ANTH 180: Special Topics in Anthropology
“Queer Ethnography”

Fall 2013: Tue/Thurs 1:00-2:15
Moore Natural Science Building 215

Maura Finkelstein
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Office hours: 2:30-3:30 T/TH, Vera Long, 125
Or by appointment

This course engages in a broad reading of contemporary ethnographies of non-mainstream genders and sexualities, broadly defined as “queer.” Our emphasis will be on understanding anthropology's contribution to and relationship with gay and lesbian studies and queer theory. In doing so, the class will ground itself in several critical “classic” texts in order to trace a rough genealogy of “Queer Anthropology” as a sub-discipline. From there, we will be reading and talking about what constitutes queer ethnography and the history and future of an anthropology of gender and sexuality.

Classroom Etiquette:
Technology is not allowed in the classroom (laptops/cell phones/ipads/mp3’s). Notes can be taken in a notebook; you will not be tested on the details of the lecturers: I am less interested in fine detail and more interested in the big picture. Please come, listen and participate. If I see you using a cell phone while in class you will be asked to leave (this is out of respect to both me, as the instructor, and your peers, as participants. Checking Facebook is very distracting!). There will be no food allowed in the classroom (unless you bring enough to share). However, please feel free to bring a water bottle or other beverage of your choice.
Grading Policy:
All assignments are due at the start of class. Late assignments are not accepted. Plagiarism will be treated as a serious offense and will be penalized. All references must be fully cited. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, or unsure of how to cite your sources appropriately, please consult with me.

Class participation: 20%
Mid term assignment: 30%
Final project: 50%

In order to get full credit for classroom participation, you must come to class, contribute to the conversation, participate fully toward the final project, and COME SEE ME IN OFFICE HOURS AT LEAST ONCE before October 22nd.

Midterm and Final:
There will be a midterm assignment and a final project. We will discuss this further in class as the course progresses. You must turn in hard copies to me. Deadlines are listed on the syllabus: I will not accept late papers.

ADA Statement:
If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of the course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability related accommodations are necessary, it is important that you register with Office of Services for Students with Disabilities so that accommodations can be arranged for this course and your future courses here at Mills.

Services for Students with Disabilities:
Cowell Building, Room 111 Phone: 510.430.2264 Email: access@mills.edu
http://www.mills.edu/student_services/disability_services/index.php

Required Texts:
(These can likely be found at used bookstores and online used book sites (try Bookfinder.com, ABEbooks.com, and - if all else fails - Amazon for both cheaper options and used options)

Mother Camp: Female Impersonators in America by Esther Newton
Stone Butch Blues by Leslie Feinberg
Intersex (For Lack of a Better Word) by Thea Hillman

Optional, but suggested:
The History of Sexuality, Volume One: Michel Foucault

All other assigned chapters and articles will be available online as pdf’s on Blackboard.
Class Schedule:

Thursday, August 29th
Class Introduction

PART ONE: Developing a field

Week One:
Tuesday, September 3rd
Sigmund Freud, Three Essays (Part One)
Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality, Volume One (pp. 3-73)

Thursday, September 5th

Week Two:
Tuesday, September 10th

Thursday, September 12th

PART TWO: What is Ethnography?

Week Three:
Tuesday, September 17th- Thursday, September 19th
Esther Newton (1972) Mother camp: Female Impersonators in America
Film Screening - Paris is Burning (1990) 78 min

Week Four:
Tuesday, September 24th- Thursday, September 26th
Film Screening - Mind if I call you Sir? (2004)

Week Five:
Tuesday, October 1st

**Thursday, October 3\(^{rd}\)**

**Week Six:**
**Tuesday, October 8\(^{th}\)**

**Thursday, October 10\(^{th}\)**

**Week Seven:**
**Tuesday, October 15\(^{th}\)**

**Thursday, October 17\(^{th}\)**
Film Screening: - *All About My Mother* (1999)
Midterm assignment due

**PART THREE: What is a Queer Anthropology?**

**Week Eight:**
**Tuesday, October 22\(^{nd}\)**

**Thursday, October 24\(^{th}\)**

**Week Nine:**
**Tuesday, October 29\(^{th}\)**
Anne Fausto-Sterling (2000) *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality* (Chapter 3)
Katrina Karkazis (2008) *Fixing Sex: Intersex, Medical Authority, and Lived Experience.* (Introduction, Chapter 7)
*Final Project Brainstorming/Selection*

**Thursday, October 31\(^{st}\)**
Film screening - *XXY* (2007)
*Final Project Finalization*

**Week Ten:**
Tuesday, November 5th - Thursday, November 7th
*Watch - Trembling Before G-d* (2001)

**Week Eleven:**
Tuesday, November 12th - Thursday, November 14th
Rudolf Gaudio (2009) *Allah Made Us: Sexual Outlaws in an Islamic African City* (selections)

**Week Twelve:**
Tuesday, November 19th - Thursday, November 21st
In-class group meetings

**Week Thirteen:**
Tuesday, November 26th
Mary Gray (2009) *Out in the Country* (selections)
*Draft presentations*

Thursday, November 28th - Thanksgiving - NO CLASS

**Week Fourteen:**
Tuesday, December 3rd
Naisargi Dave (2011) “Indian and lesbian and what came next: Affect, commensuration, and queer emergences”
Jafari Allen (2012) “One way or another: Erotic subjectivity in Cuba”

Thursday, December 5th
Wrap up

Thursday, December 12th 2-4pm
*Final Project Presentations*