

# QUEER ANTHROPOLOGY: ANTHROPOLOGY 252A COURSE CODE 60850 (SPRING 2017)

Tom Boellstorff | Professor, Department of Anthropology

Meets Fridays, noon–2:50am, SBSG 3320

Office Hours: see online signup (<http://tinyurl.com/9eff6uc>)

First Meeting: Friday, March 10, noon, SBSG 3320

NOTE: there are readings for the first day of class!

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will explore historical and contemporary scholarship that addresses the discursive construction of sexuality. The focus is on thinking through disciplinarity via an engagement with queer anthropology, but we will engage significantly with queer studies work in other disciplines (e.g., history, literary criticism), as well as ethnographic work in other disciplines (e.g., sociology). We will also examine how the discipline of anthropology has been constitutively shaped by engagements with questions of sexuality. Readings and course discussions will address questions of intersectionality and sexuality, including but not limited to activism, colonialism, disability, ethnicity, gender, globalization, labor, race, and religion. There is extensive attention to contexts both within and outside the United States.

The course is meant to be focused on reading and discussion, rather than writing. There is what appears to be a heavy reading load, but I will provide guidance on how to improve your ability to engage productively with large amounts of reading and the amount of writing you must do is reduced. Note: I will not allow any student to take an incomplete for this course under any circumstances. The seminar discussions will follow three basic guidelines:

*Generosity.* With a ten-week course there simply is not time for substandard texts. All readings selected for the syllabus are insightful and theoretically innovative. Critiquing aspects of the readings is fine, but if you find yourself rejecting an argument in toto, this indicates your reading is insufficiently generous.

*Provisionality.* You are allowed (indeed, encouraged) to think out loud, say something and then take it back, and generally speak in a provisional manner, knowing that those around you will be patient, supportive, and slow to take offense.

*Community.* Some individuals are quite comfortable speaking at length: this is desirable, but the instructor reserves the right to ask persons to wrap up their comments, or to solicit comments from persons who have not yet participated in any particular course meeting.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1) *Seven two-page précis*

The primary requirement of the course is that you do seven (7) précis, which we will share with each other. This means you can choose three weeks (including Week 1) in which you do not have to do a précis. Each précis should be 2,500–3,500 characters in length. This is approximately 400–500 words, or 1.5–2 double-spaced pages, but you will be assessed based on character count). Each précis should take the form of critical questions, commentary, and analysis about at least two of the required readings for that week. If there is a book assigned for a particular week, that book must be one of the two minimum required readings discussed. (If you meet the requirement of discussing two required readings, you may also discuss other required readings and/or suggested readings, but you will not receive full credit if you discuss only suggested readings, or one required reading and one suggested reading.) A précis can link the readings for a particular week to earlier course readings or readings from outside the course, but particularly the latter of these is discouraged. I discourage negative critiques; focus on generous engagement, linking the readings to our discussions. You should look briefly at all assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them, even if you do not write about a reading in your précis (or do not do a précis at all that week).

A précis must be uploaded onto the course's Google Forms website before the beginning of class. You may optionally also bring one or more hard copies to class. A précis can never be turned in late. If you do not attend class, or leave class early, any précis you submit that day will not be counted. Each précis counts for 10

percent of your overall grade, so the seven précis together constitute 70% of the overall grade. Please note that falling even one précis short will thus severely impact your grade. You will receive only partial credit for a précis that does not meet the minimum requirements discussed above; if you do an additional (eighth, ninth, or tenth) précis, the grade for that additional précis can replace an earlier précis with a lower grade.

## 2) *The final paper*

You must write a course paper, which will be 30% of your overall grade. It must be emailed by the deadline as a single Word document (not pdf) to tboellst@uci.edu. Due to the emphasis on reading and précis, the final paper is relatively short. It should be 4,000–5,000 words long, inclusive of title, endnotes, and references (I will use the word count function of Word to confirm this). The paper can be on any topic that relates to the course, so long as you obtain my approval and so long as you cite and draw upon course texts and discussions in an extensive manner. I encourage you to engage in some way with your own research interests. You must use either Chicago Style (used by the American Anthropological Association) or some other style you prefer (e.g., MLA style), so long as you are consistent. You must include full bibliographic references to course texts as they are used. You may bring in outside readings, but it is not necessary to do so and they should not overwhelm or substitute for course readings.

