

Women's Studies Program

Binghamton University
State University of New York

Fall 2011

A Letter from the Director

To the members of the Women's Studies community:

Throughout the semester the Women's Studies program has been engaged in a review of its curriculum and core mission. This is at times a laborious process but we believe the outcome of these efforts will better reflect national trends in the academic objectives of other similarly focused programs. Included in the kinds of changes under review is a change in our title from *Women's Studies* to *Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies*. Under this rubric students would be able to pursue a track that would allow them to concentrate in at least one area of relevant study which might include a LBGTQ as well as feminist component. Students and faculty interested in participating in this process should contact me as soon as possible so that you can be added to our mailing lists.

In addition, the Women's Studies Program was a recipient of an award from the Provost's Faculty Development Fund which in part is being used to support our effort to begin the process of developing a Research Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Sexuality. Faculty and graduate students from across campus including Classics, Psychology, Nursing, Anthropology, Evolutionary Studies, Human Development and Women's Studies are to be engaged in discussions that focus the study of sexuality as it is broadly defined. This upcoming Spring we are planning a series of workshops that will encourage dialogue on areas of sexuality studies which will culminate in a one day symposium early next Fall. All faculty and students are welcome to participate and anyone with program questions should contact Erin Gotthardt at egottha1@binghamton.edu

Finally, our students and faculty have continued to enrich our community through their efforts as scholars and as activists. Just one example of this is the effort led by the students in the Feminism and Activism course who organized a Slutwalk during the First Friday event in November. This event included over a hundred participants and gave a voice to a form of protest that started last Spring in Toronto and has become a worldwide phenomenon. Efforts such as these suggest the continuing strengths of our Program to bring together the university and community in realizing our common feminist objectives. We look forward to a productive year and hope to see you at our events.

Best regards,
Dara Silberstein

Inside this issue:

A letter from the director	1
What sort of research is going on in Women's Studies?	2-3
Spring 2012 Course Offerings	4-10
Slutwalk	11
The Interdisciplinary Research Group for the Study of Sexuality and Gender	12

What sort of research is going on in Women's Studies?

by Dr. Sean Massey and Dr. Ann Merriwether

What sort of research is going on in Women's Studies? A recent Provost Faculty Development Award was used to establish the Interdisciplinary Research Group for the Study of Sexuality. Working together under this umbrella, an interdisciplinary team of researchers, Drs. Sean Massey, Ann Merriwether, Justin Garcia, graduate student Ian MacDonald, as well as a team of committed undergraduate research assistants conducted a survey of casual sex among college students. This study explored differences in the likelihood to hook up and belief in a soul mate, personal motivations for engaging in short and long-term sexual relationships, and desired characteristics of hook up partners and soul mates. The study also looked at the potential relationship between hook ups and longer-term relationships, the relationship between the type of sexual relationships someone engages in and attachments style, social dominance orientation and the endorsement of traditional gender roles. Finally, the study explored the relationship between hooking up and experiences of sexual coercion.

Eight hundred thirty-seven students completed an online survey assessing personal sexual experience as well as ideal and unacceptable amounts of sexual experience in casual and long-term partners. Additional measures assessed attitudes toward gender role (Spence & Helmreich, 1972; Pleck, Sonenstein & Ku, 1993), social dominance (Sidanius & Pratto, 2001), attachment style (Hazan & Shaver, 1987) and coercion experiences (Koss & Oros, 1982; Shackelford & Goetz, 2004). Students also completed open-ended questions describing typical college student hook ups, ideal hook up partners and ideal soul mates.

The data are currently being analyzed. However, preliminary findings suggest that over 62% of participants reported engaging in hook ups and over 73% of participants also believe in the existence of a soul mate. In addition, participants with a more anxious attachment style were also more likely to hook up, have a higher number of sexual partners, be more likely to inquire about the sexual history of their partners, but also tolerated more sexual experiences in their partners. Gender was found to moderate this relationship.

