

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Women's Studies
Fall 2008
SWAG 370Z: Women's Sexualities in a Global Context
Upper Division
Faculty Name: Patti Duncan

Suggested Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Many scholars have argued that understanding the politics of sexuality is central to any analysis of feminist and/or national liberation struggles. Rather than being secondary or peripheral, it has been suggested that sexuality plays a vital role in everything from culturally constructed expressions of masculinity and femininity, to local and global economic policies and relations, to war and conflict. In this discussion-oriented interdisciplinary course, students will be introduced to key themes and questions regarding women's sexuality in a global context. With a focus on the countries we will be visiting, students will have the opportunity to explore the multiple meanings of women's sexuality. Topics for study will include: global sex industries (including sex tourism); sex trafficking; militarized prostitution; racialized sexuality; sexual violence against women as a weapon of war; reproductive politics and justice; and expression of sexual identities, desires, and practices within cross-cultural contexts. There is no prerequisite for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To develop an understanding of varied experiences and expressions of sexuality in cross-cultural contexts.
- To understand and analyze the politics and limits of western terminology regarding transnational sexualities.
- To become familiar with general concepts and themes within sexuality studies, including same-sex identities, desires, and practices; global sex industries; militarized prostitution; sex trafficking; racialized sexuality; reproductive politics; and sexual violence.
- To consider the ways in which expressions of sexuality around the world have been configured and/or constrained in distinct ways, shaped by specific cultural contexts and international relations.
- To develop greater sensitivity and critical awareness about women's and sexual minorities' experiences in various parts of the world.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

- 29 August *Depart Nassau, Bahamas*
- Class #1 Introduction and Course Overview
- Class #2 Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan, "Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality" (*GLQ*, 7.4, 2001: 663-679, Intranet Folder); Saskia Wieringa and Evelyn Blackwood, "Introduction" (*Same-Sex Relations and Female Desires*, 1-38)
- Class #3 Carmen Barroso and Cristina Bruschini, "Building Politics from Personal Lives: Discussions on Sexuality Among Poor Women in Brazil" (*Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, 153-172, Intranet Folder); Kamala Kempadoo, "Introduction: Globalizing Sex Workers' Rights" and "Rethinking Sex Work" (*Global Sex Workers*, 1-33)
- 7-11 September *Salvador, Brazil*
- Class #4 Elaine Salo and Pumla Dineo Gqola, "Editorial: Subaltern Sexualities" (*Feminist Africa*, 1-6); Jessica Horn, "Re-righting the Sexual Body" (*Feminist Africa*, 7-19); Hudita Nura Mustafa, "Eros, Beauty, and Crisis: Notes from Senegal" (*Feminist Africa*, 20-32)
- Class #5 Chipu Hungwe, "Putting Them in Their Place: 'Respectable' and 'Unrespectable' Women in Zimbabwean Gender Struggles" (*Feminist Africa*, 33-47); Elinor Sisulu, "The 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Women's March" (*Feminist Africa*, 73-76); Liz Frank and Elizabeth/Khaxas, "Sister Namibia: Fighting for All Human Rights for All Women" (*Feminist Africa*, 83-87);
- Class #6 Kopano Ratele, "Ruling Masculinity and Sexuality" (*Feminist Africa*, 48-64); Jessie Kabwira Kapasula, "Challenging Sexual Stereotypes: Is Cross-Dressing 'Un-African'?" (*Feminist Africa*, 69-72); Margie Oford, "The Deadly Cost of Breaking the Silence: A Tribute to Lorna Mlosana" (*Feminist Africa*, 77-82)
- 19-23 September *Walviz Bay, Namibia*
- Class #7 Margrete Aarmo, "How Homosexuality Became 'Un-African': The Case of Zimbabwe" (*Same-Sex Relations and Female Desires*, 255-280); Kendall, "Women in Lesotho and the (Western) Construction of Homophobia" (*Same-Sex Relations and Female Desires*, 157-178); Mandisa Mbali, "AIDS Discourses and the South African State: Government Denialism and Post-Apartheid AIDS Policy-Making" (*Transformation*, 54, 2004: 104-122, Intranet Folder)
- 26 September - 2 October *Cape Town, South Africa*
- Class #8 Jayne Arnott, "SWEAT (Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Taskforce)" (*Feminist Africa*, 88-90); Pumla Dineo Gqola, "In Conversation with Wendy Isaack" (*Feminist Africa*, 91-100)
- Class #9 Evelyn Blackwood and Saskia Wieringa, "Sapphic Shadows: Challenging the Silence in the Study of Sexuality" (*Same-Sex Relations and Female Desires*, 39-63); Linda Garber, "Where in the World Are the Lesbians?" (*Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 14.1-2, 2005: 28-50, Intranet Folder)
- Class #10 Giti Thadani, "The Politics of Identities and Languages: Lesbian Desire in Ancient and Modern India" (*Same-Sex Relations and Female Desires*, 67-90); Evelyn Blackwood, "Tombois in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire" (*Same-Sex Relations and Female Desires*, 181-205)
- Evening film screening: *Fire* (Dir. Deepa Mehta, 1996)

