

## **SOAN 246**

### **LGBTQA LIVES AND ISSUES**

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ST. OLAF COLLEGE, SPRING 2015

TUESDAY, 1:20-2:45 AND THURSDAY 2:15-3:35, HOLLAND 403

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#### **Instructor:**

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 3-4pm and Thursday, 4-5pm

#### **Teaching Assistant:**

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#### **Course Description**

This course explores the lives and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people and their allies in transnational and regional perspective. Drawing on a range of theoretical, historical, and ethnographic writings, we will investigate how LGBTQA identities and communities form in locally specific ways around existing ideologies of race, nationality, science, morality, and economic life. We will also examine how changing communication technologies constitute new LGBTQA publics and, at the same time, support new forms of scholarship by which we can describe, analyze, and reimagine LGBTQA social worlds.

This course fulfills the Studies in Human Behavior and Society General Education requirement.

#### **Course Objectives**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Describe the social and historical processes by which LGBTQA identities have been consolidated, contested, and remade over time.
- 2) Identify and critique the dominant spatial logics that underpin those identities, including Western/non-Western, urban/rural, and coastal/Midwestern.
- 3) Explain how communication technologies can both reflect and shape ideas about sexuality, and use this perspective to develop a critical command of a new digital tool.
- 4)
- 5)

## Required Texts

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1*

Gayatri Reddy, *With Respect to Sex*

Noelle Stout, *After Love*

Twin Cities GLBT Oral History Project, *Queer Twin Cities*

All other required readings will be posted on Moodle.

## Evaluation

- 30% Participation: your active, thoughtful contribution to class discussion and activities; completion of weekly reading responses, to be posted by midnight the day before class; the respect that you accord your classmates and our class as an intellectual community.
- 10% Demo Project Review: a 3-4 page paper critically evaluating one of the digital projects presented during the first two weeks of class.
- 10% Blog Post: an 800-1000 word post for the course blog, which might expand on a reading response, discuss an LGBT current event, or explore a topic not covered on the syllabus.
- 50% Final Project: an original piece of digital scholarship addressing some aspect of the queer Midwest, to be undertaken in a group of 5-6 students. Evaluation criteria for each project will be developed in consultation with the group's members.

## Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, the unacknowledged appropriation of another person's words or ideas, is a serious offense. All assignments for this course are subject to the college's Academic Integrity Policy. Each assignment will include details about the parameters for acceptable collaboration.

## Accommodations

I am committed to supporting the learning of all students in my class. If you have or think you have a disability for which academic accommodations may be required, please contact Student Accessibility Services at (507) 786-3288 or <http://wp.stolaf.edu/asc/sas>.

## Gender Identity and Expression

This course affirms people of all gender identities and expressions. If you prefer to be called by a name other than the one that appears on the class roster, please let me know. You can also feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronouns. Mine are *he*, *him*, and *his*.

## **February 10**

Introductions

Demo: Michelle Moravec, Unghosting Apparitional (Lesbian) Histories

## **February 12**

Gayle Rubin, Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality. In *Deviations: A Gayle Rubin Reader*, pp. 137-181.

Demo: Douchebags of Grindr

## **February 17**

Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan, Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality. *GLQ* 7(4): 663-679.

Kath Weston, Get Thee To A Big City: Sexual Imaginary and the Great Gay Migration. *GLQ* 2(3): 253-277.

Demo: Micha Cárdenas, Redshift and Portalmetal

## **February 19**

Martin Meeker, The Sexual Communication Network as an Agent of Change. In *Contacts Desired: Gay and Lesbian Communications and Community, 1940s-1970s*, pp. 1-29.

Kara Keeling, Queer OS. *Cinema Journal* 53(2): 152-157.

Assigned: Final Project

## **UNIT ONE: HISTORIES**

### **February 24**

*The History of Sexuality*, Parts 1-2

### **February 26**

*The History of Sexuality*, Parts 3-4

Activity: Phallometry Exercise

### **March 3**

*The History of Sexuality*, Chapter 5

Jasbir Puar and Amit Rai, Monster, Terrorist, Fag: The War on Terrorism and the Production of Docile Patriots. *Social Text* 20(3): 117-148.

### **March 5**

Jacob Gaboury, A Queer History of Computing, Parts 1-5. *Rhizome*, February-June 2013.

Alexander Galloway, Love of the Middle. In *Excommunication: Three Inquiries in Media and Mediation*, by Alexander Galloway, Eugene Thacker, and McKenzie Wark, pp. 25-76.

