

# SEXUALITY STUDIES

## FALL 2020

**WGSS 230 – Politics of Reproduction**  
**Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15 p.m.**  
**Laura Briggs**

From the Black Panther Party and Young Lords in the 1970s to SisterSong and Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice in the 1990s to Ferguson and Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement in the present, communities of color and socialist feminists have fought for a comprehensive reproductive freedom platform--birth control and abortion to be sure, but also the right to raise wanted children that are safe, cherished, and educated. The names of these issues have included freedom from sterilization, high quality affordable day care, IVF, immigrant justice, social reproduction and wages for housework, welfare and neoliberalism, foreclosure and affordable housing.

**WGSS 290B – Introduction to Sexuality Studies: Movements for Justice in the Contemporary World**  
**Monday, Wednesday 11:15-12:05 p.m.**  
**Friday discussions 12:20 and 1:25**  
**Svati Shah**

This interdisciplinary course will help students to understand what the term "sexuality studies" means by providing a foundation in the key concepts, historical and social contexts, topics, and politics that inform the fields of sexuality studies; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies; and queer studies. Course instruction will be carried out through readings, lectures, films, and discussions, as well as individual and group assignments. Over the course of the semester, students will develop and use critical thinking skills to discern how "sexuality" becomes consolidated as a distinct category of analysis in the late nineteenth century, and what it means to speak about sexuality and transgender politics and categories today. Topics will include queer theories and politics, trans theories and politics, LGBTQ social movements within and outside of the US, relationships with feminist reproductive justice movements, heterosexuality, homophobia, and HIV/AIDS and health discourses. The range of materials covered will prioritize developing analyses that examine the interplay between sexuality and class, gender, race, ethnicity, and neoliberalism. (Gen. Ed. SB, DG)

**WGSS 290C – History of Sexuality and Race in the U.S.**  
**Online – Instructor TBD**  
**Section 1 – Tuesday, Thursday 11:30-12:45 p.m. – Kirsten Leng (multi-modal class)**  
**Section 2 – Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:45 p.m. – Derek Siegel**

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary feminist study of sexuality. Its primary goal is to provide a forum for students to consider the history of sexuality and race in the U.S. both in terms of theoretical frameworks within women's and gender studies, and in terms of a range of sites where those theoretical approaches become material, are negotiated, or are shifted. The course is a fully interdisciplinary innovation. It will emphasize the links rather than differences between theory and practice and between cultural, material, and historical approaches to the body,

gender, and sexuality. Throughout the course we will consider contemporary sexual politics "from the science of sex and sexuality to marriage debates" in light of histories of racial and sexual formations. (Gen. Ed. HS, DU)

**WGSS 392T - Reading Transgender**  
**Monday, Wednesday 4:00-5:15 p.m.**  
**Joy Hayward-Jansen**

From newspaper chronicles of nineteenth-century gender outlaws to the present-day explosion of transgender poetry, our personal, cultural, and political understandings of gender nonconformity in the United States have long been tied to particular modes of representation. Through sustained engagement with such creative work, as well as background reading in transgender history and theory, this course will explore the literary history of trans. Although we will pull material from across time and genre, we will focus on contemporary writers like Janet Mock and Joshua Jennifer Espinoza. Together, we will ask questions about authorship; the relationship between social conditions and representational strategies; the possibilities and limitations of different genres; and, ultimately, what makes literature "trans."

**WGSS 395J - Imagining Justice**  
**Tuesday 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Laura Ciolkowski**

*This course will be conducted inside the Hampshire County Jail and House of Corrections in Northampton and will enroll an equal number of students from UMass and students who are incarcerated in the facility. As a member of this course, you will be joining an international community of educators and students who are committed to dialogue and scholarly learning inside prisons and jails. Permission by Instructor is required for admission to this course. Please contact Linda Hillenbrand at [lindah@umass.edu](mailto:lindah@umass.edu) for an application.*

*Depending upon the status of Covid-19 in September, the format of this class may be adjusted or entry into the jail delayed to accommodate the needs of students both inside and outside the facility. However, regardless of all other factors, this course will run for UMass students in fall 2020.*

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the critical, aspirational, artistic, and creative forms that Justice takes in literature and the humanities more broadly. What sorts of ethical, social, and political questions are animated by writers and thinkers who seek to imagine and build a different world? What are the tangled roots of inequality and the legacies of sexual, racial, and economic injustice? How do writers, poets, artists, and "freedom dreamers," as Robin D.G. Kelley so memorably called them, labor to expose injustice and re-invent our universe? Ursula Le Guin has written, "We will not know our own injustice if we cannot imagine justice. We will not be free if we do not imagine freedom. We cannot demand that anyone try to attain justice and freedom who has not had a chance to imagine them as attainable." Taking Le Guin's focus on the radical imagination as a starting point, this course explores the relationship between literature, the arts, and a wide range of social justice projects. Topics will include: Afrofuturism; utopian and dystopian fiction; art and social justice; bioethics and literature; prison writing, poetry, and the literature of restorative and transformative justice; diaspora studies and literary and artistic representations of movement, forced migration and displacement.