Finally, over 30% of women in our sample had experienced some form of sexual coercion, with 13% reporting that a partner used physical force during an encounter. This last finding is particularly troubling, and will be a point of future exploration.

In addition to the hook up/ideal partner study, the group is also studying regional differences in personal disclosure and the construction

of self in online ads for casual sex, modern prejudice and judgments of same-sex parenting, changing definitions of hook ups and casual sex, and the relationship between hook ups and popular culture. A future study will also explore the relationship between anti-gay prejudice, sexual attitudes and reactions to public displays of affection.

Dr. Sean Massey is the research associate professor for the Women's Studies Program.

Dr. Ann Merriwether is a lecturer in the psychology department and the human development department.

Both Dr. Massey and Dr. Merriwether are faculty members of the Interdisciplinary Research Group for the Study of Sexuality and Gender. (See page 12).

Spring 2012 Course Offerings

Intro to Women's Studies

Women's Studies in the United States has a relatively short history compared to other disciplines. It emerged in the 1960's in response to overwhelming evidence that women's lives and works had been excluded from virtually every area of study. Today, women's studies includes many theoretical and critical frameworks that situate women in these other contexts. The purpose of this course will be to examine the ways in which women are situated within historical, political, and economic contexts. Through the interdisciplinarity of women's studies we will foster critical analyses of how interlocking systems of colonialism, racism, sexism, "classism," ethnocentrism and heterosexism shape women's lives.

MWF 10:50-11:50am

Dara J. Silberstein

Policy Debate

This class will teach you how to form arguments, different styles of argumentation, how to speak in public, and about U.S.-Sino international relations in the areas of trade, human rights, weapons non-proliferation and Taiwan. You will also learn how to debate abiding to the Cross-Examination Debate Association and the National Debate Tournament's rules. Ultimately, the course allows students to compete two to a team against each other, proposing what the United States federal government should do in response to a given topic area. Traditionally, it requires teams to think of and research policy proposals, causing an in-depth knowledge of issues surrounding any given situation. In recent years, more alternative approaches have been taken by some debaters that call for individual, not governmental, action to solve problems. Prior knowledge of U.S.-Sino relations or philosophy is helpful but not needed since the course will provide all background information necessary to debate.

Lecture A0 T 6:00-9:00pm

Joseph Leeson-Schatz

Discussion: W 5:50-8:50pm

Lecture B1 W 6:00-9:00pm

Jennifer F. Sweeney

Discussion: T 6:00-9:00pm

U.S. Women Since 1874

This course will introduce you to the field of U.S. women's history, a field important in its own right, but one that has also transformed the entire discipline of history. It has done this not just by bringing women into the picture but also by changing the types of information and questions that we consider significant. So, in addition to helping you

learn about women's varied pasts, this course will also deepen your understanding of history as a mode of inquiry and a way of constructing knowledge even as it provides you with new perspectives on women today. Possible course texts include: Joan Brumberg, *The Body Project*; Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*; Sara Evans, *Born for Liberty*, and Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*.

Lecture A0 TR 10:05-11:05am Leigh A. Wheeler

Discussion: F 12:00-1:00pm; F 1:10-2:10pm

Introduction to LGBTQ History

This course surveys the origins of and major developments in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movements across the last century. Informing the course will be the ways that different epistemological frameworks concerning human sexuality and gender have influenced the political strategies that have guided these social movements, how they have influenced the meaning and significance of the concept "sexual identity", and how this concept can only be understood at its intersection with other identities. Special focus will be given to how major events throughout the 20th century informed the LGBTQ rights movements and the formation of LGBTQ communities and identities. These events include, but are not limited to, two World Wars, post WWII and the civil rights era, the Stonewall Riots, the AIDS epidemic, various shifts in scientific and mental health approaches to the study of sexuality, and the more recent civil rights gains such as overturning sodomy laws and the successes of the marriage equality movement.

