Men*
- Jason Cromwell, "Tranvestite Opportunists, Passing Women, and Female-Bodied Men," from *Transmen and FTMs* (University of Illinois, 1999)
- John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity"
- Judith Halberstam, "Unclosing Brandon," from *In a Queer Time and Place* (New York: New York University Press, 2005).

**WEEK 4 -- March 7<sup>th</sup>: Approaches to the study of the history of sexuality, cont'd**

- Siobhan Somerville, "Scientific Racism and the Invention of the Homosexual Body" from *Queering the Color Line*
- Lisa Duggan, "Girl Slays Girl," selection from *Sapphic Slashers*
- Gail Bederman, "'Civilization,' the Decline of Middle-Class Manliness, and Ida B. Wells's Antilynching Campaign (1892-94)"
- David Eng, selection from *Racial Castration: Managing Masculinity in Asian America*. 2000.
- Hazel Carby, "Policing the Black Woman's Body in an Urban Context"
- Gwendolyn Mink, "The Lady and the Tramp: Gender, Race, and the Origins of the American Welfare State," 1990.

**WEEK 5 -- March 14<sup>th</sup>: Putting gender back in: intersexed and transgender**

- Suzanne Kessler, "The Medical Construction of Gender," from *Lessons from the Intersexed*
- Cheryl Chase, "Hermaphrodites with Attitude"
- Intersex Society of North America, "Phall-O-Meter"
- Alice Dreger, "Notes on the Treatment of Intersex"
- Julie Greenberg, "Defining Male and Female: Intersexuality and the Collision Between Law and Biology" (1999)
- Eve Sedgwick, "How to Bring Your Kids Up Gay"
- Video: Toilet Training

OPTIONAL:

- Suggested Guidelines for Non-Intersex Individuals Writing About Intersexuality and Intersexed People"
- Biddy Martin, "Sexualities without Gender and Other Queer Utopias"
- Shannon Minter, "Do Transsexuals Dream of Gay Rights?"

**WEEK 6 -- March 21<sup>st</sup>: Putting gender back in: intersexed and transgender,**

- Sandy Stone, "The *Empire* Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto"
- Viviane Namaste, "Tragic Misreadings: Queer Theory's Erasure of Transgender Subjectivity," from *Invisible Lives*
- Jason Cromwell, "Transsexual Discourses and Languages of Identification," from *Transmen and FTMs* (University of Illinois, 1999)
- Judith Halberstam, "F2M: The Making of Female Masculinity"
- Joanne Meyerowitz, "Introduction," "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty," and "A Fierce and Demanding Drive," from *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*, 2002.
- Dean Spade, "Compliance is Gendered," in *Transgender Rights*, 2006
- Video: Operation Invert

OPTIONAL:

- International Bill of Gender Rights
- Jay Prosser, "No Place Like Home: Transgender and Trans-Genre in Leslie Feinberg's *Stone Butch Blues*", 1998
- Paisley Currah, "Gender Pluralisms," in *Transgender Rights*, 2006
- C. Jacob Hale, "Suggested Rules for Non-Transsexuals Writing about Transsexuals, Transsexuality, Transsexualism, or Trans \_\_\_\_."

**WEEK 7 -- March 28<sup>th</sup>: Queer diasporas and "gay transnationalism"**

- Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Vol. I*, parts I, II, and IV
- Cindy Patton and Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, "Introduction: With a Passport Out of Eden," from *Queer Diasporas*, eds. Cindy Patton and Benigno Sánchez-Eppler (Durham: Duke, 2000): 1-14.
- Yukiko Hanawa, "Introduction to Circuits of Desire," special issue of *Positions*, Vol. 2, no. 1 (1994): v-xi.
- M. Jacqui Alexander, "NOT JUST (ANY) BODY CAN BE A CITIZEN: The Politics of Law, Sexuality and Postcoloniality in Trinidad and Tobago Barbados." *Feminist Review*, No. 48 (Autumn 1984): 5-23.
- Martin Manalansan IV, "Diasporis Deviants/Divas: How Filipino Gay Transmigrants 'Play with the World,'" in *Queer Diasporas*, eds. Cindy Patton and Benigno Sánchez-Eppler (Durham: Duke, 2000).

OPTIONAL:

- Beth Povinelli and George Chauncey, "Introduction" to *Thinking Sexuality Transnationally*, eds. Elizabeth Povinelli and George Chauncey, special issue of *GLQ*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (1999).

## WEEK 8 -- April 4<sup>th</sup>: Queer diasporas and “gay transnationalism,” cont’d

- Gayathri Gopinath, "Impossible Desires"
- Keven Markwell, "Mardi Gras Tourism and Construction of Sydney as an International Gay and Lesbian City"
- Debanuj Dasgupta, "Why the 'Gay Rights Movement' is Anti-Immigrant Rights" from issue 20 of *Samar* magazine (found online at <http://www.samarmagazine.org/archive/>)
- Jasbir Puar, "Transnational Configurations of Desire: The Nation and its White Closets" in *The Making and Unmaking of Whiteness*, eds. Birgit Rasmussen, Eric Klinenberg, Irene Nexica, and Matt Wray (Durham: Duke, 2001).
- Jasbir Puar, "Abu Ghraib: Arguing Against Exceptionalism." *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Summer 2004): 522-534.

