

Fall 2012
16:920:572:01
W 4:10-6:50

Arlene Stein
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Office hours: W2-3:30 and by appt

SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES

This advanced seminar examines the emerging body of work in the fast-growing field of sexuality studies. While the course focuses on sociological research, it takes numerous side trips into other disciplines. We begin by exploring classical and contemporary theories. What is “sexuality” and how has it been studied? In the second part of the course we’ll focus on different methods sociologists have used to study sexuality, and the ethical questions they raise. In the final part of the course, we’ll examine a number of streams in contemporary work on sexuality, including families and life courses, race and globalization, and bodies and intimacies.

Students will acquire broad understanding of the major theoretical debates and areas of substantive concern within the subfield of sexualities. They will learn how social scientists have studied sexual desire, identities and behaviors, and how recent theoretical shifts have led researchers to reconceptualize their object of study. They will gain insight into the relationship between dominant and minority sexual formations, and the linkages among gender, race, class, and nation as they relate to sexual matters. And they will try their hand at an original research project!

The course will consist of lectures and discussions, and films and a guest speaker or two. Participation will be key, and students will be responsible for helping lead class discussions, with one or two people co-facilitating each session with me. Co-facilitators will email a brief analytic overview (2-3 pages) to all students two days before class. This statement should highlight the core themes and arguments, salient questions, and points of confusion/contradiction in the week’s readings.

Students will be assessed on the basis of written work and participation in the class discussions. Students taking the course for credit are expected to submit a paper (20-25 pages) by December 15. You must get my approval of your proposed topic by submitting a short written description no later than October 10, which I am happy to discuss with you in advance. Students will present their research in progress in class on October 24 and November 21, and do final presentations on their research on December 12.

This syllabus is subject to revision.

BOOKS

Sealing Cheng, *On the Move for Love: Migrant Entertainers and the US Military in South Korea*, Pennsylvania, 2010

Julia Ericksen, *Kiss and Tell: Surveying Sex in the Twentieth Century*, Harvard 1999

Ken Plummer, *Telling Sexual Stories*, Routledge 1995 (this is expensive! Kindle it, or I will copy)

Jeffrey Weeks, *The Languages of Sexuality*, Routledge 2011

Recommended, if you have no prior background on the subject: S. Seidman, *The Social Construction of Sexuality*, Norton 2003

**Additional readings listed on the syllabus will be available on Sakai.

September 5. INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

Key term: sexuality, social constructionism

Janice Irvine, "The Sociologist as Voyeur: Social Theory and Sexuality Research, 1910–1978," *Qualitative Sociology*, 2003

Peruse <http://www.crossingboundaries.org/storage/Color%20Denver%20Final%20LMC%2012.07.30.pdf>

I. THINKING SEX: CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY THEORIES

What is "sexuality"? What is the relationship between sexuality and "society"? What is the relationship between sexuality and gender? Looking at.

September 12. SEXOLOGY/PSYCHOANALYSIS

Key terms: sexology, psychoanalysis, desire, childhood sexuality

Ethel Spector Person, "A Psychoanalytic Approach" in J. Geer and W. O'Donoghue, *Theories of Human Sexuality*, 1987

Sigmund Freud, "Civilized Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness," 1908

Sigmund Freud, "The Sexual Aberrations," from *Three Essays*, 1914

Sigmund Freud, "The Passing of the Oedipus Complex," 1924

Jessica Benjamin, *The Bonds of Love*, 1988, excerpt

September 19. SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM I

Key terms: essentialism, sexual scripts, gender, heterosexuality, homosexuality, feminism

William Simon and John Gagnon and, "A Sexual Scripts Approach" in J. Geer and W. O'Donoghue, *Theories of Human Sexuality*, 1987

Carole Vance, "Social Construction Theory: Problems in the History of Sexuality" in D. Altman et al, *Homosexuality, Which Homosexuality?* 1989

Jonathan Ned Katz, "The Invention of Heterosexuality"

Catherine MacKinnon, "Sexuality" in J. Geer and W. O'Donoghue, *Theories of Human Sexuality*, 1987

Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex: Notes Toward a Radical Theory of Sexuality"

** September 26—no class

October 3. FOUCAULTIAN/QUEER THEORY

Key terms: queer, discourse

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Vol 1*, excerpt

Steven Epstein, "An Incitement to Discourse: Sociology and The History of Sexuality," *Sociological Forum*, 2003

Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner, "Sex in Public" in R. Corber and S. Vallochi, *Queer Studies: An Interdisciplinary Reader*, 2003

Judith Butler, "Critically Queer" in *Bodies that Matter*, 1993.

Judith Halberstam, *Female Masculinity*, excerpt

Lynne Layton, "Trauma, Gender Identity and Sexuality: Discourses of Fragmentation," *American Imago*, 1995.

