

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Winter Semester (January -May 2018)

School: School of Human Studies

Programme with title: Gender Studies

Semester to which offered: II

Course Title: Sexualities

Credits: 2 (Two)

Course Code (new):

Course Code (old): SHS202804

Type of Course: Compulsory

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory) X
4. Discipline (Elective) X
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team:

Email of course coordinator:

Pre-requisites:

**Aim:** Sexualities is itself an impossible word that is often used to encompass everything from sex acts to gender identity to forms of sociality and political organizing. Rather than offer a succinct authoritative claim regarding what sexualities are, we will discuss and debate theoretical, political, and creative mobilizations of sexual publics globally.

The course examines the ways that philosophers and intellectuals have grappled and engaged with debates regarding sexualities transnationally. Sexualities emphasizes the power relations that produce normative sexual ideologies and subsequently produce oppression.

We will look at innovative ways that dissident sexual subaltern counter-publics throughout the world cultivate spaces and discourses of resistance to the violence of heteronormative racist patriarchies. We will also be critical of the lure of binary understandings of subjectivity and politics that would divide people into easy categories in terms of both sexual identity and power.

Finally, the class asks one to question how the very ways in which one envisions and speaks of sexuality is deeply ideological. Rather than offering an exhaustive look at the entire fields of sexuality studies, queer theory, and feminist theory we will discuss selected writings and acts of sexual subalterns transnationally.

The class begins from the premise that essentialism is a construct that is rooted in colonial ideology. And yet, we will look at the forms of strategic essentialism that many create, using markers of sexuality as tools to form solidarities and subcultures.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Section I involves a theoretical exploration of Sexualities drawing on key theorists that will be studied, discussed and critiqued in regards to their relevance to contemporary India and transnationally.

Section II involves an exploration regarding the ways in which queer and feminist counter publics globally resist sexual oppression, heteronormativity and sexual norms enforced through implicit and explicit structures of disciplinary power.

Section 1:

In Theory: Hot Topics

January 10th

Time

Halberstam, J. In a Queer time and place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives. New York: NYU Press. Chapter 1

Oswin, Natalie. "The queer time of creative urbanism: family, futurity, and global city Singapore." *Environment and Planning A* 44.7 (2012): 1624-1640.

Dinshaw, Carolyn, et al. "Theorizing queer temporalities: A roundtable discussion." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 13.2 (2007): 177-195.

January 17

Sex

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality: Volume 1. Chapter One.*

Tambe, Ashwini, et al. "Colluding patriarchies: The colonial reform of sexual relations in India." (2000): 587-600.

Chanana, Karuna. "Hinduism and female sexuality: Social control and education of girls in India." *Sociological bulletin* 50.1 (2001): 37-63.

Phadke, Shilpa. "Feminist Mothering? Some Reflections on Sexuality and Risk from Urban India." *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 36.1 (2013): 92-106.

Agents of Ishq, "Birds Do It, Bees Do it". Podcast. <http://agentsofishq.com/birds-do-it-bees-do-it/>. 19 Aug. 2016. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

January 24

Bodies

Foucault, Michel. *The birth of biopolitics: lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-1979.* Springer, 2008. Chapter One.

Repo, Jemima. "The life function: The biopolitics of sexuality and race revisited." *Theory & Event* 16.3 (2013).

Gosine, Andil. "Sex for pleasure, rights to participation, and alternatives to AIDS: Placing sexual minorities and/or dissidents in development." (2005).

Gosine, Andil. "Non-white reproduction and same-sex eroticism: Queer acts against nature." *Queer ecologies: Sex, nature, politics, desire* (2010): 149-72.

Jones, Spence. "How Normal Is Natural? Towards a Deconstruction of Subaltern Sexual Universes and a Redefining of Sexual Activism in the Indian Context." (2014).

Butler, Judith. "I: Critically Queer." *glq* 1 (2000): 17-32.

January 31

Violence

Žižek, Slavoj. "Violence: Six sideways reflections." (2008). Introduction.

Jasbir Puar. *Terrorist Assemblages*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009.

Puar, Jasbir K., and Amit Rai. "Monster, terrorist, fag: The war on terrorism and the production of docile patriots." *Social text* 20.3 (2002): 117-148.

