

Sex and Culture
ANT/PSY/SOC-210
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
The City University of New York

Instructor: Cihan Tekay

Section 04, Mondays and Wednesdays 10.50-12.05pm
Room: NB/1.115

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PLEASE READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY.

1. Introduction and Course Objectives

This course will explore the meanings of sex, gender and sexuality in various social contexts. Students will learn about the intersections of race, class and gender in a wide range of geographies including (but not limited to) the United States, Brazil, China, Turkey, Malaysia and Egypt. Throughout the course, we will try to understand the different ways in which people experience gender and sexuality. The key issues and topics of this course are: the social construction of gender and sexuality; gender inequality; intersexuality; globalization and women's labor; structural and symbolic violence.

This course is reading- and writing-intensive and requires active participation in class discussion. Students will learn critical thinking skills as well as developing proficiency in academic writing.

2. Assignments and Grading

	Percentage of Grade
Class Participation & Attendance	15%
(2x) Short Response Papers (1-2 pages each)	20%
1 Midterm Paper (4-5 pages)	30%
Final Paper (8-10 pages):	35%

Students must complete **all** assigned readings/course material on a particular topic **before** the first meeting of the week in which that topic is discussed.

All of the information on this syllabus will also be available on the Blackboard site of this course.

Class Participation:

Class participation involves actively listening to one another and contributing to discussions and raising relevant questions in class. Activities in class, and small group discussions also contribute to your

participation evaluation. **It is important that you do the readings for class beforehand so that you can actively contribute to discussions! It is also important that you attend all of the class sessions. Missing more than 2 classes will affect your participation grade negatively. Please remember that lateness disrupts the attention of everyone in the classroom, including your peers and myself.**

Response Papers:

You are required to write 2 short response papers (1-2 pages) on 2 pieces of reading or other material assigned for this class. You will choose the material you want to write your response paper on, so try to choose from the topics that interest you the most among those that we have covered. **Response Paper #1 is due Monday, September 30 in class . Response paper #2 is due Monday, November 18 in class. You can submit response papers on or before these deadlines.**

Here are some leading questions for your response papers:

- What do you find interesting, provocative, and/or problematic about the article/chapter?
- Do you have any questions or critiques on this article/chapter? What did you like about it?
- Did the article remind you of anything from your own life experiences?

Midterm Paper and Final Paper:

You are required to submit 1 Midterm (4-5 pages) and 1 Final Paper (8-10 pages) for this class. These are both take-home exams. The midterms are due in class on Monday, October 21. The finals are due by e-mail on the last day of finals.

Grading will follow John Jay's grading scale as indicated below:

- A 93.0 % and up
- A- 90.0 - 92.9 %
- B+ 87.1 – 89.9 %
- B 83.0 87.0 %
- B- 80.0 - 82.9 %
- C+ 77.1 - 79.9 %
- C 73.0 - 77.0 %
- C- 70.0 - 72.9 %
- D+ 67.1 - 69.9 %
- D 63.0 - 67.0 %
- D- 60.0 - 62.9 %
- F Below 60%

3. Required Readings and Materials

All of the required readings will be accessible online at the Blackboard site. There is no textbook for this class.

We will also be screening **films and videos** during class. If you happen to miss class on a day when we have a film screening, you will be responsible for watching the film or video either at the library or online. Please e-mail me if this happens and I will provide you with the necessary information.

Please complete all reading before class and bring the readings to class with you, as we will be going over the texts as we discuss them.

A note on classroom culture: We will at times be discussing sensitive issues that many people feel strongly about one way or another. Please keep your mind open and the discussion respectful – other people might have different views than your own about a certain issue or topic. I will not tolerate personal attacks, insults or offensive language in class.

Please turn off your mobile phones in class. If you are using computers or mobile devices for any other purposes than taking notes, you will be asked to leave the class.

Due dates and Late Assignments: Assignments are due in-class on the day they are assigned. Late assignments will result in deductions from your grade. Extensions will be granted in case of serious emergencies only. If you are falling behind in assignments, please see me earlier rather than later. I have weekly office hours as listed in the beginning of this syllabus.

Writing Assistance: This course demands relatively high writing skills. If you require help in this area please feel free to contact me or make an appointment at the John Jay Writing Center.

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/590.php>

Accessibility/disability: If you have a disability for which I can make an accommodation, please come speak with me. You should also contact the Office of Accessibility Services:

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/johnJay/johnJayDisability.asp>

Academic Integrity:

Academic Dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion . John Jay requires faculty members to report instances of academic dishonesty.