**COMM 497QP - Queer Performance and Publics**  
**Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:45 p.m.**

## **Kimberlee Perez**

The culture and legislature of the United States shape discourses that produce the rights, recognitions, relations, in/mobilities, in/visibility, and mis/understandings of LGBTQIA persons and groups. In the context of history and from various social positions, these changes are read and enacted in multiple ways. This course considers the ways LGBTQIA persons and groups use performance, on the stage and in everyday life, as a form of communication, as communicative strategies that generate dialogue, resistance, and social action in order to more fully participate in mainstream publics as well as create counterpublics and queer world-making.

### **ECON 347 – Economics of LGBT Issues**

**Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:55 p.m.**

**Lee Badgett**

The economic, social, and legal position of LGBT people has changed very rapidly in the U.S. This course focuses on how policy change happened and whether and why LGBT people still face economic inequality. This course explores that position from the perspective of economics, politics, and policy, primarily in the U.S., but also in other regions of the world. Major questions addressed include: What was the role of the economy and political factors in shaping LGBT identities and social movements? What factors made the LGBT social movement successful? What are the remaining sources of legal inequality? What causes employment discrimination against LGBT people? Does the state of the economy affect anti-LGBT prejudice and political change? Are LGBT families different? Why and how? Do public policies reduce economic inequality for LGBT people? What kinds of economic inequalities do LGBT people still face? What has been the role of business in supporting LGBT equality? How do businesses gain from LGBT equality? How does economic development contribute to LGBT equality and vice versa in other parts of the world?

### **HISTORY 349H – Sex and Society**

**Monday, Wednesday 4:00-5:15 p.m.**

**Jennifer Heuer**

This honors course examines the social organization and cultural construction of gender and sexuality. We will look at how women and men experienced the dramatic changes that have affected Europe since 1789 and consider how much these developments were themselves influenced by ideas about masculinity and femininity. We will explore topics such as revolutionary definitions of citizenship; changing patterns of work and family life; fin-de-siecle links between crime, madness, and sexual perversion; the fascist cult of the body; battle grounds and home fronts during the world wars; gendered aspects of nationalism and European colonialism, and the sexual revolution of the post-war era.

### **HISTORY 397REH – Race, Sex, and Empire: Britain and India**

**Monday, Wednesday 4:00-5:15 p.m.**

**Priyanka Srivastava**

Imperialism cannot be understood merely as an economic-military-territorial system of control and exploitation. Cultural domination is integral to any sustained system of global exploitation. Focusing on cultural aspects of imperialism, this course explores the racial and sexual politics of British Empire in India from the late eighteenth to early twentieth century. Using a combination of primary and secondary sources as well as visual and literary material the course will examine how socially constructed racial and gendered hierarchies, and myths about the sexual practices of colonized people were linked to the pursuit and maintenance of imperial rule over India. Simultaneously, we will consider how the complex intersection of race, sexuality, and class influenced the political and social cultures of both Britain (the metropole) and India (the colony). We will analyze key scholarly perspectives on the following: forms of colonial knowledge, theories of Aryanism, colonial masculinities, regulation of sexual behavior and prostitution, and the varying roles of colonial institutions, medical practices, popular discourses, and cultural artifacts in producing racial and sexual stereotypes and in creating distinctions between the colonizers and the colonized.

**JAPANESE 391M/591M – Queer Japan in Literature and Culture**  
**Tuesday, Thursday 5:30-6:45 p.m.**  
**Stephen Miller**

See department for description.

**PSYCH 391ZZ – Psychology of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Experience**  
**Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:15-12:05**  
**John Bickford**

Students in this course will explore psychological theory and research pertaining to gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. Topics include sexual orientation, sexual identity development, stigma management, heterosexism & homonegativity, gender roles, same-sex relationships, LGB families, LGB diversity, and LGB mental health.

## **AMHERST COLLEGE**

**SWAG 263 – Trans Theories of Race**  
**Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:20 p.m.**  
**Stephen Dillon**

The slogan "black trans lives matter" has circulated widely in the last half-decade to describe the historical erasure and violence experienced by transgender people of color. What historical intersections between gender and race gave rise to this slogan? How can we think of race as inseparable for trans politics and transgender studies? This course examines the history of the political, economic, and epistemological connections between race and transgender politics. Focusing on the United States, we will examine how

normative conceptions of gender and sexuality emerged out of histories of settler-colonization, enslavement, racial science, and racist law. With a firm historical grounding, we will then explore contemporary issues such as immigrant detention, labor politics, bathroom bills, media representation, transgender rights and resistance, hormones, and much more. Students are expected to have some familiarity with theories and histories of race, gender, and sexuality. Students should also be prepared to engage a variety of written texts ranging from poetry, historical documents, and memoir to dense, difficult theoretical essays.