- Class #11 Jigna Desai, "Homo on the Range: Mobile and Global Sexualities" (*Social Text* 73, 20.4, 2002: 65-89, Intranet Folder)
- Class #12 Jagori, "Migration, Trafficking, and Sites of Work" (*Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered*, 159-173, RESERVE); Natasha Ahmad, "Trafficked Persons or Economic Migrants? Bangladeshis in India" (*Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered*, 211-228, RESERVE)
- 14-18 October Chennai, India
- Class #13 Mid-Term Exam
- Optional evening film screening: *Regret to Inform* (Dir. Barbara Sonneborn, 1998, 72 min.)
- Class #14 Tan beng hui, "Women's Sexuality and the Discourse on Asian Values: Cross-Dressing in Malaysia" (*Same-Sex Relations and Female Desires*, 281-307); Khartini Slamah, "Transgenders and Sex Work in Malaysia" (*Global Sex Workers*, 210-214)
- 22-26 October Penang, Malaysia
- Class #15 Cynthia Enloe, "The Prostitute, the Colonel, and the Nationalist" and "When Soldiers Rape" (*Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*, 49-152, RESERVE); Jan Boontinand, "Feminist Participatory Action Research in the Mekong Region" (*Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered*, 175-197, RESERVE)
- 30 October – 4 November Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Class #16 Jinghao Zhou, "Chinese Prostitution: Consequences and Solutions in the Post-Mao Era" (*China: An International Journal*, 4.2, 2006: 238-262, Intranet Folder)
- 6-7 November Hong Kong
- 10-11 November Shanghai, China
- Evening film screening: *Shinjuku Boys* (Dir. Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams, 1996)
- Class #17 Group Sisterhood, "Prostitution, Stigma, and the Law in Japan: A Feminist Roundtable Discussion" (*Global Sex Workers*, 87-97)
- 14-15 November Kobe, Japan
- 17-18 November Yokohama, Japan
- Class #18 Jo Doezema, "Forced to Choose: Beyond the Voluntary v. Forced Prostitution Dichotomy," (*Global Sex Workers*, 34-50); Alison Murray, "Debt Bondage and Trafficking: Don't Believe the Hype" (*Global Sex Workers*, 51-64); Satoko Watenabe, "From Thailand to Japan: Migrant Sex Workers as Autonomous Subjects" (*Global Sex Workers*, 114-123)
- Class #19 Jo Bindman, "An International Perspective on Slavery in the Sex Industry" (*Global Sex Workers*, 65-68); Marjan Wijers, "Women, Labor, and Migration: The Position of Trafficked Women" (*Global Sex Workers*, 69-78); Kamala Kempadoo, "The Migrant Tightrope" (*Global Sex Workers*, 124-138)
- Class #20 Kamala Kempadoo, "Women of Color and the Global Sex Trade" (*Meridians*, 1.2, 2001: 28-51, Intranet Folder); Film Screening: *Camp Arirang* (Dir. Diana S. Lee and Grace Yoon Kyung Lee, 1995, 28 min.)
- Class #21 Andrea Smith, "Beyond Pro-Choice Versus Pro-Life: Women of Color and Reproductive Justice" (*NWSA Journal*, 17.1, 2005: 119-140, Intranet Folder); Jane Desmond, "Picturing Hawai'i: The 'Ideal' Native and the Origins of Tourism, 1880-1915" (*Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*, 7.2, 1999: 459-501, Intranet Folder)
- 27 November Honolulu, Hawaii