The course grade will thus be calculated as follows:

Seven précis times ten points per précis	= 70 points
Final paper	= 30 points
Total	= 100 points

You will then be assigned a letter grade as follows: A+ 96.7–100; A 93.4–96.6; A- 90–93.3; B+ 86.7–89.9; B 83.4–86.6; B- 80–83.3; C+ 76.7–79.9; C 73.4–76.6; C- 70–73.3; D 65–69.9; F 64.9 and below.

Students with disabilities: to quote from my colleague Karen Nakamura’s syllabus, “If you need a reasonable (or even unreasonable) accommodation, please let me know and I’ll make it happen. This goes triply for folks with non-visible disabilities or who pass or mask or compensate. No need to do that here.” The Disabilities

Services Center has many resources; registering with them can help ensure appropriate arrangements in all your courses (see <http://www.disability.uci.edu/>).

## COURSE TEXTS

The following books are available at the bookstore, online, or on reserve. I will explain how to access the other readings during the first course meeting.

Boellstorff, Tom. 2005. *The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Dave, Naisargi. 2012. *Queer Activism in India: A Story in the Anthropology of Ethics*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Foucault, Michel. 1978. *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction*. New York: Vintage Books.

Kulick, Don, and Jens Rydström. 2015. *Loneliness and Its Opposite: Sex, Disability, and the Ethics of Engagement*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Mitchell, Gregory. 2015. *Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil's Sexual Economy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Moore, Mignon. 2011. *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships, and Motherhood among Black Women*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Murray, David A. B. 2016. *Real Queer?: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Refugees in the Canadian Refugee Apparatus*. London: Rowman & Littlefield.

Ramberg, Lucinda. 2014. *Given to the Goddess: South Indian Devadasis and the Sexuality of Religion*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Stout, Noelle M. 2014. *After Love: Queer Intimacy and Erotic Economies in Post-Soviet Cuba*. Durham: Duke University Press.

## ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

- Aizura, Aren Z. 2010. "Feminine Transformations: Gender Reassignment Surgical Tourism in Thailand." *Medical Anthropology* 29 (4): 424–43.  
doi:10.1080/01459740.2010.501314.
- Allen, Jafari. 2016. "One View from a Deterritorialized Realm: How Black/Queer Renarrativizes Anthropological Analysis." *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (4): 617–26. doi:10.14506/ca31.4.10.
- Amar, Paul. 2011. "Turning the Gendered Politics of the Security State Inside Out? Charging the Police with Sexual Harassment in Egypt." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 13 (3): 299–328.  
doi:10.1080/14616742.2011.587364.
- Boellstorff, Tom. 2004. "Playing Back the Nation: *Waria*, Indonesian Transvestites." *Cultural Anthropology* 19(2): 159–95.  
doi:10.1525/can.2004.19.2.159.
- Boellstorff, Tom. 2004. "The Emergence of Political Homophobia in Indonesia: Masculinity and National Belonging." *Ethnos* 69 (4): 465–86.  
doi:10.1080/0014184042000302308.
- Boellstorff, Tom. 2007. "Queer Studies in the House of Anthropology." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 36: 1–19.  
doi:10.1146/annurev.anthro.36.081406.094421.
- Boellstorff, Tom. 2007. "When Marriage Falls: Queer Coincidences in Straight Time." *GLQ* 13 (2/3): 227–48. doi:10.1215/10642684-2006-032.
- Boellstorff, Tom. 2011. "But Do Not Identify As Gay: A Proleptic Genealogy of the MSM Category." *Cultural Anthropology* 26(2): 287–312.  
doi:10.1111/j.1548-1360.2011.01100.x.
- Butler, Judith. 1997. "Introduction" to *Bodies that Matter*. In *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*, edited by Roger Lancaster and Michaela di Leonardo, 531–42. New York: Routledge.

