

The University of Texas at Austin – Department of Anthropology

Fall 2018

ANT 324L 45 and WGS 340 58 QUEER ETHNOGRAPHIES

| Unique | Day | Time | Location |
|---------------------------|-----|---------------|------------------|
| <u>31745 46113</u> | TTH | 11:00 - 12:30 | <u>SAC 4.118</u> |

Instructor: Sofian Merabet

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Office Hours in SAC 5.156: Thursday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description:

This upper-level undergraduate writing course deals with the anthropological analysis of queer gender and sexuality. Its aim is to critically evaluate formative concepts and theories that have been subject to recent debates within Anthropology, Gender Studies, and Queer Theory. Through the reading of a variety of ethnographies from Asia and the Americas, we will partly explore how terms like “women” and “men,” “femininity” and “masculinity,” as well as “homosexuality,” “heterosexuality,” “bisexuality,” and “transsexuality” structure people’s experiences, but also how local terminologies inform sexual identity formations around the globe. In this vein, the course focuses on local-level social and cultural processes that challenge a wide range of heteronormativities within a regional and global framework. The basic theme of the material for this course concerns the extent to which both realities and the ways in which they are perceived are socio-cultural constructs that are subject to constant change.

This course carries the **Writing Flag**. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the session and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to go to the **University Writing Center**, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers’ work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Because students fulfill three hours of their Core Communication requirement with a Writing Flag course, courses flagged for writing address the following new “core objectives”: **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. **Communication Skills:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Required Texts/Audio-Visuals: (in alphabetical order)

Books (ordered at the *University Co-op*, www.universitycoop.com, 2246 Guadalupe St, Austin, (512) 476-7211):

Allen, Jafari *¡Venceremos?: The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba*. Duke University Press, 2011.

Benedicto, Bobby *Under Bright Lights: Gay Manila and the Global Scene*. University of Minnesota Press, 2014.

Decena, Carlos Ulises *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire among Dominican Immigrant Men*. Duke University Press, 2011.

Howe, Cymene *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua*. Duke University Press, 2013.

Mitchell, Gregory, *Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil's Sexual Economy*. The University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Film Screenings/Audio:

- *Madame Satã*, Karim Aïnouz, 1h45.
- *Tales of the Waria*, New Day Films, 2011, 57 minutes.
- *Transgender youths in Nicaragua selling their bodies to survive*, DW audio segment, 2015, 7:02 minutes.

Course Requirements for Registered Students:

The class relies on the intellectual commitment and active participation of all students. It will be run primarily as general discussions with some lectures based on the assigned reading. In order for the course to be effective, all students must have the reading assignments completed and ready for in-depth discussion before each class. Regular attendance is required. *Mere attendance in class, however, does not constitute participation.* You must come to class having carefully read all materials and be prepared to discuss, question, and argue about issues raised in the readings. It will be beneficial for you to take excerpts/notes on any material that you find enlightening, controversial, or objectionable. You should also take notes in class on themes, key terms, and debates we discuss. These note-taking strategies will be crucial when you write your response papers. In short:

- Attend all classes.
- Do all assigned readings (while taking excerpts/notes!) by the date indicated on the syllabus and participate actively in class.
- Regular two 10-minute presentations (by two students, based on turn-taking) on the assigned readings. The presentations are intended to launch the general seminar discussions. These presentations can be brief summaries of the materials read and should end with one or two questions the presenters want the class to engage with during the session.
- Three Take-Home Exams to be handed in during class on **Tuesday, September 25th, Tuesday, October 23rd, and Tuesday, November 13th** [the assignment should be ***exactly*** 3 full pages of text (double-spaced/12 points/Times Roman)], plus one cover page indicating your name and the prompt question. The prompt will be posted on Canvas the Thursday before it is due and it will cover a theoretical question based on the assigned readings.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!

- One Three-page paper based on a joint/group project that is based on observation and deals with a topic focusing on queer life on and around the UT Austin campus to be handed in during the final week of the semester. The Project will be first discussed with and approved by the instructor. Groups will be constituted by an average of three individuals. There is *one joint paper for each group* and every member of the group will receive the same grade.
- 10-minute presentations on the respective final group project during the last week of the semester. Every group member needs to present on one aspect of the joint project.

The **three take-home exams** are designed to develop critical reading, analytical, and writing skills. Evaluation criteria include: critical and integrative analysis of texts, clarity of thought, ability to synthesize readings and class discussions into your own argument, and ability to formulate a theoretical grounding for it. **A visit to the University Writing Center in The Perry-Castaneda Library, 101 E 21st St #2.330 is *highly encouraged!* Students who consult with the Writing Center and have the instructor officially notified by email will earn additional 2 points on their respective papers.**

The Student Honor Code states: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING:

Anyone plagiarizing and/or cheating will first be given an "F" (Fail) and a report will be forwarded to the appropriate university authorities.

Notice regarding academic dishonesty (e.g. Plagiarism)

- Honor Code or statement of ethics.
 - **University of Texas Honor Code:** Each member of the university is expected to uphold The University of Texas Honor Code through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to “plagiarize” means

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own.
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source.
- to commit literary theft.
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own.
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules).

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your readers with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

- Web site for more information:
 - <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism>

Grading Procedure:

- Regular attendance/participation: 10%
- Regular individual presentations of the reading material: 10%
- 3 Take-Home Exams: 60% (20% each)
- Final Group Project (presentation and paper): 20%

Grading Distribution (Letter Grade: Points):

A: 100-95 A-: 94-90 B+: 89-87 B: 86-83 B-: 82-80 C+: 79-77 C: 76-73
C-: 72-70 D+: 69-67 D: 66-63 D-: 62-60 F: 59 and below.