## **AMHERST COLLEGE**

### **SWAG 436/HIST 436 - Race, Gender, Sexuality in the Military**

**Tuesday 1:00-3:45 p.m.**

**Jen Manion**

This course introduces students to critical theories of difference in thinking and writing about the past. We will read major works that chart the history of the very concepts of race, gender, and sexuality. We will explore how these ideas were both advanced and contested by various groups over the years by reading primary sources such as newspaper articles, personal letters, court records, and organizational papers. Movements for women's rights, racial justice, and LGBTQ liberation have dramatically shaped these debates and their implications. In particular, feminist theory, critical race theory, and queer theory provide powerful arguments about how we formulate research questions, what constitutes a legitimate archive, and why writing history matters. Students will learn to identify and work with an archive to craft a major research paper in some aspect of U.S. history while engaging the relevant historic arguments about race, gender, and/or sexuality.

### **GNDST 241HP/ANTHR 216HP - Feminist Health Politics**

**Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:15 a.m.**

**Jacquelyne Luce**

Health is about bodies, selves and politics. We will explore a series of health topics from feminist perspectives. How do gender, sexuality, class, disability, and age influence the ways in which one perceives and experiences health and the access one has to health information and health care? Are heteronormativity, cissexism, or one's place of living related to one's health status or one's health risk? By paying close attention to the relationships between community-based narratives, activities of health networks and organizations and theory, we will develop a solid understanding of the historical, political and cultural specificities of health issues, practices, services and movements.

### **GNDST 333AN/ENGL 366/CST 349AN - Love, Sex, and Death in the Anthropocene, or Living Through the Age of Climate Disaster**

**Wednesday 1:30-4:20 p.m.**

**Katherine Singer**

The "Anthropocene" has been defined as the era when humans exert change on the earth's climate, but this term has become a dynamo for theories, political discussions, and art about man's anthropocentric relation to the nonhuman world. This course will read theories of the Anthropocene alongside artistic contemplations of the shifting, ethical relations among humans, animals, and other beings of the world. How are we to live, die, and reproduce ourselves in a time when we have egregiously affected the earth? How does the critique of anthropocentrism shift our understanding of sex, gender, race, and the nonhuman? Finally, how does art speak within political conversations of climate change?

**GNDST 333PG/ANTHR 316PG - Who's Involved?: Participatory Governance, Emerging Technologies and Feminism**  
**Monday 1:30-4:20 p.m.**  
**Jacquelyne Luce**

Deep brain stimulation, genome sequencing, regenerative medicine...Exploring practices of 'participatory governance' of emerging technologies, we will examine the formal and informal involvement of citizens, patients, health professionals, scientists and policy makers. What initiatives exist at local, national and transnational levels to foster science literacy? How do lived experiences of nationality, ability, class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality become visible and/or disappear within constructed frameworks of participatory governance? How can feminist ethnographic research and feminist theory contribute to a larger project of democratizing knowledge production and governance?

**GNDST 333QF - Monogamy: Queer Feminism and Critical Relationality**  
**Thursday 1:30-4:20 p.m.**  
**Angie Willey**

Grounded in queer, feminist, and decolonial concerns with social belonging, this class considers "monogamy" from a range of inter/disciplinary perspectives. From histories of marriage to sciences of mating to politics of polyamory, we will explore monogamy's meanings. Students will become familiar with debates about monogamy, a variety of critical approaches to reading and engaging them, and fields of resistance to a variety of "monogamy stories" within and beyond the academy. We will draw on critical engagements with the nuclear family and queer historicizations of sexuality, foregrounding the racial, national, and settler colonial formations that produce monogamy as we know it.

SMITH COLLEGE

**SWG 200 - The Queer 90s**  
**Monday, Wednesday 1:20-2:35 p.m.**  
**Jennifer DeClue**

In this course we will immerse ourselves in the 1990s, looking specifically at the emergences and points of contention that made the '90s a queer, radical, deeply contested decade. The Queer 90s examines the moment in lesbian and gay studies when the recuperation of the term "queer" emerged. By engaging with the readings and films assigned in this course students will gain an understanding of the AIDS crisis and the rage that mobilized ACT UP. Students will learn what the Culture Wars, Welfare Reform, and the conservative attacks against the National Endowment for the Arts have to do with one another. In order to grasp the charged feeling, the urgency, the upheaval of this era we will read foundational queer theoretical texts and analyze a selection of films from the movement known as New Queer Cinema.