- Canaday, Margot. 2003. "Building a Straight State: Sexuality and Social Citizenship under the 1944 G.I. Bill." *Journal of American History* 90 (3): 935–57. doi:10.2307/3660882.
- Cohen, Cathy. 1997. "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics." *GLQ* 3 (4): 437–65. doi: 10.1215/10642684-3-4-437.
- Crenshaw, Kimberle. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43 (6): 1241–99.
- Hong, Grace. 2011. "Existentially Surplus: Women of Color Feminism and the New Crises of Capitalism." *GLQ* 18 (1): 87–106. doi:10.1215/10642684-1422152.
- Ferguson, Roderick. 2005. "Of Our Normative Strivings: African American Studies and the Histories of Sexuality." *Social Text* 23 (3–4): 85–100. doi: doi:10.1215/01642472-23-3-4\_84-85-85.
- Holland, Sharon. 2011. "The Beached Whale." *GLQ* 17 (1): 89–95. doi:10.1215/10642684-2010-019.
- Kafer, Alison. 2012. "Desire and Disgust: My Ambivalent Adventures in Devoteeism." In *Sex and Disability*, edited by Robert McRuer and Anna Mollow, 331–54. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Kulick, Don. 1997. "A Man in the House: The Boyfriends of Brazilian *Travesti* Prostitutes." *Social Text* 15 (3–4): 133–60.
- Kuntsman, Adi. 2008. "The Soldier and the Terrorist: Sexy Nationalism, Queer Violence." *Sexualities* 11 (1–2): 142–70. doi:10.1177/1363460707085468.

- Lewin, Ellen. 2016. "Who's Queer? What's Queer? Queer Anthropology through the Lens of Ethnography." *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (4): 598–606. doi:10.14506/ca31.4.08.
- Liddiard, Kirsty. 2014. "I Never Felt like She Was Just Doing It for the Money': Disabled Men's Intimate (Gendered) Realities of Purchasing Sexual Pleasure and Intimacy." *Sexualities* 17 (7): 837–55. doi:10.1177/1363460714531272.
- Manalansan, Martin. 2016. "Queer Anthropology: An Introduction." *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (4): 595–97. doi:10.14506/ca31.4.07.
- McRuer, Robert. 2006. "Contemporary Able-Bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Existence." In his *Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability*, 1–32. New York: NYU Press.
- Morgensen, Scott. 2016. "Encountering Indeterminacy: Colonial Contexts and Queer Imagining." *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (4): 607–16. doi:10.14506/ca31.4.09.
- Mowlabocus, Sharif, Justin Harbottle, and Charlie Witzel. 2013. "Porn Laid Bare: Gay Men, Pornography, and Bareback Sex." *Sexualities* 16 (5–6): 523–47. doi:10.1177/1363460713487370.
- Muñoz-Laboy, Miguel, Richard Parker, Ashley Perry, and Jonathan Garcia. 2013. "Alternative Frameworks for Examining Latino Male Bisexuality in the Urban Space: A Theoretical Commentary Based on Ethnographic Research in Rio de Janeiro and New York." *Sexualities* 16 (5–6): 501–22. doi:10.1177/1363460713487367.
- Newton, Esther. 1979. Selections from *Mother Camp: Female Impersonators in America*. University of Chicago Press.
- Ochoa, Marcia. 2008. "Perverse Citizenship: Divas, Marginality, and Participation in 'Loca-Lization'." *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* 36 (3-4): 146–69. doi:10.1353/wsq.0.0102.

- Rubin, Gayle. 2002. "Studying Sexual Subcultures: Excavating the Ethnography of Gay Communities in Urban North America." In *Out in Theory: The Emergence of Lesbian and Gay Anthropology*, edited by Ellen Lewin and William Leap, 17–68. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Rubin, Gayle. 1993 [1984]. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." In *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, edited by Henry Abelove, Michele Aina Barale, and David M. Halperin, 3–44. London: Routledge.
- Rubin, Gayle, & Judith Butler. 1994. "Sexual Traffic." *Differences* 6 (2/3): 62–99.
- Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. 1991. "Introduction: Axiomatic" In her *Epistemology of the Closet*, 1–66. London: Harvester/Wheatsheaf.
- Quesada, Uriel, Letitia Gomez, and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, editors. 2015. Selections from *Queer Brown Voices: Personal Narratives of Latina/o LGBT Activism*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Siebers, Tobin. 2012. "A Sexual Culture for Disabled People." In *Sex and Disability*, edited by Robert McRuer and Anna Mollow, 37–53. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Stryker, Susan. 2004. "Transgender Studies: Queer Theory's Evil Twin." *GLQ* 10 (2): 212–15. doi:10.1215/10642684-10-2-212.
- Valentine, David. 2012. "Sue E. Generous: Toward a Theory of Non-Transexuality." *Feminist Studies* 38 (1): 185–211.
- Weiss, Margot. 2016, "Always After: Desiring Queerness, Desiring Anthropology." *Cultural Anthropology* 31 (4): 627–38. doi:10.14506/ca31.4.11.
- Weston, Kath. 1993. "Lesbian/Gay Studies in the House of Anthropology." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 22: 339–67. doi:10.1146/annurev.an.22.100193.002011.