For more information on cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty please see:

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/762.php>

4. Course Schedule

Wednesday, August 28: Introduction

Monday, September 2 & Wednesday, September 4: No classes scheduled

Sex, Gender and Sexuality

Monday, September 9

Anne Fausto-Sterling, "Dueling Dualisms," in *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*, Basic Books. (2000) pp. 1-29

Wednesday, September 11

Emily Martin, "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science has Constructed a Romance based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles," in *Beyond the Body Proper: Reading the Anthropology of Material Life* (2007): 417-427.

Monday, September 16

Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic of Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex," in *Toward an Anthropology of Women*, Rayna R. Reiter, ed. (1975), pp. 157-210

Wednesday, September 18

Anne Fausto-Sterling, "Of Gender and Genitals: The Use and Abuse of the Modern Intersexual." In *Sexing the Body* by A. Fausto-Sterling (Basic Books, 2000): pp. 45-77.

Monday, September 23

Oyeronke Oyewumi. 1997. *The Invention of Women: Making African Sense of Western Gender Discourses*. Chapter 1: Visualizing the Body, pp.1-30

Wednesday, September 25

Blackwood, Evelyn "Native American Genders and Sexualities" in *Two-Spirit People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality* pp 284-306

Monday, September 30

Response Paper #1 due in class

Antonia Young. *Women Who Become Men: Albanian Sworn Virgins*. Chapter TBA

Structural Violence & Symbolic Violence

Wednesday, October 2

Paul Farmer. 2004 "On Suffering and Structural Violence" in *Violence in War and Peace: An Anthology*, eds. Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Philippe Bourgois. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Monday, October 7

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. *Death without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. University of California Press, 1992. Chapter 8: Pages 340-399

Wednesday, October 9

Pierre Bourdieu. 2004 "Gender and Symbolic Violence" in *Violence in War and Peace: An Anthology*, eds. Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Philippe Bourgois. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Monday, October 14: No class

Wednesday, October 16

Matthew Atencio, Becky Beal & Charlene Wilson (2009) "The distinction of risk: urban skateboarding, street habitus and the construction of hierarchical gender relations." *Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Pages 3–20.

Race, Gender and Sexuality

Monday, October 21

MIDTERMS DUE

In-class film: Paris is burning

Wednesday, October 23

bell hooks. 1996. "is paris burning?" chapter 20 in *Reel to Real: Race, Sex and Class at the Movies*, pp. 214-226

Monday, October 28

Patricia Hill Collins, 2004. "Why Black Sexual Politics?" in *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender and the New Racism*, pp. 25-52

Wednesday, October 30

Eugenia Kaw, 1993. "Medicalization of Racial Features: Asian-American Women and Cosmetic Surgery" in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Vol.7, No.1, pp. 74-89

Monday, November 4

Patricia Zavella, 1997. "Playing with Fire: The Gendered Construction of Chicano/Chicana Sexuality" in *The Gender/Sexuality Reader*, ed. Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo. pp. 392-408

Women and the Globalization of Production

Wednesday, November 6

Aihwa Ong, (1987, 2010) *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia*. SUNY Press. Pages 141-178

Monday, November 11: No class

Wednesday, November 13

Film Screening in Class: *Maquilapolis*

Monday, November 18

Response Paper #2 due in class

Pun Ngai. (2005) *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*. Duke University Press. Pages 165-187

Wednesday, November 20: No class, Professor traveling

Monday, November 25

Jenny White, Money Makes Us Relatives. Chapter TBA.

Wednesday, November 27: No class (John Jay classes follow Friday schedule)

Masculinities

Monday, December 2

Sinclair-Webb, Emma, 2000: '*Our Bülent is Now a Commado*': *Military Service and Manhood in Turkey*. In: Mai Ghousoub and Emma Sinclar-Webb (ed.): *Imagined Masculinities. Male Identity and Culture in the Modern Middle East*. London, 2000

Wednesday, December 4

'Circumcision, the first haircut and the Torah', in Mai Ghousoub and Emma Sinclar-Webb (ed.): *Imagined Masculinities. Male Identity and Culture in the Modern Middle East*. London, 2000

Power, resistance and agency

Monday, December 9

Lila Abu-Lughod, "The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power through Bedouin Women." *American Ethnologist* (1990) 17(1): pp. 41-55.

Wednesday, December 11

Saba Mahmood, "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival," *Cultural Anthropology* (2001) 16(2): 202-236