**SWG 227 – Feminist and Queer Disability Studies**

**Monday, Wednesday 2:45-4:00 p.m.**

**Jina Boyong**

In the essay "A Burst of Light: Living with Cancer," writer-activist Audre Lorde forges pioneering connections between the work of social justice and the environmental, gendered, and healthcare inequities that circumscribe black and brown lives. Following Lorde's intervention, this course examines contemporary feminist/queer expressive culture, writing, and theory that centrally engages the category of dis/ability. It will familiarize students with feminist and queer scholarship that resists the medical pathologization of embodied difference; foreground dis/ability's intersections with questions of race, class, and nation; and ask what political and social liberation might look like when able-bodiedness is no longer privileged.

**SWG 267 – Queer Ecologies: Considering the Nature of Sexualized Identities**

**Tuesday, Thursday 1:20-2:35 p.m.**

**Evangeline Heiliger**

What is learned by reading *Queer Ecologies* alongside Octavia Butler's *Lilith's Brood*? What does *Over the Hedge* have to do with environmental racism (Hamilton)? In short, these texts ask us to consider what it means to have a racialized and sexualized identity shaped by relationships with environments. We will ask: How is nature gendered and sexualized? Why? How are analytics of power mobilized around, or in opposition to, nature? We will investigate the discursive and practical connections made between marginalized peoples and nature, and chart the knowledge gained by queering our conceptions of nature and the natural.

**SWG 288/FRN 288 – Immigration and Sexuality in France and Europe**

**Monday, Wednesday 1:20-2:35 p.m.**

**Mehammed Mack**

This course analyzes the politics of sexuality in immigration debates in France and Europe, from the 1920s to the present. Students examine both cultural productions and social science texts: memoirs, psychoanalytical literature, activist statements, sociological studies, films, fashion, performance art, music videos, and dance forms. France has historically been

the leading European host country for immigrants, a multiplicity of origins reflected in its current demographic make-up. Topics include: the hyper-sexualization of black, brown, and Muslim bodies, France as a Mediterranean culture, immigrant loneliness in Europe, intermarriage and demographic change, the veil and niqab, as well as sexual nationalism and homo-nationalism.

**MES 213 – Sex and Power in the Middle East**  
**Tuesday, Thursday 10:50-12:05 p.m.**  
**Susanna Ferguson**

This course invites students to explore how sexuality has been central to power and resistance in the Middle East. When and how have empires, colonial powers, and nation states tried to regulate intimacy, sex, love, and reproduction? How have sexual practices shaped social life, and how have perceptions of these practices changed over time? The course introduces theoretical tools for the history of sexuality and explores how contests over sexuality, reproduction, and the body shaped empires, colonial states, and nationalist projects. Finally, we examine contemporary debates about sexuality as a basis for political mobilization in the Middle East today.

**WLT 276 - #Metoo: Sex, Gender and Power Across Cultures**  
**Tuesday, Thursday 1:20-2:35 p.m.**  
**Sabina Knight**

When it comes to sex and gender, how do power dynamics promote or thwart freedom, belonging and love? As #MeToo and other movements challenge cultures of oppression, how do such struggles relate to the ecological, capitalist, and humanitarian crises that threaten life as we know it? Learning from feminisms and post-colonial theories, this course questions persistent structural binaries: mind/body, human/animal, man/woman, culture/nature. Drawing on art, literature, philosophy and journalism, we examine how social constructions of gender, class, race, and disability coalesce with material bodies, spaces, and conditions to form habits of subjectivity and patterns of life.

## **SUMMER 2020**

**WGSS 395G – Gender, Sexuality, Race and the Law: Critical Interventions**  
**Adina Giannelli**  
**Session 1**

Drawing on U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence, gender and sexuality studies, sociological literature, policy papers, documentary, and international law, we will examine the ways in which gender, sexuality, and race are constructed, contested, and regulated within legal, legislative, and juridical frameworks, across systems, spaces, and temporalities. Throughout this course, we will consider what the law is, what it does, how it operates to



uphold systems of power and oppression and how it can be deployed in the service of intervention. More relevant issues and problems within civil rights will be considered including: constitutional, family, and criminal law; the legal construction of race, gender, and sexuality; feminist approaches to the law of gender, sexuality, and race; the role of privacy, morality, and "rights" in the regulation of sexuality and the family; reproductive rights; adoption, bioethics, family formation, immigration, reproductive technologies, and violence; and finally, the relationship between legal intervention, critical race & feminist theory, activism, and praxis.