### OPTIONAL:

- Neville Hoad, "Between the White Man's Burden and the White Man's Disease: Tracking Lesbian and Gay Human Rights in Southern Africa,

## WEEK 9 -- April 11<sup>th</sup>: Heteronormativities

- Anonymous Queers, "Queers Read This" [<http://www.jessanderson.org/doc/qnation.html>]
- Michael Warner, "Introduction," *Fear of a Queer Planet*
- Lauren Berlant and Elizabeth Freeman, "Queer Nationality," 1997 [have]
- Arnie Kantrowitz, "Letter to the Queer Generation" \*\*\*\*
- Cathy Cohen, "Punks, Bulldaggers and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?," 1997
- Chicago Gay Liberation Front, "A Leaflet for the American Medical Association" \*\*\*\*
- Patrick White, "Sex Education; Or, How the Blind Became Heterosexual"
- Dwight McBride, "Queer Black Thought," from *Why I Hate Abercrombie and Fitch*
- Marlon B. Ross, "Pals and Lovers: Companions and Men-Loving Men in the Urban Folk Novel" from *Manning the Race: Reforming Black Men in the Jim Crow Era* (New York: NYU Press, 2004).

## WEEK 10 -- April 25<sup>th</sup>: Lesbian-feminisms

- Larissa Lai, *When Fox is a Thousand*. (Arsenal Pulp Press, September 15, 2004)
- Daughters of Bilitis, "Statement of Purpose," 1955 and Anonymous, "What about DOB," from *The Ladder* (1959)
- Giti Thadani, Sakhiani: Lesbian Desire in Ancient and Modern India
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- Marjorie Garber, selection from *Vice Versa*
- Joan Nestle, "Butch-Femme Relationships: Sexual Courage in the 1950s"
- Judith Butler, selections from *Gender Trouble*
- Cherrie L. Moraga from *Loving in the War Years*
- Audre Lorde, *excerpts from Sister Outsider*
- Gertrude Stein and Schulman stories from Faderman's collection, *Chloe Plus Olivia*

### OPTIONAL:

- Donna Haraway "Ecce Homo, Ain't (Ar'n't) I a Woman, and Inappropriate/d Others: The Human in a Post-Humanist Landscape"
- Paula Rodriguez Rust, "Introduction," to the *Bisexuality Reader*
- Arlene Stein, "Sisters and Queers: The Decentering of Lesbian Feminism" (1992).

### **WEEK 11 -- May 2<sup>nd</sup>: HIV/AIDS**

1. Timeline to the Epidemic
2. HIV/AIDS reports from Kaiser Foundation
3. Susan Sontag, *AIDS as Metaphor*. (New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 1988)
4. Steven Epstein, "The Nature of a New Threat," from *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*. (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1996)
5. Michael Callen's introduction to *Surviving AIDS*. (New York: HarperCollins, 1990).
6. Paula Treichler, "AIDS, Homophobia, and Biomedical Discourse: An Epidemic of Signification" from *How to Have Theory in an Epidemic*. (Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 1999) [
7. Simon Watney, selections from *Practices of Freedom*. (Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 1994)
8. Cindy Patton, "From Nation to Family: Containing African AIDS"
9. Stefan Elbe, "AIDS, Security, Biopolitics." *International Relations*, Vol 19(4): 403-419, 2005.
10. Kavita Misra, "Politico-Moral Transactions in Indian AIDS Service." *Anthropological Quarterly* Vol 79(1): 33-74, 2006.
11. Tomas Almaguer, "Chicano Men: A Cartography of Homosexual Identity and Behavior"
12. Collection of media and institutional articles responding to the risks of using crystal methamphetamine and of the "discovery" of the "superbug" in 2005.
13. Negotiating risk and social relations in the context of post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV: Narratives of gay men." Henrike Korner, Olympia Hendry, & Susan Kippax. *Health, Risk & Society*, December 2005; 7(4): 349 – 360.

#### **OPTIONAL**

- The Poetry of AIDS

### **WEEK 12 -- May 9<sup>th</sup>: LGBT policy issues and queer legal theory**

- Mary C. Dunlap, "The Constitutional Rights of Sexual Minorities: A Crisis of the Male/Female Dichotomy" (1979)
- Lisa Duggan, "Queering the State" (1994)
- Darren Lenard Hutchinson, "Ignoring the Sexualization of Race: Heteronormativity, Critical Race Theory and Anti-Racist Politics" (1999)
- Janet Halley, "'Like Race' Arguments" (2000)
- *The Nation* Special Issue on Marriage (2004)
- Kate Bedford, "Loving to Straighten Out Development: Sexuality and 'Ethnodevelopment' in the World Bank's Ecuadorian Lending" (2005)
- Mauro Cabral and Paula Viturro, "(Trans)Sexual Citizenship in Contemporary Argentina" (2006)

#### **OPTIONAL:**

- Nancy Fraser, "Social Justice in the Age of Identity Politics: Redistribution, Recognition, and Participation" (2003)
- Judith Butler, "Merely Cultural?" (1997)
- Nancy Fraser, "Heterosexism, Misrecognition, and Capitalism: A Response to Judith Butler" (1997)
- Janet R. Jakobsen, "Sex + Freedom = Regulation" (2005)

### **WEEK 13 -- May 16<sup>th</sup>: Students will suggest readings for the last class**

- From Wan-Chuan: Garrett T.J. Epp, "Ecce Homo," from Glenn Burger and Steven F. Kruger, *Queering the Middle Ages* (2001)
- From Paisley: Robert McRuer, "As Good As It Gets: Queer Theory and Critical Disability" (2003)

**OPTIONAL:**

- From Wan-Chuan: Glenn Burger, "Kissing the Pardoner," *PLMA* (1992)