October 10. SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM II

Keywords: sexual stories, intersectionality, habitus

Arlene Stein and Ken Plummer, "I Can't Think Straight: Queer Theory and the Missing Sexual Revolution in Sociology," *Sociological Theory*, 1994

Joshua Gamson and Dawne Moon, "The Sociology of Sexualities: Queer and Beyond," *Annu. Rev. Sociol.* 2004

Ken Plummer, *Telling Sexual Stories*, excerpt, 1995

Patricia Zavella, "Playing with Fire: The Gendered Construction of Chicana/Mexican Sexuality"

Adam Green, "The Social Organization of Desire," *Sociological Theory*, 2008

Part II: STUDYING SEX: METHODS AND ETHICS

How does one study sexuality? How should we think about research ethics?

October 17. LOOKING AT METHODS

Julia Ericksen, *Kiss and Tell: Surveying Sex in the Twentieth Century*, 1999, excerpts

Ken Plummer, *Telling Sexual Stories*, 1995, excerpts

** Oct 20, "Intersections"-- Black Queer Sexuality Studies Graduate Conference, Princeton University

October 24. RESEARCH ETHICS

Laud Humphreys, *Tearoom Trade*, excerpt

Peter Nardi, "The Breastplate of Righteousness: Twenty five Years After Laud Humphreys' Tearoom Trade," *Journal of Homosexuality*

Bolton, Ralph. "Mapping Terra Incognita: Sex Research for AIDS Prevention" in *Culture, Society and Sexuality* ed. Parker and Aggleton, 1999

Elizabeth Bernstein, "Appendix: Note on Methodology," in *Temporarily Yours*

Julia O'Connell Davidson and Derek Layder, *Methods: Sex and Madness*, 20-27, 125-147.
Arlene Stein, "Sex, Truths, and Audiotape," *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 2010.
Janice Irvine, "Can't Ask, Can't Tell: How IRBs Keep Sex in the Closet," *Contexts*, 2012
David Valentine, "Ethnography as an Activist Strategy," *Imagining Transgender*, 246-255

*** Discussion of research proposals*

Part III: STREAMS IN CONTEMPORARY SEXUALITY RESEARCH

A look at some recent sociological and interdisciplinary research. What are the cutting-edge debates?

October 31. CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LIFE CYCLES

Key words: families, same-sex marriage

Barrie Thorne and Zella Luria, "Sexuality and Gender in Children's Daily Worlds"

Eve Sedgwick, "How to Bring Your Kids Up Gay"

Mignon Moore, *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships and Motherhood Among Black Women*, 2011, excerpt

Judith Stacey and Tim Biblarz, "How Does the Gender of Parents Matter?"

Mark Regnerus, "How Different are the Adult Children of Parents Who Have Same-Sex Relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Survey"

Jason Torkelson, "A Queer Vision of Emerging Adulthood: Seeing Sexuality in the Transition to Adulthood"

November 7. TRANSNATIONAL/CROSS-RACIAL SEXUALITIES

(joint meeting with anthropology graduate seminar)

Joanne Nagel, "Sex Matters: Racing Sex and Sexing Race" in *Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality*, 2003.

Jafari Allen, *Venceremos: The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba*, 2011, excerpt

Sealing Cheng, *On the Move for Love: Migrant Entertainers and the US Military in South Korea*, excerpt

November 14. INTERLUDE

Comparing theories, reflecting upon the state of the field, thinking about our own research, presenting our work in progress

November 21. GLOBALIZATION/MILITARIZATION

Key terms: globalization, sex tourism, trafficking, prostitution

Sealing Cheng, *On the Move for Love: Migrant Entertainers and the US Military in South Korea*

*** Presentations of research in progress*

November 28. RETHINKING BODIES

Key terms: bodies, transgender, cybersex

Thomas Laqueur, "Orgasm, Generation, and the Politics of Reproductive Biology," 1986

Clare Maxwell and Peter Aggleton, "Bodies and Agentic Practices in Women's Sexual and Intimate Relations," 2012

Don Kulick, Introduction, *Travesti: Sex, Gender and Culture Among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes*, 1998

Alice Dreger and April M. Herndon, "Progress and Policies in the Intersex Rights Movement," *GLQ*, 2009

December 5. EMERGING INTIMACIES

Key terms: intimacy, individualization, relationality, moral panic, sexual citizenship

Anthony Giddens, *The Transformation of Intimacy*, excerpt, 1992

Judith Stacey, Introduction, *Unhitched*, 2011

Elizabeth Bernstein, "Sexual Commerce in Postindustrial Culture," in *Temporarily Yours*, 2007

Roger Lancaster, *Sex Panic and the Punitive State*, 2011, excerpt

December 12. RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

***Final papers due: December 15*