TR 2:50-4:15pm

Sean G. Massey

Women in Holocaust Films

Representations of Women in Holocaust Films This course is an examination of the cinematic representations of women in the Holocaust. Students will be introduced to feminist methodologies that draw on historical and sociological knowledge as tools with which to analyze major film directors' aesthetic approaches to memorialization.

W 3:30-6:30pm

Ingeborg Majer-Osickey

Human Rights in Latin America

This course will focus on the dramatic post cold-war transformation of human rights as a focus of social struggle in The Americas and the effect the "War on Terror" has had in rolling back human rights gains. Governments in The Americas have seized on the threat of terror, both real and manufactured, as a pretext to repress political opponents, many of whom are non-violent, legitimate political actors. Media attention to human rights crises from has been either missing or distorted. Since the Universal Declaration, Human Rights have been defined to encompass political and civil rights (such as freedoms of speech, assembly and movement) as well as economic and social rights (such as the rights to education, employment and a decent salary). In this course, we explore these questions through

Spring 2012 Course Offerings

an examination of well-known human rights struggles in Colombia, Chile, Argentina, El Salvador and the U.S. We will examine the contradictions between the Human Rights standards governments demand of other countries and their own practices at home and abroad. We will also learn about the historical development of human rights concepts, standards and institutions, drawing on the multidisciplinary literature in this field with an emphasis in Sociology and Political Science. A final and central focus of the course will center on resistance to violations of human rights by social movements in The Americas. These will include the School of the Americas Watch, the struggle for human rights in El Salvador, a comparative look at the movements for memory and justice in Chile and Argentina, and the landless workers movement of Brazil.

MW 5:15-6:40pm Maria T. Almendros

African Women & Feminism

An interdisciplinary approach to issues of importance to African women drawing extensively from a range of theoretical writings, literary and/or filmic works to study the political, social and economic roles of women. Paying close attention to culture, it examines the impact of colonialism, nationalism, dictatorship and military rule on women's autonomy, agency and rights within and outside the family. Readings are drawn from the writings of prominent African women theorists: Steady, Obbo, Ogundipe-Leslie, Ekejiuba, El Sadaawi, Pala, Amadiume, Aidoo, Mernissi, Nzegwu, Oyewumi, Mama, Imam, Tamale, Ampofo, and others. Prerequisite: Student must have taken an introductory Africana course.

W 3:30-6:30pm

Nkiru Nzegwu

Exploring Queer Lives

The lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and others marginalized because of their sexuality and gender expression will be explored through the reading and discussion of theory, empirical research, activist projects, and practice scenarios. Central to this course will be the principle that an adequate understanding of our own and others' experience of sexuality and gender expression can only be obtained at their intersection with other identities such as race, social class, ethnicity, and disability. This course takes a multi-level approach, exploring these issues within their individual, social and structural contexts. Goals are to recognize and describe (a) the major research questions and findings currently being explored related to sexuality and gender expression; (b) the way in which we come to understand about

how sexuality and gender expression affect or should affect our practice in social sciences and (c) the way that minoritizing as well as more universalizing views of sexual injustice differently shape the goals of researchers, activists and practitioners.

TR 10:05-11:30am

Sean G. Massey

The Sociology of Reproduction

Definitions of womanhood and motherhood; housework; reproductive freedom and reproductive inequalities; the role of the state in reproductive policy; the actions of medical institutions vis vis reproduction; welfare policy and childcare; focus chiefly on the U.S., but also looks at these issues cross-culturally, cross-nationally and in historical perspective; emphasis on engaging the socially constructed meaning of reproduction. No prerequisites required.

