

**GENDER, SEXUALITY AND MODERNITY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**  
**History 201Q**  
**Cross Cultural Women's and Gender History**  
**Tuesday 6:10-9:00 pm**  
**Wellman 123**  
**Spring 2006**

Omnia El Shakry  
Room 3211 Social Science and Humanities Building  
Office hours: Tuesday 2:00-5:00pm  
Tel. (530) 752-9980  
E-mail: [oselshakry@ucdavis.edu](mailto:oselshakry@ucdavis.edu)

*Course Description:* This seminar will explore various theories of gender and sexuality within the modern period. We discuss poststructuralist, French feminist, colonial/postcolonial, subaltern studies, and queer theory perspectives and their explication of the construction of gender and sexuality, as well as its intersection with race, class and colonialism. Themes include: psychoanalytic discourses and the construction of sexual subjects; colonialism, nationalism and women; bourgeois bodies and racial selves; sexualities; nationalism and gender; subalternity; religion, agency and the feminist subject; and queering the modern.

**Required Texts:**

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume I: An Introduction*  
Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*  
Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*  
Elizabeth Thompson, *Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege, and Gender in French Syria and Lebanon*  
Sabine Frühstück, *Colonizing Sex: Sexology and Social Control in Modern Japan*  
David M. Halperin, *How to do the History of Homosexuality*

**Course Requirements:**

Students are expected to lead class discussion in rotation and write a critical review essay (15-20 pp.) on a theme of their choice covering at least three significant books in the field.

**Week 1 (April 4): THEORETICAL BEGINNINGS**

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume I: An Introduction*, translated by Robert Hurley, (New York, 1978).

If you have already read Foucault, review it carefully and also read:

Michel Foucault, "The Subject and Power," *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 8. No. 4. (Summer 1982), pp. 777-795.

Timothy Mitchell, "The Stage of Modernity," in *Questions of Modernity*, ed. T. Mitchell (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999), pp.1-34.

**Week 2** (April 11): PSYCHOANALYTIC DISCOURSES: SEXUALITY, SUBJECTIVITY, AND SELFHOOD

Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* translated by James Strachey (New York: Avon).

\_\_\_\_\_, "Femininity" in *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, translated by James Strachey (New York: Norton & Company), pp. 112-135.

Luce Irigaray, *Speculum of the Other Woman*, translated by Gillian Gil (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985), pp. 1-129.

John Toews, "Historicizing Psychoanalysis: Freud in His Time and for Our Time," *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 63. No. 3. (Sep. 1991), pp. 504-545.

**Week 3** (April 18): RETHINKING FREUD AND FOUCAULT

Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest* (New York, 1995), pp. 1-231.

Ann Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things* (Durham: Duke, 1995), pp. 1-54.

**Week 4** (April 25): COLONIALISM, NATIONALISM, AND WOMEN

Frantz Fanon, "The Negro and Psychopathology," in *Black Skin, White Masks* (Grove, 1991).

Lata Mani, "Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India" in *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian History*, ed. K. Sangari and S. Vaid (Kali for Women, 1989), pp. 88-126.

Partha Chatterjee, "The Nationalist Resolution of the Women's Question," in *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian History*, ed. K. Sangari and S. Vaid (Kali for Women, 1989), pp.233-253.

Omnia Shakry, "Schooled Mothers and Structured Play: Child Rearing in Turn-of-the-Century Egypt," in Lila Abu-Lughod, ed. *Remaking Women: Feminism and Modernity in the Middle East* (Princeton, 1998), pp. 126-170.

Susan Pederson, "National Bodies, Unspeakable Acts: The Sexual Politics of Colonial

Policy Making,” *The Journal of Modern History* 63(1991): 647-680.

Nancy Rose Hunt, “Le Bebe-En-Brousse: European Women, African Birth Spacing and Colonial Intervention in Breast-Feeding in the Belgian Congo.” *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 21, no. 3 (1988): 401-432.

**Week 5 (May 2): BOURGEOIS BODIES AND RACIAL SELVES**

Frantz Fanon, “The Fact of Blackness,” in *Black Skin, White Masks* (Grove, 1991).

Robert Young, “White Power, White Desire. The Political Economy of Miscegenation,” in *Colonial Desire* (London and New York: Routledge, 1995), pp. 142-158.

Ann Laura Stoler, “Sexual affronts and racial frontiers: European identities and the cultural politics of exclusion in colonial Southeast Asia,” in F. Cooper and A. Stoler (eds.), *Tensions of empire: Colonial cultures in a bourgeois world* (Berkeley and Los Angeles 1997), pp. 198-237.

Lora Wildenthal, “Race, Gender, and Citizenship in the German Colonial Empire” in *Tensions of Empire*, pp.263-283.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, “The Difference-Deferral of a Colonial Modernity: Public Debates on domesticity in British Bengal,” *Subaltern Studies VIII*, eds. D. Arnold and D. Hardiman, pp. 50-88.

Afsaneh Najmabadi, “Crafting an Educated Housewife in Iran,” in *Remaking Women: Feminism & Modernity in the Middle East*, ed. Lila Abu-Lughod, pp. 91-125.

Hazel Carby, ““On the Threshold of Woman’s Era”” Lynching, Empire and Sexuality in Black Feminist Theory,” *Critical Inquiry* 12 (1985): 262-277.

**Week 6 (May 9): SEXUALITIES**

Sabine Frühstück, *Colonizing Sex: Sexology and Social Control in Modern Japan* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California, 2003).

**GUEST OF SEMINAR SPEAKER: SABINE FRÜHSTÜCK**

May 10 Brown Bag Lunch and Public Lecture, 4:00pm Andrews room

"After Heroism: Masculinity, Memory and the Military in Japan."

**Week 7 (May 16): NATIONAL FORMATIONS**

Elizabeth Thompson, *Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege, and Gender in French Syria and Lebanon*, Columbia University Press, 2000.

**Week 8 (May 23): SUBALTERN FRAGMENTS**

Kamala Visweswaran, "Small Speeches, Subaltern Gender: Nationalist Ideology and Its Historiography," 83-125, *Subaltern Studies IX*, eds. S. Amin and D. Chakrabarty, pp. 83-125.

Mahasweta Devi, "Douloti the Bountiful" in *Imaginary Maps: Three stories by Mahasweta Devi* (New York, 1995), pp. 19-93.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Woman in Difference: Mahasweta Devi's Douloti the Bountiful" in *Nationalisms and Sexualities* ed. Andrew Parker et.al. (New York, 1992), pp. 96-117.

**Week 9 (May 30): FEMINISM, AGENCY, AND ETHICS**

Judith Butler, *Bodies that Matter: "On the Discursive Limits of 'Sex'"* (Routledge, 1993), pp. 1-23, 121-140.

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection* (Stanford, 1997), pp. 1-30, 83-105.

Saba Mahmood, "The Subject of Freedom," in *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (Princeton, 2005), pp.1-39.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival," *Cultural Anthropology*, 6, no. 2, (2001): 202-236.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Rehearsed Spontaneity and the Conventionality of Ritual: Disciplines of Salat," *American Ethnologist* 28 (4): 827-53.

**Week 10 (June 6): HOW TO DO THE HISTORY OF HOMOSEXUALITY**

David M. Halperin, *How to do the History of Homosexuality* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002).