Module Description:

This final-year Advanced Option undergraduate module is a critical introduction to the history of sexuality and the modern body in global and regional terms. Special attention will be paid to the relation of the production of knowledge to the constructions of sexuality and the body as sites of meaning-making, grounds for political struggle, loci of cultural identity, and guarantors of human difference. This seminar surveys a broad range of secondary literature, thereby exploring not only the various historical interactions of sexuality and the modernising body, but also their intricate historiography—the history of their histories emerging from diverse national and comparative inquiries.

Students will assess the ways in which theoretical paradigms, disciplinary orientations, methodological styles, data contents, and genres of scholarly writing on the sexual body have evolved over time, and compare them against one another, while never losing sight of the global framing that unify them. This module is divides into four units: ‘frames’, ‘periods’, ‘debris’, and ‘trans’. The readings move through selected regions of Africa, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Europe, and North and Latin Americas, focusing primarily on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students should be prepared to familiarise themselves with general world history beyond the scope of the assigned readings.

Weekly Seminar Topics and Readings:

Unit I: Frames
1. Introduction (Oct. 2)

2. Historicism (Oct. 9)
3. Modernity (Oct. 16)

4. Gender (Oct. 23)
   - Judith Halberstam, “Perverse Presentism: The Androgyne, the Tribade, the Female Husband, and Other Pre-Twentieth-Century Genders,” in *Female Masculinity* (Duke University Press, 1998), 45-73.

5. Nation (Oct. 30)
   - Dan Healey, *Homosexual Desire in Revolutionary Russia: The Regulation of Sexual and Gender Dissent* (University of Chicago Press, 2001), 1-18
   - Tze-lan D. Sang, *The Emerging Lesbian: Female Same-Sex Desire in Modern China* (University of Chicago Press, 2003), 1-34.

6. Reading Week: No Seminar (Nov. 6)

Unit II: Periods
7. The Roaring Twenties (Nov. 13)
   - Priti Ramamurthy, “The Modern Girl in India in the Interwar Years: Interracial Intimacies,

8. Sexual Revolutions (Nov. 20)

9. AIDS, the Immune Self, and Bodies of Metaphoric Reality (Nov. 27)

10. Beyond the Body Proper (Dec. 4)

**Winter Recess**

**Unit III: Debris**

11. Cultural Embodiments of Colonial Pathology (Jan. 8)
- Richard Keller, “Between Clinical and Useful Knowledge: Race, Ethnicity, and the Conquest


12. Nationalism and the Body Politic (Jan. 15)
- Dorothy Ko, Cinderella’s Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding (University of California Press, 2005), chaps. 1, 2, and 6.

- Wenqing Kang, Obsession: Male Same-Sex Relations in China, 1900-1950 (Hong Kong University Press, 2009), chaps. 1 and 5.

13. Biological and Social Reproduction (Jan. 22)

14. Tense and Tender Ties (Jan. 29)


15. (De)Colonisation/(De)Corporealisation (Feb. 5)
- Anjali Arondekar, For the Record: On Sexuality and the Colonial Archive in India (Duke University Press, 2009).


16. Reading Week: No Seminar (Feb. 12)

Unit IV: Trans

17. Transgender Trouble (Feb. 19)


18. Transnational Rhizomes or Asymmetric Worlds (Feb. 26)

19. Trans Postcoloniality (Mar. 5)

20. Bodies Lost and Found (Mar. 12)
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