TR 4:25-5:50pm

Benita Roth

Heroine/ Goddess/ Whore: Greco-Rom

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the archetypes of women as portrayed in Greek and Roman texts. We will explore the representations of women in Classical literature and art and analyze the myriad characterizations and depictions of Woman. From these readings we will discuss antiquity's views on the role, function and value of women in society. Furthermore, these readings will provide insight into issues of gender and sexuality within the ancient world. Using these observations of the texts, students will develop key critical and scholarly skills to craft an analytical essay with a clear thesis, focus, and structure. Course Goals and Objectives: To provide an understanding of the complexities of the depiction of women/female figures in Greek and Roman mythology and literature To cultivate and sharpen critical and analytical skills to enhance writing and composition skills. You will not be required to purchase any materials for this course. All texts will be available online either on Blackboard under "Course Documents" or via an online link.

Distance Learning

Michelle C. Jansen

Muslims Jews Christian Islam

Andalusian society was formed by a fruitful mixture of different elements: Muslims, Jews and Christians; Arabs, Berbers, and indigenous Spaniards who developed a civilization in Spain and the Maghrib which was different in some ways from what existed in the Arab East. From the eighth century until about 1200 Muslim Spain Al Andalus was the most civilized and materially advanced area of Western Europe. Ethnic and religious minorities such as Muwallads, Mozarabes enjoyed a high degree of tolerance and, like the Jews, formed prosperous and erudite communities in the cities. When the world spoke Arabic Cordoba was the most splendid city on the continent with magnificent buildings and a material prosperity unequaled elsewhere. The Moorish culture in Spain reached its zenith under the auspices of Arab-Islamic rule that guaranteed diversity with a stable political situation allowing an unprecedented opulence. These and other circumstances engendered the efflorescence

Spring 2012 Course Offerings

of Adab high literature, audacious philosophical treatises, Fann art, erudition and a refined living in Andalusia. This course will examine the culture and civilization of Islamic Spain and the contribution of each of the ethnicities and followers of each religion to its greatness. Format: Two one hour and twenty five minute class meetings. Regular attendance and oral presentations. Grading based on in-class performance and participation, on papers (response and term papers). There is a requirement of slightly more pages for those taking the course to fulfill a writing requirement. Prerequisites: None

TR 10:05-11:30am

Moulay A. Bouanani

Film Theory

This class provides a thorough introduction to the study of film with a focus on developing theoretical skills and critical approaches to writing about film. Equal attention paid to the classic texts of early and contemporary film theory and to the theoretical issues raised in each. Through readings and screenings of a broad range of films, this course serves as a brief survey of film theory's own history, as it has emerged alongside the history of film. Screenings include films by Eisenstein, Rossellini, Godard, Hitchcock, Ford and others. Books: Readings include essays by Benjamin, Balazs, Bazin, Eisenstein, Vertov, Baudry, Metz, Mulvey, Deleuze, and others. Prerequisite: CINE 121

TR 2:50-4:50pm

Joyce E. Jesionowski

Feminist & Diasporic Perf. Art

From spoken word poetry to multimedia installations to riffs on history and politics, contemporary performance artists represent interactive linkages of ethnicity, aesthetics, culture studies, and theory. Performance art, at once conceptual and creative, transforms the community, corporal, and memorial repertoires that it enacts into sites that mediate generations and cosmic worlds. An aesthetics that displaces the ethnographic privilege of Western interpretation concerning time, place, observer and observed is developed by a multitude of African-, Asian-, Euro-, and Latino-American performance artists, especially with reference to themes of diaspora and immigration and perspectives on race, gender, class, sexuality. We will study the logics of representation and the poetics of relationship that can be created by the interactive performance event that opens possibilities for understanding aesthetics in post-colonial and transcultural contexts. Course work may be in essay form or, if a student wishes, may include performance, creative writing, installation, film, sound, or multimedia. Requirements: Two classes in

Philosophy Texts With the exception of items which are on library shelf reserve, all course materials are available electronically Requirements Class participation 10% Midterm 30% Portfolio 20% Final project 30% Small group presentation 10% Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00, and by appointment. Library tower, LT 1304. jeffn@binghamton.edu Attendance Policy: All work and assignments must be made up in a timely manner, if a class is missed. Students may miss one class. If it is necessary to miss more than one class, please email or speak with me in advance. Academic honesty: All work in the course must be the student's own ideas, research, and writing. Any work used, written or visual, must be credited. Use of material without credit will result in an F for the course. Student learning outcomes: Students are expected to gain a better understanding of contemporary feminist and diasporic performance art, including issues of methodologies, embodiment, cultural pluralism, and aesthetics.