Guest Lecture: Jacob Gaboury

### **March 10**

George Chauncey, Introduction. In *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*, pp. 1-29.

Carl Wittman, Refugees from Amerika: A Gay Manifesto. In *Protest Nation: Words That Inspired A Century of American Radicalism*, edited by Timothy McCarthy and John McMillian, pp. 166-175.

Radicalesbians, The Woman-Identified Woman. In *Radical Feminism: A Documentary Reader*, edited by Barbara Crow, pp. 233-237.

George Chauncey, Why Marriage Became A Goal. In *Why Marriage: The History Shaping Today's Debate over Gay Equality*, pp. 87-136.

### **March 11, 7pm**

Screening: *The Normal Heart*

### **March 12**

*Queer Twin Cities*, Chapters 3 and 5

Scott Herring, Critical Rusticity. In *Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism*, pp. 63-97.

Due: Demo Project Review

## **UNIT TWO: IDENTITIES**

### **March 17**

*With Respect to Sex*, Chapters 1-2

David Valentine, "I Know What I Am": Gender, Sexuality, and Identity. In *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category*, pp. 105-137.

### **March 19**

*With Respect to Sex*, Chapters 3-5

Afsaneh Najmabadi, Verdicts of Science, Rulings of Faith. In *Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran*, pp. 163-201.

### **March 24**

*With Respect to Sex*, Chapters 6-7

Marlon Bailey, From Home to House: Ballroom Houses, Platonic Parents, and Overlapping Kinship. In *Butch Queens Up In Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom Culture in Detroit*, pp. 77-123.

### **March 26**

*With Respect to Sex*, Chapters 8-10

Tom Boellstorff, Dubbing Culture: Indonesian *Gay* and *Lesbi* Subjectivities and Ethnography in an Already Globalized World. *American Ethnologist* 30(2): 225-242.

Due: Final Project Proposal

### **March 31 and April 2**

Spring Break

## **April 7**

Audre Lorde, Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference. In *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*, pp. 114-123.

Allan Bérubé, How Gay Stays White, and What Kind of White It Stays. In *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History*, pp. 202-230.

Leslie McCall, The Complexity of Intersectionality. *Signs* 30(3): 1771-1800.

## **April 9**

*Queer Twin Cities*, Chapters 4 and 6

Kale Fajardo, Queering and Transing the Great Lakes: Filipino/a Tomboy Masculinities and Manhoods across Waters. *GLQ* 20(1-2): 115-140.

## **UNIT THREE: ECONOMIES**

## **April 14**

*After Love*, Introduction

Chris Hann, Caroline Humphrey, and Katherine Verdery, Introduction: Postsocialism as a Topic of Anthropological Investigation. In *Postsocialism: Ideals, Ideologies and Practices in Eurasia*, edited by Chris Hann, pp. 1-28.

## **April 16**

*After Love*, Chapters 1-2

Alaina Lemon, “Your Eyes Are Green Like Dollars”: Counterfeit Cash, National Substance, and Currency Apartheid in 1990s Russia. *Cultural Anthropology* 13(1): 22-55.

## **April 21**

*After Love*, Chapter 3-4

Michael Hardt, For Love or Money. *Cultural Anthropology* 26(4): 676-682.

## **April 23**

*After Love*, Chapter 5 and Conclusion

Alena Ledeneva, *Blat* as a Form of Exchange: Between Gift and Commodity. In *Russia's Economy of Favours*, pp. 139-174.

## **April 28**

Jasbir Puar, Homonationalism and Biopolitics. In *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*, pp. 1-35.

Joseph Massad, Re-Orienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World. *Public Culture* 14(2): 361-386.

Ryan Thoreson, LGBT Human Rights Advocacy and the Partnership Principle. In *Transnational GLBT Activism: Working for Sexual Rights Worldwide*, pp. 122-152.

## **April 30**

*Queer Twin Cities*, Chapter 9

John D'Emilio, Capitalism and Gay Identity. In *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality*, edited by Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson, pp. 100-116.

Lochlann Jain, Cancer Butch. *Cultural Anthropology* 22(4): 501-538.

Due: Blog Posts

## **May 5 and 7**

Final Project Presentations/Jury Crit

## **May 12**

Barry Adam, How Might We Create A Collectivity That We Would Want To Belong To? In *Gay Shame*, edited by David Halperin and Valerie Traub, pp. 301-311.

Closing Thoughts/Course Evaluation

Due: Final Project