Wiegman, Robyn. 2012. "The Vertigo of Critique." In her *Object Lessons*, 301–43.  
Durham: Duke University Press.

Yanagisako, Sylvia and Carol Delaney. 1995. "Naturalizing Power." In their  
edited *Naturalizing Power: Essays in Feminist Cultural Analysis*, 1–22.  
London: Routledge.

# COURSE SCHEDULE

*week one, 1/10.*

- 1) Esther Newton, *Mother Camp* (Preface, Chapter 1, & Chapter 2).
- 2) Kath Weston, *Lesbian/Gay Studies in the House of Anthropology*.
- 3) Tom Boellstorff, *Queer Studies in the House of Anthropology*.
- 4) Gayle Rubin, *Studying Sexual Subcultures*.

*week two, 1/17.*

- 1) Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction*.
- 2) Roderick Ferguson, *Of Our Normative Strivings*.
- 3) Eve Sedgwick, *Introduction: Axiomatic*.
- 4) Judith Butler, *Bodies that Matter* (excerpt from Introduction).

*week three, 1/24.*

- 1) Tom Boellstorff, *The Gay Archipelago*.
- 2) Margot Canaday, *Building a Straight State*.
- 3) Sharon Holland, *The Beached Whale*.
- 4) Gayle Rubin, *Thinking Sex*.
- 5) Gayle Rubin with Judith Butler, *Sexual Traffic*.

*week four, 1/31.*

- 1) Mignon Moore, *Invisible Families*.
- 2) Cathy Cohen, *Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens*.
- 3) Kimberle Crenshaw, *Mapping the Margins*.
- 4) Sylvia Yanagisako and Carol Delaney, *Naturalizing Power*.
- 5) Robyn Wiegman, *The Vertigo of Critique*.

*week five, 2/7.*

- 1) Noelle Stout, *After Love*.
- 2) Jafari Allen, *One View from a Deterritorialized Realm*.
- 3) Martin Manalansan, *Queer Anthropology*.
- 4) Scott Morgensen, *Encountering Indeterminacy*.
- 5) Lewin, *Who's Queer? What's Queer?*
- 6) Weiss, Margot, *Always After*.

*week six, 2/18.*

- 1) Naisargi Dave, *Queer Activism in India*.
- 2) Paul Amar, Turning the Gendered Politics of the Security State Inside Out.
- 3) Tom Boellstorff, The Emergence of Political Homophobia in Indonesia.
- 4) Grace Hong, Women of Color Feminism and the New Crises of Capitalism.

*week seven, 2/21.*

- 1) Don Kulick and Jens Rydström, *Loneliness and Its Opposite*.
- 2) Robert McRuer, Contemporary Able-Bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Existence.
- 3) Tobin Siebers, A Sexual Culture for Disabled People.
- 4) Alison Kafer, Desire and Disgust.
- 5) Kirsty Liddiard, "I Never Felt like She Was Just Doing It for the Money."

*week eight, 2/28.*

- 1) Lucinda Ramberg, *Given to the Goddess*.
- 2) Tom Boellstorff, But Do Not Identify As Gay.
- 3) Tom Boellstorff, When Marriage Falls.
- 4) Adi Kuntsman, The Soldier and the Terrorist.
- 5) Miguel Muñoz-Laboy et al., Alternative Frameworks.

*week nine, 3/4.*

- 1) Gregory Mitchell, *Tourist Attractions*.
- 2) Aren Aizura, Feminine Transformations.
- 3) Tom Boellstorff, Playing Back the Nation.
- 4) Don Kulick, A Man in the House.
- 5) Susan Stryker, Transgender Studies.
- 6) David Valentine, Sue E. Generous.

*week ten, 3/14.*

- 1) David Murray, *Real Queer?*
- 2) U. Quesada, L. Gomez, & S. Vidal-Ortiz, *Queer Brown Voices* (selections).
- 3) Marcia Ochoa, Perverse Citizenship.
- 4) Sharif Mowlabocus, Justin Harbottle, and Charlie Witzel, Porn Laid Bare.

*Course paper due Friday 6/16, 5pm PST, emailed to me.*