ANTH 418: Anthropology of Sexuality

Meets: Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:55 in Saunders 345
Instructor: Prof. Eirik Saethre
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Office: Saunders 306
Office Phone: 956-3995
Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30

Course Description
Beginning with nineteenth century notions of the ‘primitive’, this class charts the ways in which anthropologists have studied sexuality around the globe. Reading ethnographies from a wide range of locations, we will examine the intersection of sexuality with identity, race, gender, economy, and politics.

Course Objectives
This course will:
• Explore the historical and contemporary contributions anthropologists have made toward understanding human sexuality.
• Demonstrate that sexuality is a locus around which concepts of identity, race, gender, class, and personhood all radiate.
• Employ anthropological, feminist, queer, and postcolonial perspectives to formulate a critical analysis of sexuality.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:
• Use appropriate research tools to formulate a scholarly argument within the context of anthropology.
• Understand the ways in which beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors surrounding sex and sexuality are socially and culturally constructed.
• Think critically about the relationship between gender, sexuality, identity, and power.
• Draw from academic readings and anthropological perspectives to develop and improve writing skills.

Course Readings:
All readings for this class are posted as pdf documents in the ‘Resources’ folder on Laulima.
**Grading and Student Evaluation**

**Summary and Analysis (10% x 2) – Due on Monday Week 5 or 6 and Week 7 or 8**
Choose one reading (article or book chapter) from the week your paper is due. In *two pages*, summarize the author’s overall argument and demonstrate how the author supports this argument using details to illustrate your assertion. Your paper should have a clear introduction and conclusion. In an *additional two pages*, write an analysis of the week’s theme. Making reference to *all* other readings from the week, discuss the contributions that the author(s) makes in understanding the topic. For this exercise, you do not need to provide in text citations or a bibliography.

**Abstract and Preliminary Bibliography (10%) – Due October 19 (Week 9)**
In 200-300 words, concisely summarize your forthcoming research paper. Your abstract should (1) give a brief background to the topic of your paper, (2) the anthropological approach you are going to use, and (3) the data that will be marshaled to support your conclusions. Do not ask questions, give answers. Students must also submit a preliminary bibliography containing at least six citations. At least three of these must be anthropological (from anthropology journals or written by anthropologists). Please bold the anthropological citations.

**Research Paper (35%) – First Draft due November 9 (Week 12)**
**Final Draft due December 7 (Week 16)**
Papers should focus on a topic relevant to the course and be anthropological. Undergraduate student papers must be between nine to eleven pages long (not including the abstract and bibliography) and cite at least twelve academic sources. Graduate student papers must be between fourteen to sixteen pages long and site at least twenty academic sources. At least eight of these must be anthropological (from anthropology journals or written by anthropologists). Please bold the anthropological citations in your bibliography. Papers can incorporate a fieldwork component but are not required to do so.

**Class Participation and Peer Review (10%)**
Throughout the class, discussion is encouraged. Students that talk in class and answer questions will receive higher participation scores. In Week 13, students will be divided into groups to formally critique first drafts. Each student will be required to read the papers of other group members and provide written feedback.

**Final Exam (25%)**
The final exam will be held in our usual classroom. It will consist of essay questions and cover all material in the course, including readings and lectures.

**Grading Scale**

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Style and Formatting Guidelines
All student assignments for this course must follow the standards outlined in the document ‘Guidelines for Papers’, which is available on Laulima. Any paper not conforming to ALL of these guidelines will be penalized.

Late Papers
Unless otherwise stated, papers are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments (including first drafts) will lose ten percent for every day that elapses and will not receive comments from the instructor. On the sixth day, the student will receive a zero. Many students lose their work due to computer crashes and hard drive failures. As part of your Google@UH account, you can store your work online via Google Drive which provides a secure backup. Please make use of this service as I do not make exceptions for hardware malfunctions.

Classroom Policies
• Be on time. Turn off cell phones. No computers are allowed in class.
• All course handouts, readings, and assignments can be found on Laulima.
• Students are responsible for all course content, whether or not they are in class.
• You are responsible for knowing about, and avoiding, academic dishonesty.
• For more information about writing resources on campus and online, go to http://www.mwp.hawaii.edu/writer_help.htm.
Class Schedule

**Week 1 – Introducing an Anthropology of Sexuality**
8/22  Introduction to the class

**Week 2 – Inventing Sexuality**
  - Chapter 1: Objective
  - Chapter 2: Method
  - Chapter 3: Domain

**Week 3 – Colonialism and Sexuality**
9/5  No Class – Labor Day
  - Chapter 1: Colonial Studies and the History of Sexuality
  - Chapter 2: Placing Race in the History of Sexuality

**Week 4 – Primitive and Savage Sexuality**
  - Chapter 1: Three Images of Primitive Sexuality
  - Introduction
  - Chapter X: Love-Making and the Psychology of Erotic Life, Sections 11 & 12
  - Chapter 6: Malinowski as Reluctant Sexologist
Week 5 – Sexuality in the Pacific: Mead and Herdt


- Chapter VII: Formal Sexual Relations


Week 6 – African Transformations


- Chapter 1: African Sodomy in the Missionary Position
- Chapter 3: Neoliberalism and the Church


- Chapter 6: Finding the Balance
- Chapter 8: The Ancestors Don’t Mind

Week 7 – The Berdache Wars and Queering Indigeneity


- Chapter 2: Conversations on Berdache


Week 8 – Drag, Race, and Performativity in America
10/10 Film: Paris Is Burning (71 minutes)
   • Chapter 4: Gender Is Burning
   In class we will watch: Proletarian French Voguers

Week 9 – Economies of Sex
   • Chapter 4: ‘You, I Don’t Even Count You’
   • Chapter 5: ‘Eating Her Own Vagina’
   • Chapter 1: Hustle and Flows
   • Chapter 4: Godfather Gringos

ABSTRACT AND PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Week 10 – Japanese Host Clubs
10/24 Film: The Great Happiness Space (76 minutes)

Week 11 – Medicalizing Sexuality

**Week 12 – Queer Signifier, Heterosexual Signified**

- Chapter 3: Dude, You’re a Fag: Adolescent Male Homophobia
  In class we will watch: *South Park: The F Word*

- Chapter 4: The Love between ‘Beautiful Boys’ in Women’s Comics
  In class we will watch: *South Park: Tweek x Craig*

FIRST DRAFT DUE

**Week 13 – Critique Week**

11/14 Peer Review of Research Papers
11/16 Peer Review of Research Papers

**Week 14 – Transgender Identities in the Americas**

- Chapter 1: Imagining Transgender

- Chapter 2: Becoming a *Travesti*
- Chapter 5: *Travesti* Gendered Subjectivity

**Week 15 – Transgender Identities in Southeast Asia**

- Chapter 3: Gender Ambivalence in *Tom* and *Dee* Identities
- Chapter 5: Gender Dynamics between *Toms* and *Dees*: Subversion or Conformity?

- Chapter 2: *Warias*, National Transvestites

**Week 16 – Sex in the Field**


12/7 Class Review / FINAL DRAFT DUE

**Week 17 – Final Exam**