- Class #22 Jyoti Sanghera, “Unpacking the Trafficking Discourse” (*Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered*, 3-24, RESERVE); Ratna Kapur, “Cross-Border Movements and the Law: Renegotiating the Boundaries of Difference” (*Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered*, 25-41, RESERVE)
- Class #23 Final Exam
7-9 December Puntarenas, Costa Rica

FIELD COMPONENT

During the semester, students will have the opportunity to visit multiple sites in port countries. For this course, you are required to visit at least three approved sites, and to write about your experiences in your field journal. Site visits may include Faculty Directed or Independent practica. If you decide to do an independent practica, then you should meet with the Professor prior to arriving in the port country to discuss your approach and objectives. Journal entries about site visits should include critical observations, detailed discussion of the connections between site visits and the content of our course, analysis of the ways in which women articulate and engage feminist practices or ideas in various contexts, and reflection about the connections between feminist and other movements for social justice. Following each site visit, we will have an opportunity for in-class discussion about students’ observations and analyses.

SUGGESTED PRACTICA:

- BRAZIL: Family Planning (FDP)
 SOUTH AFRICA: Triangle Project (FDP)
 VIET NAM: Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation (FDP)
 HONG KONG: Women and Human Rights (FDP)
 CHINA: Family Planning Neighborhood Committee (FDP)

Suggestions for Independent Practica for this course:

- Attend a meeting of a local women’s and/or feminist organization. Are there specific issues related to sexuality that have been identified by local organizations as central issues?
- Visit a local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or same-sex organization or center, to learn what the local issues are for these communities. Is it easy to find local organizations or public meeting spaces, or are they more hidden and covert? Why do you think this is the case? Are there specific terms used by local activists to describe those involved in same-sex relationships?
- Visit a human rights organization to learn about women’s and men’s experiences of sexuality in the local context.
- Visit an organization working for reproductive health/justice in the local context.
- Visit a women’s center to learn about the strategies of community members working to end sexual violence against women. Are there specific services and resources for women facing sexual violence?
- Meet with local activists working to expose forms of wartime rape and/or militarized prostitution.
- Walk through a red-light district, to analyze how visible (or invisible) sex work is in the local context. (Please do this practica with at least one or two other students.)
- Visit an organization working on issues of sex industry, sex tourism, and/or sex trafficking.
- Research the constitution in a specific country to learn about laws related to gender discrimination, sexuality, violence against women, marriage, etc. What specific laws affect women’s and men’s sexuality? Are expressions of sexuality policed within this context? How are sexual minorities’

represented within the legal system?

•Analyze representations of sexuality within local media, including film and television, newspapers, magazines, billboards, and advertising.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Class Attendance and Participation	20%
Field Journal	15%
Collaborative Presentation	15%
Mid-Term Exam (Short Essays)	25%
Final Exam (Essay Format)	25%

Attendance and Participation (20%)

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings, and you are expected to be in class on time. Excessive lateness (more than two or three times) will lower your attendance grade. Students are also expected to actively participate in all class discussions. Reading assignments are listed next to the day during which they will be discussed, and all readings should be read and analyzed by that day. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss reading assignments with carefully thought out (and relevant) critical observations, comments, and/or questions. From time to time, you will also be asked to complete additional homework assignments or in-class assignments (including quizzes) about assigned readings.

Field Journal (15%)

Students are expected to write regularly in field journals, engaging themes in our readings, films, and discussions, and especially site visits. Journal entries should be more than simply descriptive. They should include critical observations and detailed discussion of the connections between site visits and the content of our course.