Butler, Judith. "Sexual politics, torture, and secular time." *The British journal of sociology* 59.1 (2008): 1-23.

Narrain, Arvind. "Violation of Bodily Integrity." *Economic & Political Weekly* 48.11 (2013): 17.

February 7

Racism

Haritaworn, Jin. "Queer Injuries: The Racial Politics of" Homophobic Hate Crime" in Germany." *Social Justice* 37.1 (119 (2010): 69-89.

Walcott, Rinaldo. "Reconstructing manhood; Or, the drag of Black masculinity." *small axe* 13.1 (2009): 75-89.

Smith, Andrea. "Heteropatriarchy and the three pillars of white supremacy: Rethinking women of color organizing." *Transformations: Feminist Pathways to Global Change* 264 (2015).

Jha, Sonora, and Mara Adelman. "Looking for love in all the white places: a study of skin color preferences on Indian matrimonial and mate-seeking websites." *Studies in South Asian Film & Media* 1.1 (2009): 65-83.

Gopal, Meena. "Caste, sexuality and labour: The troubled connection." *Current Sociology* 60.2 (2012): 222-238.

Han, Chong-suk. "They don't want to cruise your type: Gay men of color and the racial politics of exclusion." *Social Identities* 13.1 (2007): 51-67.

February 14—

Names

Bhan, Gautam. "Seeking Chaos: The Birth and Intentions of Queer Politics." *Sarai Reader* 6 (2006): 401-406.

Butler, Judith. "Against proper objects. Introduction." *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 6.2 (1994): 3.

Das, Veena, and Jacob Copeman. "Introduction. On Names in South Asia: Iteration,(Im) propriety and Dissimulation." *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal* 12 (2015).

Bhattacharya, Sutanuka. "A Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name: Exploring the Marginalized Status of Lesbians, Bisexual Women, and Trans-men in India." *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* 20.3 (2014): 105-120.

February 21

In class test/Writing Assignment

February 28

Money

Halberstam, Judith. *The queer art of failure*. Duke University Press, 2011.

Introduction.

Sears, Alan. "Queer anti-capitalism: What's left of lesbian and gay liberation?." *Science & Society* (2005): 92-112.

Orchard, Treena. "In this life: The impact of gender and tradition on sexuality and relationships for Devadasi sex workers in rural India." *Sexuality & Culture* 11.1 (2007): 3-27.

Friedland, Roger. "Money, sex, and god: The erotic logic of religious nationalism." *Sociological theory* 20.3 (2002): 381-425.

March 7

Space

Foucault, Michel, and Jay Miskowiec. "Of other spaces." *diacritics* 16.1 (1986): 22-27.

Berlant, Lauren, and Michael Warner. "Sex in public." *Critical inquiry* 24.2 (1998): 547-566.

Phadke, Shilpa. "Dangerous liaisons: Women and men: Risk and reputation in Mumbai." *Economic and Political Weekly* (2007): 1510-1518.

Phadke, Shilpa. "'You Can Be Lonely in a Crowd' The Production of Safety in Mumbai." *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* 12.1 (2005): 41-62.

McCready, Lance. "A Double Life: Black Queer Youth Coming of Age in Divided Cities." *The Educational Forum*. Vol. 79. No. 4. Routledge, 2015.

Lakkimsetti, Chaitanya. "'From Dance Bars to the Streets': Moral Dispossession and Eviction in Mumbai." *positions* 24.1 (2016): 205-230.

Tanvi Misra. "The Inequality of India's Queer Spaces." *City Lab*. Citlab.com, 2015. Web. 2 Nov. 2016

March 14

Film: TBA

Section II: After Hours: Resistance

March 21

Pride?

Khubchandani, Kareem. "Staging Transgender Solidarities at Bangalore's Queer Pride." *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 1.4 (2014): 517-522.

Ramberg, Lucinda. "Backward Futures and Past Forward: Queer Time, Sexual Politics, and Dalit Religiosity in South India." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 22.2 (2016): 223-248.

"Dear Sarvana Queer Men, Let's Talk about Casteism Within Our Movement." *The News Minute*. 16 July 2016. Web. 2 Nov. 2016.

Swarr, Amanda Lock, and Richa Nagar. "Dismantling assumptions: Interrogating 'lesbian' struggles for identity and survival in India and South Africa." *Signs* 29.2 (2004): 491-516.