M 8:30-11:30am

Jeffner M. Allen

Holistic Health Practice

Concepts of holistic health, holistic health nursing and practice. Focus on investigation of non-traditional alternative health practices. Topics include nutrition and vitamin therapy, therapeutic touch, relaxation techniques, massage, hypnosis, herbology, meditation, chiropractics and alternative birthing. For juniors and seniors. Format may vary by sections: Lecture, discussion, demonstrations and practice, guest presenters, student-led group presentations. Prerequisites: Upper-division course; junior or senior standing required.

M 1:10-3:10pm

Rita C. Bergevin

Social Justice

This course will examine the multi-layered processes that create, perpetuate and challenge stratification, inequalities and multiple forms of violence within and across societies. A key intent is to examine conceptions of social justice that underpin efforts to address and redress disproportionalities and disparities resulting from contemporary and historical relations of domination and subjugation. The focus of the course moves between the global context and that of the United States, whereby students will analyze their own location within power and wealth structures. A special feature of this course is its emphasis on the interconnectedness of global, regional, national and local realities, as they affect the lives of people in everyday domains. Open only to juniors and seniors currently matriculated in HDEV.

W 1:40-4:40pm

Lubna Chaudhry

Hauntings, Memory, Migrations

How do contemporary global migrations haunt the cityscapes and bodyscapes, the landscapes and mindscapes, of our dreams? Fugitive, mutable geographies and murmurous genealogies shape a cultural somatics at the entangled intersections of memory and migrations. In 10,000 waves, cultures, languages, genders, sexualities, and generational divides prompt reflections that provoke multiple expressive platforms and collaborations. Our discussions will emphasize transdisciplinary practices and activism by drawing upon recent African and Asian diasporic and

Spring 2012 Course Offerings

feminist literatures, visual productions, and theorizings. Moments in which change seemed possible, tales of lost souls and the Better Life, twitter and tweets, generate our points of departure, which include Dionne Brand's *Chronicles: Early Years*, *On Black Sisters Street*, by Chika Unigwe, hybrid writing and video by Jai Arun Ravine, *Tom / Trans / Thai*, *And then Entwine*, and Bhanu Kapil, *Schizophrene*. Themes from the installations *For Tomorrow*, *For Tonight*, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, and *Ten Thousand Waves*, Isaac Julien, and Mahamat-Saleh Haroun's *A Screaming Man*, will be considered in conjunction with Haruki Murakami's *1Q84*, selected recent writing by Edouard Glissant, and Lorna Goodison's *By Love Possessed*.

M 3:30-6:30pm

Jeffner M. Allen

Slutwalk 2011

On November 4, 2011 many Binghamton University students and Binghamton locals stood together to march in the Slutwalk. A Slutwalk is a protest against the ideology that if a woman dresses in a provocative manner it is acceptable if she is raped or sexually abused. Many female participants will wear provocative clothing in protest while marching around the city they are protesting in.



The Women's Studies Program is proud to announce the formation of The Interdisciplinary Research Group for the Study of Sexuality and Gender

The Sciences and Humanities have different approaches to dialog and research in regard to sexuality, differences that can lead to conflict and hinder collaboration and intellectual progress. There is a need for a common language and a mutual understanding of critical paradigms and theories.

The group will be holding different workshops throughout the Spring semester.

All are welcome to attend.

WOMEN'S STUDIES

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