Global Sexualities
Dr. Oliver Ross

The purpose of this course is to explore the differences and congruences of discourses and embodiments of sexual identity and practice in various parts of the world, as represented in a number of key literary texts. In this series of seminars, we will be exploring issues such as biological essentialism versus social constructionism in sexuality studies, normative and non-normative heterosexualities, the putative 'invention' of homosexuality (according to theorists such as Michel Foucault) in 19th-century Europe, and the exponential globalisation of initially Euro-American sexual identities. For the first two weeks, we will be investigating Euro-American theorisations and literary representations of hetero- and homosexuality, while subsequent weeks will see us negotiating different aspects of what we might loosely call 'sexuality' and its representation in literature from other parts of the world. At the core of each seminar lie the primary texts, while required secondary reading, photocopies of which will be provided one week in advance, has been highlighted in bold. Finally, to complement the main course, there will be a number of film screenings (to be confirmed in our first seminar).

Week 1 - Heterosexualities in Euro-America

Primary Texts


Secondary Texts


Week 2 - Homosexualities and Queerness in Euro-America

Primary Texts


Secondary Texts

Halperin, David, “Is There a History of Sexuality?”, History and Theory, 28, 3 (1989), 257-274

Butler, Judith, Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity (London: Routledge, 1990)
Harris, W.C., Queer Externalities: Hazardous Encounters in American Culture (Albany: SUNY Press, 2009)
Puar, Jasbir K., Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times (Durham:
Week 3 - Non-Normative Sexual and Gender Identities and Practices in South Asia

Primary Texts


Secondary Texts


Bose, Brinda, and Suhabrata Bhattacharyya, eds., The Phobic and the Erotic: The Politics of Sexualities in Contemporary India (King’s Lynn: Seagull Books, 2007)


Vanita, Ruth, and Saleem Kidwai, Same Sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History (New York: Palgrave, 2000)


Vanita, Ruth, Love’s Rite: Same-Sex Marriage in India and the West (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005)
Week 4 - Being Queer or Tongzhi in China and Taiwan

Primary Texts

Fran Martin, ed., Angelwings: Contemporary Queer Fiction from Taiwan (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003)

Secondary Texts

Martin, Fran, "Introduction: Mobile Knowledges - Sexualities in Globalization", Situating Sexualities: Queer Representation in Taiwanese Fiction, Film and Public Culture (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2003), pp. 1-43

Ching, Yau, As Normal as Possible: Negotiating Sexuality in Hong Kong and China (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010)

Week 5 - Sex Work in Africa

Primary Texts

Duiker, K. Sello, The Quiet Violence of Dreams (Cape Town, Kwela Books, 2001)
Secondary Texts


**Week 6 - Sex, Gender and HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean and Latin America**

Primary Texts

Bellatín, Mario, *Beauty Salon (Salón de Belleza)*, trans. by Kurt Hollander (San Francisco: City Lights Books, 2009)


Secondary Texts

Kempadoo, Kamala, "Dying for Sex: HIV/AIDS and Other Dangers", in *Sex, Power and Taboo: Gender and HIV in the Caribbean and Beyond*, ed. by Dorothy Roberts et al. (Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers, 2009), pp. 3-32