Mitra, Rahul, and Vikram Doctor. "Passing in Corporate India: Problematizing Disclosure of Homosexuality at the Workplace." *Sexual Orientation and Transgender Issues in Organizations*. Springer International Publishing, 2016. 307-320.

Puar, Jasbir. "Citation and censorship: The politics of talking about the sexual politics of Israel." *Feminist Legal Studies* 19.2 (2011): 133-142.

March 28

Subculture

Muñoz, José Esteban. *Disidentifications: Queers of color and the performance of politics*. Vol. 2. U of Minnesota Press, 1999. Introduction

Halberstam, J. Jack. *Gaga feminism: Sex, gender, and the end of normal*. Vol. 7. Beacon Press, 2012. Introduction.

Halberstam, Jack. "Charming for the revolution: A Gaga Manifesto." *E-flux Journal* 44 (2013).

Ahmed, Sara. "Orientations: Toward a queer phenomenology." *GLQ: A journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 12.4 (2006): 543-574.

Narrain, Arvind. "The articulation of rights around sexuality and health: Subaltern queer cultures in India in the era of Hindutva." *Health and Human Rights* (2004): 142-164.

April 4

Music

Muñoz, José Esteban. *Disidentifications: Queers of color and the performance of politics*. Vol. 2. U of Minnesota Press, 1999. Chapter 1, 2

Halberstam, J. Jack. *Gaga feminism: Sex, gender, and the end of normal*. Vol. 7. Beacon Press, 2012. Introduction.

Shange, Savannah. "A king named Nicki: strategic queerness and the black femmecee." *Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory* 24.1 (2014): 29-45.

Pabón, Jessica N., and Shanté Paradigm Smalls. "Critical intimacies: hip hop as queer feminist pedagogy." *Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory* 24.1 (2014): 1-7.

Venkit, Varun Ramnarayan, Anand Sharad Godse, and Amruta Anand Godse. "Case study: the value of group drumming for women in sex work in Mumbai, India." *Oxford Textbook of Creative Arts, Health, and Wellbeing: International Perspectives on Practice, Policy and Research* (2015): 325.

April 11

Art

Muñoz, José Esteban. *Disidentifications: Queers of color and the performance of politics*. Vol. 2. U of Minnesota Press, 1999. Chapter 3,4.

Satpathy, Sumanyu. "Ethics of represeNtATION: media and the Indian queer." (2005).

Cullity, Jocelyn, and Prakash Younger. "Sex appeal and cultural liberty: A feminist inquiry into MTV India." *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 25.2 (2004): 96-122.

Moffatt, Ken. "Dancing without a Floor: The Artists Politic of Queer Club Space." Canadian Online Journal of Queer Studies in Education 2.1 (2006).

Final Assignment Due

April 18

Technology

Žižek, Slavoj. "Cyberspace, or the unbearable closure of being." *Endless night: cinema and psychoanalysis, parallel histories* 92 (1999).

Geist, Janina. "Queering Cyberspace in New Delhi—Negotiating Femininity, Masculinity and Thirdness."

Gosine, Andil. "8. Brown to Blonde at Gay. com: Passing White in Queer Cyberspace." *Queer online: media technology & sexuality* 40 (2007): 139.

April 25

Politics

Zizek, Slavoj. "The Sexual is Political." *The Salon Magazine*. Philosophicalsalon.com. 1 Aug 2016. Web. 2 Nov. 2016

Dave, Naisargi N. "Activism as ethical practice: Queer politics in contemporary India." *Cultural Dynamics* 23.1 (2011): 3-20.

Narrain, Arvind. "Rethinking Citizenship A Queer Journey." *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* 14.1 (2007): 61-71.

Gosine, Andil, and Gloria Wekker. "Politics and passion: A conversation with Gloria Wekker." (2013).

Garza, Alicia. "A herstory of the# blacklivesmatter movement." (2014)

## **References:**

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Gosine, Andil, and Gloria Wekker. "Politics and passion: A conversation with Gloria Wekker." (2013).

Garza, Alicia. "A herstory of the# blacklivesmatter movement." (2014)

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Attendance/Participation	Jan 10-April 25 2017	20%
2	Test	February 21, 2017	40%
3	Final Assignment	April 11, 2017	40%
4			

5			
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