Presentation (15%)

Each student is required to participate in a group presentation. During the first week of our course, you will be asked to sign up for a particular presentation day. For your presentations, you are to engage reading assignments and prepare a response in which you discuss the authors' key points and the ways in which the themes of the articles relate to our course content. You may also include observations and analyses of site visits. Presentations should be approximately 20-30 minutes in length, and may include critical comments, comparison/contrast, facilitated discussions, and/or in-class exercises.

Mid-Term Exam (25%)

The mid-term exam will consist of short essays about the themes of the course up to mid-October. More details about the mid-term exam will be provided in class.

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will consist of short essays about the themes of the entire course, focusing on readings, films, and site visits discussed in class. More details about this exam will be provided in class.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the professor, and grades for late assignments will be lowered.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Evelyn Blackwood and Saskia Wieringa, editors

TITLE: *Female Desires: Same-Sex Relations and Transgender Practices Across Cultures*

PUBLISHER: Columbia University Press (New York)

ISBN #: 0-231-11261-0

DATE/EDITION: 1999/first edition

COST: \$11.95

AUTHOR: Kamala Kempadoo and Jo Doezema, editors

TITLE: *Global Sex Workers: Rights, Resistance, and Redefinition*

PUBLISHER: Routledge (New York)

ISBN #: 0-415-91829-4

DATE/EDITION: 1998/first edition

COST: \$39.85

AUTHOR: Elaine Salo and Pumla Dineo Gqola, issue editors
TITLE: *Feminist Africa*, special edition: "Subaltern Sexualities"
PUBLISHER: African Gender Institute, University of Capetown, South Africa
ISSN: 1726-4596
DATE/EDITION: 2006, Issue 6
COST: Free available online at <http://www.feministafrica.org/>

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Cynthia Enloe
TITLE: *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*
PUBLISHER: University of California Press
ISBN #: 0-520-22071-4
DATE/EDITION: 2000/first edition
COST: \$17.54

AUTHOR: Kamala Kempadoo with Jyoti Sanghera and Bandana Pattanaik, editors
TITLE: *Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered: New Perspectives on Migration, Sex Work, and Human Rights*
PUBLISHER: Paradigm Publishers (Boulder)
ISBN #: 1-59451-097-0
DATE/EDITION: 2005/first edition
COST: \$26.95

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *GLQ (Gay Lesbian Quarterly)*
VOLUME: Vol. 7, No. 4
DATE: 2001
PAGES: 663-679

AUTHOR: Carmen Barroso and Cristina Bruschini
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Building Politics from Personal Lives: Discussions on Sexuality Among Poor Women in Brazil"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, ed. Chandra Mohanty, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres
VOLUME: first edition
DATE: 1991
PAGES: 153-172

AUTHOR: Mandisa Mbali

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "AIDS Discourses and the South African State: Government Denialism and Post-Apartheid AIDS Policy-Making"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Transformation*

VOLUME: 54

DATE: 2004

PAGES: 104-122

AUTHOR: Linda Garber

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Where in the World Are the Lesbians?"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Journal of the History of Sexuality*

VOLUME: 14, Nos. 1-2

DATE: 2005

PAGES: 28-50

AUTHOR: Jigna Desai

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Homo on the Range: Mobile and Global Sexualities"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Social Text* 73

VOLUME: 20, No. 4

DATE: 2002

PAGES: 65-89

AUTHOR: Jinghao Zhou

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Chinese Prostitution: Consequences and Solutions in the Post-Mao Era"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *China: An International Journal*

VOLUME: 4, No. 2

DATE: 2006

PAGES: 238-262

AUTHOR: Kamala Kempadoo

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Women of Color and the Global Sex Trade: Transnational Feminist Perspectives"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*

VOLUME: vol. 1, no. 2

DATE: 2001

PAGES: 28-51

AUTHOR: Andrea Smith

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Beyond Pro-Choice Versus Pro-Life: Women of Color and Reproductive Justice"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *NWSA Journal (National Women's Studies Association)*

VOLUME: Vol. 17, No. 1

DATE: 2005

PAGES: 119-140

AUTHOR: Jane Desmond

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Picturing Hawai'i: The 'Ideal' Native and the Origins of Tourism, 1880-1915"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*

VOLUME: vol. 7, no. 2

DATE: 1999

PAGES: 459-501