Documented Disability Statement:

- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>. Students need to inform the instructor and the teaching assistant(s) about their disability right at the beginning of the semester.

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives.

Reading Schedule: (this schedule is tentative and subject to possible revision)

Week 1: Queer Ethnographies

- Thursday, August 30th Introduction and Orientation

Week 2:

- Tuesday, September 4th “Part I. ~~Leaving~~ Living in the Mental Island” in Decena, Carlos Ulises *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire among Dominican Immigrant Men*. Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 39-106.

- Thursday, September 6th “Part II. Body Languages” in Decena, Carlos Ulises *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire among Dominican Immigrant Men*. Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 107-171.

Week 3:

- Tuesday, September 11th “Part III. Colonial Zones” in Decena, Carlos Ulises *Tacit Subjects: Belonging and Same-Sex Desire among Dominican Immigrant Men*. Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 173-237.

- Thursday, September 13th **“Writing Research Papers” Class visit of a staff member of the Undergraduate Writing Center | FAC 211 | 1 University Station (G3000), Austin, TX 78712-3000 | Phone: 512.471.6222**

Week 4:

- Tuesday, September 18th "Introduction: The Struggle" in Howe, Cymene *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua*. Duke University Press, 2013, pp. 1-22.
- Thursday, September 20th "1. A History of Sexuality" in Howe, Cymene *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua*. Duke University Press, 2013, pp. 23-60.

Week 5:

- Tuesday, September 25th "2. Intimate Pedagogies" in Howe, Cymene *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua*. Duke University Press, 2013. pp. 61-91.
1st Take-Home Exam to be handed in!
- Thursday, September 27th "3. Pride and Prejudice" in Howe, Cymene *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua*. Duke University Press, 2013, pp. 92-127.
Audio Feature/Discussion: Transgender youths in Nicaragua selling their bodies to survive, DW audio segment, 7:02 minutes.

Week 6:

- Tuesday, October 2nd "4. Mediating Sexual Subjectivities" and "Conclusion: Getting the Word Out" in Howe, Cymene *Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua*. Duke University Press, 2013, pp. 128-171.
Visit of the Gender and Sexuality Center, Student Activity Center, Room 2.112 (2201 Speedway)
- Thursday, October 4th "Introduction: Invoking 'a larger freedom'" and "1. Looking (at) 'Afro-Cuba(n)'" in Allen, Jafari *¡Venceremos?: The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba*. Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 1-40.

Week 7:

- Tuesday, October 9th "2. Discursive Sleight of Hand: Race, Sex, Gender" in Allen, Jafari *¡Venceremos?: The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba*. Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 41-73.

- Thursday, October 11th “3. The Erotics and Politics of Self-making” in Allen, Jafari *¡Venceremos?: The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba*. Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 74-99.

Week 8:

- Tuesday, October 16th “4. De Cierta Manera... Hasta Cierto Punto (One Way or Another... Up to a Certain Point)” in Allen, Jafari *¡Venceremos?: The Erotics of Black Self-Making in Cuba*. Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 100-128.
- Thursday, October 18th **Film Screening/Discussion:** *Madame Satã*, Karim Ainouz, 1h45.

Week 9:

- Tuesday, October 23rd “1. Hustle and Flows: Commissioned Masculinities and Performative Labor” in Mitchell, Gregory, *Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil’s Sexual Economy*. The University of Chicago Press, 2015, pp. 30-56.
2nd Take-Home Exam to be handed in!
- Thursday, October 25th “2. Typecasting: Racialized Masculinity and the Romance of Resistance” in Mitchell, Gregory, *Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil’s Sexual Economy*. The University of Chicago Press, 2015. pp. 57-84

Week 10:

- Tuesday, October 30th **Visit of the Benson Latin American Collection in Sid Richardson Hall at 2300 Red River Street (class will meet at the Benson!)**
- Thursday, November 1st “3. TurboConsumers™ in Paradise: Sexual Tourism and Civil Rights” in Mitchell, Gregory, *Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil’s Sexual Economy*. The University of Chicago Press, 2015, pp. 85-118.

Week 11:

- Tuesday, November 6th “Prologue: City of Contradictions,” “Introduction: Making a Scene,” and “1. Automobility and the Gay Cityscape” in Benedicto, Bobby *Under Bright Lights: Gay Manila and the*

Global Scene. University of Minnesota Press, 2014, pp. vii-xx and 1-44.

- Thursday, November 8th "2. Elsewhere, Between Palawan and the Global City" in Benedicto, Bobby *Under Bright Lights: Gay Manila and the Global Scene*. University of Minnesota Press, 2014. pp. 45-72.

Week 12:

- Tuesday, November 13th "3. The Specter of *Kabaklaan*" in Benedicto, Bobby *Under Bright Lights: Gay Manila and the Global Scene*. University of Minnesota Press, 2014, pp. 73-91.

Visit of the Perry Castañeda Library (PCL 1.124)

Third Take-Home Exam due!

- Thursday, November 15th **Film Screening/Discussion:** *Tales of the Waria*, New Day Films, 2011, 57 minutes.

Week 13:

- Tuesday, November 20th AAA Meeting/Thanksgiving

- Thursday, November 22nd **Thanksgiving**

Week 14:

- Tuesday, November 27th "4. Transnational Transits and the Circuits of Privilege" in Benedicto, Bobby *Under Bright Lights: Gay Manila and the Global Scene*. University of Minnesota Press, 2014, pp. 93-111.

- Thursday, November 29th **Visit to the Blanton Museum | 200 E Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Austin, TX 78701 | (512) 471-7324 (class will meet at the Blanton!)**

Week 15: Student Group Presentations

- Tuesday, December 4th - Final Group Project Presentations

- Thursday, December 6th - Final Group Project Presentations

Paper version of the final Group Project due after class on Thursday, December 6th!